



the Chalice

Volume 49

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Issue No. 2



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Gaylen E.

Welcome dear friends, to this edition of the Chalice. I have a confession to make. It is my fault this edition is so late to reach you. I am sorry for this, and want to do better next edition. But left to my own devices, I will probably fall short again. And so, I must ask God for help to do better, and pray for the willingness and discipline to start earlier. And then start writing sooner.

I share this with you because the theme of this Chalice edition is the sacrament of Penance. Also, there was not much of significance to write about the last two months. Unless you want to count Holy week, the Passion, Death, and the Resurrection. Or the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

And then there's this Covid-19 thing.

First, the Resurrection – to paraphrase Church historian Jaroslav Pelikan, “If Christ died, nothing matters. But if Christ is Risen, nothing else matters”!

We are taught that “The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by His Death, Christ liberates us from sin; by His Resurrection, He opens for us the way to a new life.” (CCC 654). One could say that the Paschal mystery is the greatest love story of all time!

Bishop Baron called this Easter “an explosion, an earthquake, a revolution.” As to why it matters so massively, he tells us that “If the Resurrection is only a bland symbol or a projection of our desires, then tyrants have nothing to fear from it. But if it is a fact of history, an act of the living God in space and time, then sinners have real cause to repent.” So, repent we must, but we need God's help to do so.

Because of my human nature, my frailty and weakness, I fall short of how I would like to be, how God would have me be. My new life in Christ, washed free of sin in Baptism, is threatened by sin. But

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President's Column, by Gaylen E. (Continued)

God is Love, and in His love and mercy for us, He continues to reach out to us to offer reconciliation to Him. This is made possible by the gift of grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called the Sacrament of Forgiveness, Confession and Conversion.

I didn't pay attention as a child and teenager being raised in the Church. But today I use the tools the Church has provided us, and I find the US Catechism for Adults very helpful when it comes to the teachings of our Catholic Faith. And it was the Conversion section that captured my attention, because it explained so much of what I have experienced in my spiritual journey.

"The Sacrament of Penance must be seen within the context of conversion from sin and a turn to God. Sin harms our relationship with God and damages our communion with the Church" (237). Conversion is about turning away from my sinful and weak nature and turning toward God.

As a recovering alcoholic, this makes complete sense to me. It is what I was taught in the spiritual journey of the 12 Steps. I confess that I am a mess, and that I can't fix myself with myself. I came to hope, and then believe that God could restore me.

I made a decision to turn and *convert* my life from my will to God's will. To convert from a life of sinfulness to a life of holiness. To convert from a life of selfishness and self-centeredness to a one of love and service to my neighbors, starting with my own family. To convert from a life of fear to a trust in God. And I fall short. But I get up, dust myself off, ask for forgiveness, make amends, and try again. And I know that God's love and mercy is greater than my sins, and that by His grace, I will have a chance to succeed the next time.

As a recovering alcoholic, in Penance and the Eucharist, I can rely upon the sacramental presence of Christ, and His power and grace, to reconcile me with God and others, in a way that would never be possible on my own.

"On Easter Sunday, God gave the apostles the power to forgive our sins, so that it is possible that sin committed can be forgiven."

That is why God entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. On Easter Sunday, God gave the apostles the power to forgive our sins, so that it is possible that sin committed can be forgiven. Our priests, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, have this power. Praise God.

Now about that Covid-19. I have another confession; I haven't been to Mass in over a month! Nor have I gone to any of the 900+ AA meetings in the many church basements in Cleveland. And what's more, chances are, you haven't either!

Our families, neighbors and our nation are going through a dark and treacherous time, with unthinkable numbers of suffering and death. Many have lost loved ones. And as if this weren't difficult enough, many of us have lost our jobs, and the ability to provide for ourselves and our families. Information is often contradictory, and we may not know where to turn. It is easy to become overwhelmed in fear, and with few solutions in hand, to fall prey to despair.

President's Column, by Gaylen E. (Continued)

But there is cause for hope. The stars shine brightest on the darkest of nights. And God uses the cracks in our lives to shine through the light of His presence and love.

We are not alone. We have God, our families, and the fellowship of His Church and our 12 Step programs. And while we may not be able to meet in person, the Holy Spirit still works through God's gifts of technology. So, we meet online. We communicate with each other through the safe distance of our cell phones and social media.

While safe distancing demands that we isolate, we cannot afford to isolate from the support of each other in recovery. We cannot believe the lie that tells us we can make it on our own.

Since we cannot meet in person, the Calix Board has responded by expanding our National Calix Online weekly meetings. We would like to expand these national meetings further, and would welcome Unit leaders and members to contact us with suggestions or offers to host meetings.

Many local groups have established their own Zoom accounts for this purpose. The Society has also opened up our Zoom account for availability. Further details are inside the Chalice.

Finally, I would like to share a prayer.

Closing Prayer from Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, that in difficult moments we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

Announcements

2020 Annual Calix Retreat - Cancelled

- Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Calix Retreat **will not be held this year** in 2020. We will move forward with plans to hold the retreat in late summer 2021. This was such a difficult decision for the Board to make because we love seeing you, and we will miss your fellowship so very much.
- Because the election of new officers takes place during the annual retreat, the Board decided to retain all current members of leadership for another year until we hold the 2021 retreat. The cancellation / postponement of a retreat is unprecedented as far as we know, and there are no protocols in our bylaws to address what to do in a situation like this. However, given the circumstances, the Board agreed that this was the right thing to do.



Prayer to Our Lady of Recovery

O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of Mercy who interceded with your Son Jesus on behalf of the wedding guests at Cana in Galilee, intercede with Him now for me, that I may wholeheartedly embrace the path of recovery from the effects of sin in my life.

Recall, O holy Virgin, the solemn moment when Jesus, your divine Son, dying upon the Cross, confided us to your Maternal care. You are my Mother; I desire ever to remain your faithful child.

Pray, O holy Mother of God, for my recovery that I may do whatever He tells me, and with faith, share my experience, strength, and hope with those who still suffer from the effects of sin in their lives. May your Motherly intercession, begun at Cana, now bring Christ's peace to my soul and witness to your Motherly protection.

Holy Mary, help your children in recovery to feel your motherly help and protection, for you were blessed by God to bear the Savior of the world, Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

THE 12-STEP REVIEW
WWW.12-STEP-REVIEW.ORG

Announcements

Even MORE Online Calix Meetings

As we follow directives to shelter in place and isolate to aid in our community's response, we are reminded of the dangers of isolating from our support groups in sobriety and spirituality. And of the hope we find in the Risen Christ, our Catholic faith, our Church, and the fellowships of Calix and our 12 Step programs.

In response, the Calix Society has increased the number of Calix online meetings. We welcome you to join one or more, to see how you may both benefit from and contribute to it. Below is the schedule of weekly meetings:

Note: For the duration of time when we cannot meet in person, the Tuesday and Thursday Online meetings are now weekly, along with our Wednesday and Saturday meetings.

Tuesday - 8:00 p.m. ET - A 12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius - 11th Meditation

Wednesday - 8:00 p.m. ET - Beginner's Meeting

Thursday - 8:00 p.m. ET - Calix and the 12 Steps - Liturgy of the Hours

Saturday - 12:00 p.m. ET - Lectio Divina

We use a technology platform called Zoom for our online meetings. For those who have never joined a Zoom meeting, Zoom is a format which accommodates many people at one time via video conference or by phone.

Join from your computer by clicking this [Link](#). If joining by telephone, dial 1 646 558 8656, and enter Meeting ID: 761562941

Whether by computer or phone, use this passcode: 19491949

International numbers available: click this [link](#).

Zoom Available for Local Online Meetings

If you would like to hold your local unit meeting using the Zoom platform, we can offer the use of our Calix account for free. (Without an account, Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes.)

Please contact Ken at treasurer@calixsociety.com to set up the online meetings. We can accommodate your meetings only during times when one of our meetings is not already being held. So, as you work with your local unit members to set up a time, please refer to the list of meetings above to know what days/times are **not available** for your use.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, by Fr. Doug McKay

The Sacrament of Reconciliation also called the Sacrament of Confession, Penance, Conversion, and Forgiveness was *instituted by Christ to give grace* and to give Himself in a direct and personal way.

On one occasion a little girl went to confession, got her absolution, and received her penance. Ten minutes later, she returned to the confessional. Recognizing her voice, the priest asked, “Weren’t you just in here, little one?”

“Yes, Father,” she said.

“Then why are you back again?”

“For more grace, Father, more grace!”

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

In our Calix Society, we participate in a 12 Step program. In all the Steps we discuss our Catholic faith, and when we share on the 4th, 5th, and 10th steps we speak and learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Discussing the 4th Step, the Moral Inventory, we consider the Examination of Conscience that we do before confessing our sins. On the 5th Step, we see how the penitent admits his sins to God, oneself, and another human being through the priest. And when we come to the 10th Step, we realize that the 4th and 5th Steps are not terminal. Here on the 10th, we continue to take our moral inventory by examining our conscience and confessing our sins in a direct and personal way to God through the priest.

How often I have heard, “I don’t need a middle man to confess my sins; I go directly to God.” Saint John Vianney who heard confessions sometimes up to 18 hours a day, once said, “The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus.” He didn’t say that because the priest is above everyone else. We are all brothers and sisters in the Lord. That graceful quote means that Jesus Christ loves to come and act in our souls in a direct and personal way through His sacramental priesthood.

In the Diary of Divine Mercy, Jesus tells Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska that the priest acts only as a screen in the confessional. In paragraph 1602, Jesus says to her, “When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul.” And in paragraph 1448, Jesus, the true priest, tells us that the greatest miracles take place in the Tribunal of His Mercy, *the Sacrament of Reconciliation*, and the miracles are incessantly repeated, and that we don’t

*Jesus tells St. Faustina
that the priest acts
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confessional.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation, by Fr. Doug McKay (Continued)

have to go on great pilgrimages to receive these wonderful divine signs. All we need to do, He says to her, is to come in faith to the feet of His priests and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated.

Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a direct way to the Lord but a personal encounter with God as well. Surely, we can meditate on the Gospel scenes by imagining ourselves with the Lord, but the meditations become more contemplative through His sacramental grace. Our Mass becomes more fruitful and our meditations and contemplations more profound and personal after a good confession and worthy Holy Communion, because sacraments are floodgates of grace, transcending us to God Himself in a very unique and personal way.

Before my deeper understanding of sacramental Confession, I would read the Gospels and envy the ones who had personal contacts with Jesus. How I wished I could have been that deaf man when Jesus took him off by himself and healed him, or one of the blind men that He touched and healed, or one of the paralytics He healed, or even one of the dead persons that the Lord God brought back to life. And how I wished that I could hear Him say to me as He said to others: “Your sins are forgiven!”

Today, I no longer envy my brothers and sisters who had those personal encounters with Jesus in His Gospel days, because I realize, more than ever, that Jesus personally encounters me in the confessional, especially when I confess serious sins. Now I know—by His felt touch of forgiveness, peace, and love—that when I make a good and worthy confession through the priest, I hear the Lord Himself say to me in a direct and personal way: *“I absolve you from all your sins.”*

Therefore, whenever we make a good and honest confession, no matter how mortal our sins may be—even through alcohol or drug abuse—Jesus directly and personally encounters us with His saving grace to heal our spiritual deafness, blindness, paralysis, and deadness. Always, through this life-giving sacrament, a graceful change is wrought in our souls. Walking out of the confessional may often feel like walking out of a vertical casket from darkness into light, from sin into grace, and from spiritual death into abundant life that Christ bestows upon us in His sacramental signs and wonders.

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O how saving and graceful this Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Father Douglas McKay, O.F.S.
Calix Chaplain

Navigating the Waters – With a Loved One in Addiction, by Jim R.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. ” – James 4:10

The challenge in facing the addiction of a loved one is daunting. One wants to fix the problem, either with the willingness of the loved one, or despite their objections. Love and support should not translate to counselor role. It also should not be a substitute for help the addicted person must (and needs) to receive through treatment and a rigorous 12 step program that involves regular meetings with persons in recovery and a sponsor. The person connected with the loved one can seek their own professional support or a 12 step program for themselves. Day to day, three suggested tools can be invaluable:

Prayer
Meditation
Active humility

As to all three, a prayerful meditation or one like it can provide solace and one can return to it. A version follows:

*“Three suggested tools
can be invaluable:
Prayer
Meditation
Active humility”*

Close your eyes, offer a prayer. Then imagine yourself living in a small house next to a lake. Hear and smell the water. There is a dock with a row boat. You may have cleaned the boat, fastened the oars, and left a lunch. A gentle slope leads down to the shore from the house. The house sits atop the small hill. It is sunny, and one can also see clouds in the distance passing.

You walk your suffering loved one to the shore, give a hug and let them walk to the boat. You keep your distance from the dock. This is not your journey. The loved one must make it to the other side of the lake and return on their own. You turn toward the path to the house, truly not “turning your back “, but simply walking on your journey. Over your shoulder you may wave.

The Boat: Your loved one embarks, and the water may be calm or rough. See the water in your mind. Sun, clouds, and rain. Rowing continues, and if it wobbles, stalls, or capsizes, you will not be there – the loved one must seek help from others who suffer alongside him/her. The help may be intense and come from a person trained to get the person back in the boat. At other times, it might be a helping hand from a recovery mate.

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Navigating the Waters, by Jim R. (Continued)

Feel God: At all times, God's Hand is there for the loved one. Know that the loved one will need this help on the journey. God is also there for you. In that you are joined.

Think of your home: Picture it in your mind. You remain in and around the house, and tend to matters. Cleaning windows, sweeping the deck, sidewalk.

*"A prayerful meditation
can provide solace."*

Think of your lawn and garden: Smell and visualize your surroundings. Care for the outside, lawn and garden. Practice self care. Do you peek out the window and look for the boat? Sure. Return quickly to the matters at hand. Disappointed it is not returning? Yes. Yet you must return to your matters.

Picture yourself one day in the garden: You are on your knees at work, and you peer toward the lake. In the distance you see the boat. It is slowly approaching. Tears fill your eyes, yet you still don't move. It gets closer and now the loved one is at the dock. You still cannot go and help them moor the boat, clean it up, and walk toward the shore.

Begin in mind and body to slowly move: As the loved one begins the path back up to the house, you can move. You want to run and hug them, yet you keep a steady physical and emotional pace. You meet them at the foot of the hill.

Hand in hand, arm in arm, visualize a walk up the gentle slope - to begin the business of caring again for the home together. The sun shines, even if clouds blow in and out.

This prayer and meditation is a soulful reminder to remain humble and allow His Will to be done.

Jim R.
White Bear Lake, Montana

The Gift of Suffering, by Tom W.

I am a member of The Franciscan Family within The Church. There are three groups within the Franciscan Family:

The First Order: male religious
The Second Order: female religious
The Third Order: lay professed

I have been a lay professed member for 50 yrs. I came into the Third Order on my 5th year of sobriety in AA. I was baptized into the Church on my 2nd year of sobriety.

The question might be: what does a professed Third Order Franciscan do that is different than any other Catholic? Basically, all the Franciscan Family members embrace a way of living our faith in the manner that St. Francis of Assisi gave each order, within the Family to follow or 'A Rule'.

LADY POVERTY is the root for each order, to follow with different disciplines for each order, to live under obedience to. The essence of LADY POVERTY is absolute trust in God's providence and mercy in every circumstance encountered in our lives. This trust entails seeing God's providence in "all things." Or as scripture puts it, "in all things, give thanks."

Suffering is a gift God gives us to join in His eternal redemption for all to be One in Him. Therefore, through our suffering, we consciously unite with Christ's suffering. We die with Christ in order that we might rise with Him in glory. The rules for each order of The Franciscan Family embrace this teaching as a foundational belief.

Our suffering is therefore not only unto our own redemption, but also for poor souls who have either lost their faith in God or have no belief in God. Also for the poor souls in purgatory being purified, to come into the fullness of God's beatific vision for us to be one with Him in HIS TRIUNE COMMUNITY OF LOVE.

*"Through our suffering, we
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Christ's suffering."*

The Third Order established under The Rule of St. Francis was originally called "THE ORDER OF PENANCE." The Rule invites those wishing to become sharers in Christ's redemption to embrace all sufferings or trials in their lives, to be joined with Christ's suffering, not only for our own souls, but also for the souls of others. To embrace this requires a detachment from all things (Lady Poverty) and a total SURRENDER to God's grace at work in our lives, to live this calling. We are called to see whatever material goods we are blessed with as a gift from God, to never allow our possessions to possess us. We must allow ourselves in true charity to be willing to share our blessings with others in need.

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The Gift of Suffering, by Tom W. (continued)

In my journey of sobriety of 55 years, there have been many trials and much suffering. I have made a great deal of money, and I have lost a great deal of money. I lost a family but established a second family. I have learned to embrace Lady Poverty, not without a struggle, to come to the place of freedom I have today.

Should I lose it all tomorrow would certainly cause me great pain. But like Job put it, “The Lord gives, the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” This is the only way I can see how to grow more towards my eternal goal to be one with the beatific vision God promised those who embrace their sufferings in faith, thus uniting themselves with Christ’s suffering. For as Scripture says, “Unless we die with Christ, we cannot rise with Him.”

Thus, the saying “DIE TO SELF, LIVE FOR GOD” is the motto by which I attempt to live my life in sobriety. One day a time. I do stumble along this path, but the grace of God through the Sacrament of Penance does keep me focused on the goal.

*Tom W.
Alberta, Canada*

What to do in the Spin Cycle?, by Chris B.

“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,” we are told in Hebrews 12:2.

I would venture to say that those of us in Calix have endured a tremendous amount, and are persevering in the race, armed with our 12-step recovery program and our treasured Catholic faith. Our lives have not followed straight lines; they have not been what we once hoped they would be. We have become accustomed to the zigs and zags that is the life of addiction and recovery.

And yet, this global pandemic is not just a zig or a zag. It feels more like the spin cycle of a washing machine. And thanks be to God, our programs have prepared us for this. Our God has prepared us for this. I feel like the rooms and my faith have so ingrained in me the exact tools I need to get through this. Let go and let God. One day at a time. First things first.

So while I am tempted to write about the sadness, trouble and horror of this time, I am called to reflect on the second stated purposed of our Calix credo: “Our conversation and our association together should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to each other, geared to our growth toward spiritual maturity.”

Where do you find inspiration and encouragement during these dark times? I find it in small ways, like how my five-year-old daughter spends an hour on FaceTime with her best friend playing with their dolls as if they were together. Sitting on the “stoop” in front of our house and waving hello to the passing neighbors is another small source of encouragement.

By far, though, my greatest source of encouragement is daydreaming about what it will be like when we can go back to Mass. People will sing louder. People that didn’t sing will (might) sing. Prayers will be said with a greater sense of intention. And our Church community – oh, the joy when we see our Church family! The man with the booming voice that sits behind us and smiles so sweetly during the sign of peace. My friends with three little boys whose greatest pleasure is to be able to gaze at the St. Michael statue after Mass. Receiving the Eucharist.

Even before this virus wreaked havoc on the world, it can be said that we were in the desert. I recall from Hail Holy Queen our being in “this valley of tears” and “this our exile”. But now I know that the real desert is being stripped of the Mass.

My greatest source of encouragement is daydreaming about what it will be like when we can go back to Mass.

The Mass is where heaven and earth meet. Or, as put much more eloquently in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “By the Eucharistic celebration, we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy”. (CCC 1326)

What to do in the Spin Cycle?, by Chris B. (Continued)

Not being able to go to Mass has made me realize that I took Mass for granted. I really did. Now, I meditate and pray about what it really means. Consider what some of our beloved saints have said about our Mass:

"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." – St. Jean Vianney

"The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating the Mass." – St. Augustine

"The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross." – St. Thomas Aquinas

"Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass; they will be a grain of sand beside a mountain." – St. Jean Vianney

From these meditations of the Mass, I am led directly to thoughts of heaven, as Mass is but the tiniest foretaste of heaven. This heaven that "no eye has seen, no ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor 2:9). No matter what I dream or imagine about heaven, it doesn't hold a candle to what it really is. In my life, I tend to try to *think* through things, rather than *feel* through things. And while I have spent many, many hours *thinking* about heaven, I have read about some of our mystical saints that have brought me a *feeling* about heaven.

In her heavenly vision, St. Teresa of Avila described "a light which knows no night. Nothing ever disturbs it. No man, however gifted he be, can ever, in the whole course of his life, arrive at any imagination of what it is." (The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila)

St. Padre Pio wrote to his confessor about his divine vision: "There were things which cannot be translated into human language without losing their deep and heavenly meaning. The heart of Jesus and my own – allow me to use the expression – were fused. No longer were two hearts beating but only one. My own heart had disappeared, as a drop of water is lost in the ocean. Jesus was its paradise, its king. My joy was so intense and deep that I could bear no more and tears of happiness poured down my cheeks." (18-4-1912 to Padre Agostino)

These are thoughts and feelings that sustain me and bring me such encouragement during these difficult times. So, now, as I return to the reality of today, I face the uncertainty and the chaos. From a temporal standpoint, we live in a scary world. A priest friend of mine ends each of his e-mails with "Life is a battle. Bring your armor." (Eph 6:13). And as St. Joan of Arc said, "I am not afraid for God is with me. I was born for this."

*I am not afraid for God
is with me.
- St Joan of Arc*

Well, we were born for this. We will get through this. And God will lead us. If we let Him!

Prayers

Prayer for deceased Calix members

Remember O Lord, the souls of our brethren departed, who by justice are denied for a time the blessedness of Heaven. We recommend especially our relatives and friends; the soul deepest in Purgatory and the one nearest to Heaven; the soul most abandoned and those who have none on earth to pray for them. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Padre Pio's Prayer to Jesus

O my Jesus, give me Your strength when my weak nature rebels against the distress and suffering of this life of exile, and enable me to accept everything with serenity and peace.

With my whole strength I cling to Your merits, Your sufferings, Your expiation, and Your tears, so that I may be able to cooperate with You in the work of salvation.

Give me strength to fly from sin, the only cause of Your agony, Your sweat of blood and Your death. Destroy in me all that displeases You and fill my heart with the fire of Your holy love and all Your sufferings.

Clasp me tenderly, firmly, close to You that I may never leave You alone in Your cruel Passion.

I ask only for a place of rest in Your heart. My desire is to share in Your agony and be beside You in the Garden.

May my soul be inebriated by Your love and nourished with the bread of Your sorrow. Amen.

*I ask only for a place of
rest in Your heart.*

Prayer for Jesus' Help in Every Need

In every need let me come to You with humble trust, saying: Jesus, help me.

In all my doubts, temptations and troubles of mind, Jesus, help me.

When I am lonely or tired, Jesus, help me.

When my plans and hopes have failed, in all my disappointments and sorrows, Jesus, help me.

When others let me down, and Your grace alone can assist me, Jesus, help me.

When my heart is heavy with failure and when I see no good come from my efforts, Jesus, help me.

When I feel impatient, and my cross is hard to carry, Jesus, help me.

When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work, Jesus, help me.

Always, always, in spite of weakness and falls of every kind, Jesus, help me, and never leave me. Amen.

Call for Chalice Articles

This year, The Chalice focuses on the Sacraments. This issue was Penance – especially pertinent to Lent though unbelievably challenging these times of isolation. Nevertheless, we move on. The May and June issue will focus on Holy Communion.

Please! Consider submitting an article about how the sacraments have been instrumental in your recovery. After all, the reception of the Sacraments is part of the third stated objective of our Credo:

*Our participation in all other spiritual activities of Calix,
such as the frequent celebration of the Liturgy,
reception of the Sacraments,
personal prayer and meditation, Holy Hours, Days of Recollection and retreats,
aids us in our third objective, namely,
to strive for the sanctification of the whole personality of each member.*

Contact editor Chris B. at christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com with questions or to submit an article. Since writing is not everyone's favorite thing to do, if you'd like help, writing assistance is available. 😊

Edition	Topic	Deadline for Submission
May / June	Holy Communion	June 1
July / August	Confirmation	July 1
September / October	Marriage / Holy Orders	August 15
November / December	Anointing of the Sick	October 15

Every saint has a past,
and every sinner has a future.
- Oscar Wilde

Prayer Requests

As Covid-19 continues to ravage the U.S., we offer special prayers for all those suffering the effects of the disease. We pray for the millions of family and friends who are mourning their loved ones who lost their lives or tremendously in the face of this illness. And we pray so fervently, Lord, for those in and out of the rooms, who have no “rooms” to go to find the experience, strength and hope they need during a time like this when they are in desperate need to find that fellowship.

In particular, let's please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Toland, who started the Calix Unit in Connecticut. We are thankful to Deacon Tim Healy who continues to hold the unit together, but Tony was very beloved and will be so missed. Please offer up a prayer for Tiny, his family and the Connecticut Calix unit.

From: Paul F.

For my Daughter, Sara, who has been sober for 9 plus months, this time, as she struggles to start a new nursing job in a out of state location, as a traveling nurse. She will be away from home and her husband for 13 weeks. It is a very stressful and anxious time for her. Her AA meetings have been canceled due to the Covid 19.

The Calix Society
PO Box 26
Glenside, PA 19038
800.398.0524