



the Chalice

Volume 49

January – February 2022 Issue No. 3



OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT, CYNDY P. PASSED AWAY FROM A SUDDEN ILLNESS AND IS NOW IN THE ARMS OF JESUS.

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED IN HER MEMORY.

IS THERE A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY GREATER THAN THE TWELVE STEPS?

I CAME INTO THE 12 STEP PROGRAM OF AL-ANON WHILE I WAS ATTENDING DAILY MASS. I WAS THE MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN AND WIFE OF A HUSBAND WHO DRANK TOO MUCH. I WAS HAPPY ON THE OUTSIDE AND MISERABLE ON THE INSIDE. I ATTRIBUTED MY PROBLEMS TO MY HUSBAND WHO DRANK TOO MUCH AND WHO SPENT TOO LITTLE TIME AT HOME.

IT WAS SO EASY TO LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE AND OVERLOOK THE UNDERLYING ISSUES WITHIN MYSELF. IN SHARING WITH A FRIEND ONE MORNING AFTER MASS, SHE SUGGESTED THAT I ATTEND AN AA MEETING WITH HER THAT DAY. I DID ADMIT THAT I HAD A COMPULSIVE PERSONALITY AND HAD BEEN TRYING TO QUIT DRINKING. WHO WOULDN'T IF THEY HAD BEEN SO ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A FATHER AND HUSBAND WHO DRANK TOO MUCH?

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President's Column, by Cyndy P. (Continued)

AS I BEGAN TO ATTEND AA MEETINGS AND WORK THE STEPS, I WAS SURPRISED HOW MY FOCUS SHIFTED FROM THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS AND REFOCUSED ON MY OWN ACTIONS. MY 'TRYING TO STOP DRINKING' TURNED INTO TOTAL ABSTINENCE: MINE, NOT HIS. I WAS ABLE TO ATTEND NURSING SCHOOL, WORK PART-TIME, AND ATTEND AA MEETINGS DAILY. MY HUSBAND HAD LEFT THE HOME AND WE WERE EVENTUALLY DIVORCED, AND THE MARRIAGE ANNULLED.

THE WONDERFUL PROGRAM OF AA TOOK ME SO FAR IN MY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. I STILL FELT THAT MY LIFE WAS SEGMENTED BETWEEN WORK, RAISING CHILDREN, AND ATTENDING CHURCH, UNTIL 2008, WHEN I DISCOVERED THE WONDERFUL PROGRAM OF CALIX. I HEARD IN 12 STEP MEETINGS THAT WE ARE NOT SAINTS. I COULD SEE THAT VERY CLEARLY IN MY LIFE BUT LONGED FOR MORE. THE CALIX PROGRAM POSITED THE IDEA THAT WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE SAINTS AND THAT THE LONGING WITHIN MY HEART CAME FROM A LOVING GOD WHO WANTED MORE FOR ME THAN I COULD EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE OR HOPE FOR.

I CONNECTED IN A NEW WAY - PRAYING FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT WITH MEDITATION AND PRAYER WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE EXPERIENCE OF THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE. I BECAME PART OF MEETINGS WHICH WERE ATTENDED BY PEOPLE WITH VARIED ADDICTIONS, CO-ADDICTIONS, AND INORDINATE ATTACHMENTS WHO WERE SHARING IN RECOVERY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A SHARED FAITH IN A HIGHER POWER WHO WAS INDEED THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE.

THE SPLINTERED PARTS OF MY SEPARATE ADDICTIONS AND VARIOUS 12 STEP PROGRAMS BECAME UNIFIED WITHIN RECOVERY MEETINGS CENTERED IN THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. MY EXPECTATIONS OF MYSELF TOOK ON NEW HOPE AND MEANING AS I BEGAN TO FOCUS ON GOD'S POWER TO HEAL AND REGENERATE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF MY PSYCHE, HEART, MIND, AND SOUL. GOD WAS PROVIDING NEW POWER THROUGH THE COMBINATION OF WORKING THE 12 STEPS WITH THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO TODAY TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF CALIX IS SOMETHING I AM COMMITTED TO AND RESPONSIBLE FOR. I AM NOT PERFECT. I AM WEAK AND I FAIL. HOWEVER, I AM PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. IN MY WEAKNESS, MY LORD JESUS CHRIST REIGNS. I AM MOST BLESSED TO BE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL CALIX SOCIETY.

AA has saved millions of people's lives one day at a time since 1935.

Announcements

2022 Retreat Announced

The 2022 Annual Retreat will take place on August 5-7 at The Washington Retreat House in Washington, DC. The retreat director will be Bishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OM. Keep an eye on your e-mails for more information. This year's retreat will be the best one yet!

2022 Election of Board Members

Please stay tuned. Changes are coming to the Board!



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**SCHEDULE OF ON-LINE MEETINGS**

As the pandemic continues to wax and wane, our on-line meetings are flourishing, and members are really enjoying them.

We welcome you to join one or more, to see how you may both benefit from and contribute to the meetings. Below is the current schedule of weekly meetings:

Sunday - 5 p.m. EST - A New Study of "Christus Vincit: Christ's Triumph Over the Darkness of the Age" by Bishop Athanasius Schneider

hosted by Margaret W. and the Lincoln, NE Unit

For this meeting only: Mtg ID:465-531-4736 Password: 19471947

Sunday - 6 p.m. EST - The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments by Scott Weeman - Reconciliation Chapter 7 A Humble Request pp 83-88**

hosted by Fr. Paul of Portland ME

Monday - 7 p.m. EST - Lectio Divina - Monday's Gospel

hosted by Gaylen E of Cleveland, OH

Tuesday - 4 a.m. EST - Sydney Calix - "Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions" by Gerald G. May, MD

hosted by Kevin S. and the new Sydney, Australia Unit

For this meeting only: Mtg ID: 344-07-53281

Join with landline : 02 8015 6011

Tuesday - 8 p.m. EST - "Addiction and Grace" by Gerald G. May, MD

hosted by Dale C. of Pittsburgh, PA

Announcements

Wednesday - 12 p.m. EST – St. Paul at Noon - 'By the Grace of God' by Fr. Francis Canavan S.J. **

hosted by Jim B of St Paul MN

Wednesday - 8 p.m. EST - Mary's Role in Recovery - "Kolbe and the Immaculata" -

hosted by Bruce G of Leesburg, VA

Thursday - 8 p.m. EST - "Calix and the 12 Steps" by Fr Arnold Luger ** Step 1

hosted by Gaylen E of Cleveland, OH

Friday - 12 p.m. EST - "Twelve Steps with Jesus" by Daphne K **

hosted by TBD

Saturday - 12 pm ET- Lectio Divina

hosted by - TBD

Nightly except Tuesday at 8 p.m. EST - Rosary Prayer Group - hosted by John C - Mineola, New York Calix Unit

For this meeting only: Mtg ID: 395 384 8092 Password: 102263

Call in# 929-205-6099

We use a technology platform called Zoom for our on-line 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.

Announcements

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 on-line meetings. We can accommodate your meetings only during times when one of our other meetings is not 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.

Books available at the Calix Store on our website – www.Calixsociety.org

The Importance of Membership, by Ken J.

Membership is the lifeblood of our Society. Currently, we have just 126 dues-paying members. While paid membership is not a requirement for participation in Calix it does help us in multiple areas:

1. We do have expenses. We are preparing to publish a book about the history of Calix in addition to the printing of updated pamphlets - Some of which are already available.
2. In order to be taken seriously by entities like the USCCB, it helps to show accurate membership numbers. We currently have some 600 people on our email list.
3. Prayer – we started to distribute membership cards that contain two prayers – one for the living and one for the deceased members of Calix. In this, we ask members to pray daily. If you have not received a membership card, please send an email to treasurer@calixsociety.org and include your mailing address.

I suspect that many members have not renewed as a result of the Chalice not being published for a period.

If you look at the recent e-mail you received, there is a “Membership Expires” field. If your membership has expired, or if you have never become a member, please consider joining or renewing today by going to the membership page on the website or send a check for \$25.00 to Calix Society, PO Box 26, Glenside, PA 19038.

If you are currently a member, few months ago, you should have received a “membership survey” e-mail. Please take a minute to complete the survey. It will be a big help to leadership in determining the future direction of our society.

To join click the below link:

<https://www.calixsociety.org/membership/>

Social Media & News from the International Board of Directors

Like and follow us on social media



FACEBOOK: The Calix Society

INSTAGRAM: calixsociety



from the International Board of Directors

- ✓ After a brief hiatus, board member Heather Ondik will now serve at the editor of the Chalice. The Chalice will be published on a bi-monthly basis. **Your articles are necessary and welcomed. Kindly e-mail your articles to Heather at: hondik@tktrial.com.**
- ✓ A team of board members worked tirelessly to update our brochures and pamphlets. Please see the website for the newly edited materials.
- ✓ Last year, board member Bruce G. started administering a nationwide Pen Pal Program that pairs outside writers with inmates. WE ARE FORMALLY INVITING Calix Society members to join Bruce in this worthy ministry, as so many inmates have drug and alcohol issues. Bruce will be contributing a regular column in *the Chalice* on recovery and prison. His contact information will be included in his regular column.
- ✓ Be on the lookout for e-mails announcing live-streamed Facebook reflections by Fr. Paul Richardson, the Calix Chaplain for the Diocese of Arlington, VA.

Best Retreat Ever, by Fr. Doug McKay

Again and again, I have heard from spiritual directors – loud and clear – that *your next retreat is your best retreat*. How true! Why? Because the Holy Spirit is the Primary Spiritual Director. Really, if we live the Gospel generously ‘day by day’ by the gifts and fruits of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, then more spiritual graces and delights will be revealed to us, especially when retreating from worldliness into godliness.

That being said, my “Calix Retreat 2021” started on Wednesday morning, August 4, the Feast Day of Saint John Vianney – two days before the retreat started. At dawn that morning, four of us Calix members, Ken, Pat, Tom, and I met at our Venerable Matt Talbot Chapel in Philadelphia and celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We offered the Mass for a safe journey and a fruitful retreat.

As expected, checking ourselves through the airport was all penitential. Finally seated for the flight, I next to Kene. We talked a bit but, mostly read, snacked, prayed privately, and slumbered our two-and-a-half-hour flight. Landing safely, we did more penance before arriving at the Holiday Inn. There we relaxed in our comfortable rooms. Later that day, we toured Minneapolis, the birthplace of The Calix Society.

Our first stop was Lakewood Cemetery, where we visited the grave sight of our founder, William Jerome Montroy. The four of us stood in awe on the edge of a road, as we read the names of William and Janet Montroy, his wife, etched on a simple flat stone. There was no gigantic monument for this humble and saintly man. With purple stole and holy water, I blessed their grave. Then we all prayed for Mr. Montroy’s intercession for a holy and blessed retreat.

From there, just a short distance away, we stopped where the first Calix meeting took place - The Rainbow Café. After the café, we traveled to Saint Stephen’s Church where the first Calix Mass and Holy Hours were celebrated by Father Rudolf Nolan, our society’s first Spiritual Director. The next day, we drove back to Saint Stephen’s parish to look at the apartment building where Bill and Janet Montroy lived. That night we had dinner with Jim, our Calix Board Secretary, at his home. His wife Debbie prepared a sumptuous banquet. We ate, drank (non-alcoholic drinks of course) and made merry telling jokes. Laughter is prayer, you know.

Before checking out of the Holiday Inn, we paid a short visit to the Carmelite Sisters asking them to pray for our society, just like Mr. Montroy did in 1950. We also asked the nuns to prayerfully intercede for our upcoming retreat. Before leaving the monastery, I blessed the Sisters and thanked God for their mission work for the salvation of souls.

On Friday, August 6, Feast Day of the Transfiguration, we checked out of the hotel and arrived at Dunrovin Retreat Center. There, in front of a glittering lake surrounded by God’s greenery, we drank in the beauty of His creation. Many of us got together for a rosary walk around the diamond lake-side. My heart leapt admiring the Creator! During our weekend it rained on and off, cloudy and sunny, but mostly blue skies and puffy-white-clouds. The retreat days reflected the *Inner Life* itself: cloudy, rainy, and mostly sunny.

Besides the glorious outside were the inspiring faith-sharing talks from our presenters. One particular talk from our keynote speaker, Michael Donnelly, filled me with spiritual delights, God-bumps, and welled-up tears. He spoke about discovering the divine presence in our loved ones and particularly in the most unlikely people we meet.

Best Retreat Ever, by Fr. Doug McKay (continued)

And I really enjoyed the meals that were only surpassed by the faith-sharing conversations at the tables. However, I knew that the main table was at the altar of the Lamb of God. Also, the many on-going confessions blessed me as the Lord Jesus gave His merciful embrace to the penitents through His absolving priesthood.

Added to all of these blessings, I now share two other highlights. The first happened on Saturday morning during adoration time from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. I thought that I would expose the Blessed Sacrament for the adorers, spend a Holy Hour in front of the divine Monstrance, and then meet a spiritual friend for a cup of coffee. Still sitting before *Heaven's Window*, the next thing I knew the two hours flew by, and it was time to repose the Most Blessed Sacrament. Instead of that friendly cup of coffee, I enjoyed a cup of peace and joy and love with Jesus, my best friend.

My next divine encounter also happened at the altar and tabernacle right before my rosary talk on August 8, the Feast Day of Saint Dominic. I felt carried away in my imagination seeing before me the Calix Founders. They stood side-by-side across the sanctuary. In the center I gazed upon Mister Montroy. On his left stood the Calix co-founders, Steve Levi, Sol Humbarger, Bob Doherty, and Charley 'Chuck' Jennings. On his right stood Earl Rooney, Bill's A.A. sponsor. Next to him stood the first Calix Fathers, Father Patrick Cunningham, Father Rudolf Nolan, and Archbishop John Gregory Murray. All of them were holding up high and swinging the sacred beads, in my imaginary sight, inspiring me for my upcoming talk on the Most Holy Rosary. Odd or God?

On our return home, at the Minneapolis Airport, we met up with Heather, our new *Chalice* editor. She gave her first-class seat up for Pat, who could just about walk, to have a more comfortable flight home. Then she sat next to me. For over two hours, Heather and I shared our retreat blessings and talked about *the Inner Life* according to Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint John of the Cross. Like jet speed, our time together flew by. Our Calix Retreat '2021' didn't end for me until we landed back in the City of Brotherly Love.

Unpacking that night at home, I thanked God for all the retreat blessings, and I knew I would be a holier Calix chaplain. How I really enjoyed my last and Best Retreat Ever!

Father Douglas McKay
Calix Chaplain

P.S. OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL INCLUDE SOME ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS FROM MEMBERS WHO WENT TO THE 2021 RETREAT

P.P.S. DON'T FORGET TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR E-MAIL FOR FOR DETAILS CONCERNING THE 2022 RETREAT. REGISTER AND JOIN US!



In Remembrance of Father Tom Gallenbach , by Jim B.

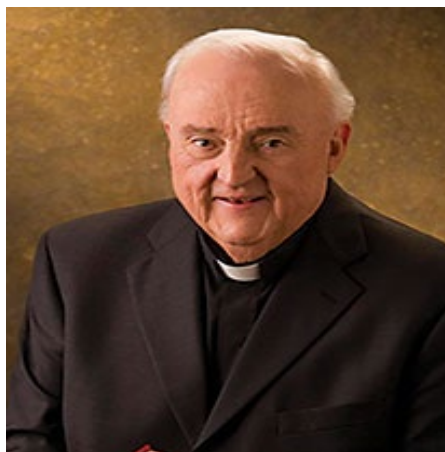
Fr. Tom had been a long-time Chaplain for the Las Vegas Unit as well as serving as the international Board Chaplain for several years after Fr. Canavan died. A friend in Calix, Madge said that she did not know funeral/ memorial dates, but that she would let me know when she does. She said that Fr. Tom was 89 years old.

When Fr. Canavan, our International Chaplain, died, we on the Board begin a search for a replacement. When Fr. Tom heard about our dilemma, he volunteered to do the job if we wanted him to. He was a retired priest from the United States Air Force, but served at the unit home parish, St. Joseph Husband of Mary, as well as being the Las Vegas Unit Chaplain. He served as Chaplain to the Board until 2015.

Decatur native Father Thomas Gallenbach was ordained May 24, 1958, by Bishop William A. O'Connor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Father Gallenbach initially served as assistant at St. Mary Parish in Alton and then Sacred Heart Parish in Springfield. From there he hoped to volunteer with the clergy shortage in central and South America. However, at the request of his bishop, Father Gallenbach began to serve as a military chaplain, beginning in 1963. According to Fr. Gallenbach, Bishop O'Connor said, 'If you like the ministry, stay. Come back if it disagrees with you.'" As it turns out, Father Gallenbach was in the United States Air Force for 30 years, serving in places like Vietnam, Taiwan and Thailand and in different parts of the United States. His rank at retirement was Colonel.

When Father Gallenbach retired from the military, he chose, with permission, and for health reasons, to live in the dry climate of Nevada. There he was the associate pastor of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish in Las Vegas for several decades. "I remain today a proud member of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois," he said, adding that he set up a conference call on May 24, annually, so the remaining priests of the Class of 1958 could catch up with one another. "I have initiated the calls ever since the sudden death of the youngest and most robust member of our class, Father Dave Munn, from a heart attack in 1972," he said. "His death awakened me to the brevity of life and (the worry that) my classmates would quickly become strangers."

Father Gallenbach retired, but he occasionally helped at his parish. He whole-heartedly believed in the brotherhood of the priesthood and the importance of prayer. "Pray every day for priests, permanent deacons, vowed religious and for vocations. Pray especially for the pope. The secular culture grows stronger and more pervasive every day."



In Remembrance of Father Tom Gallenbach, by Jim B. (continued)

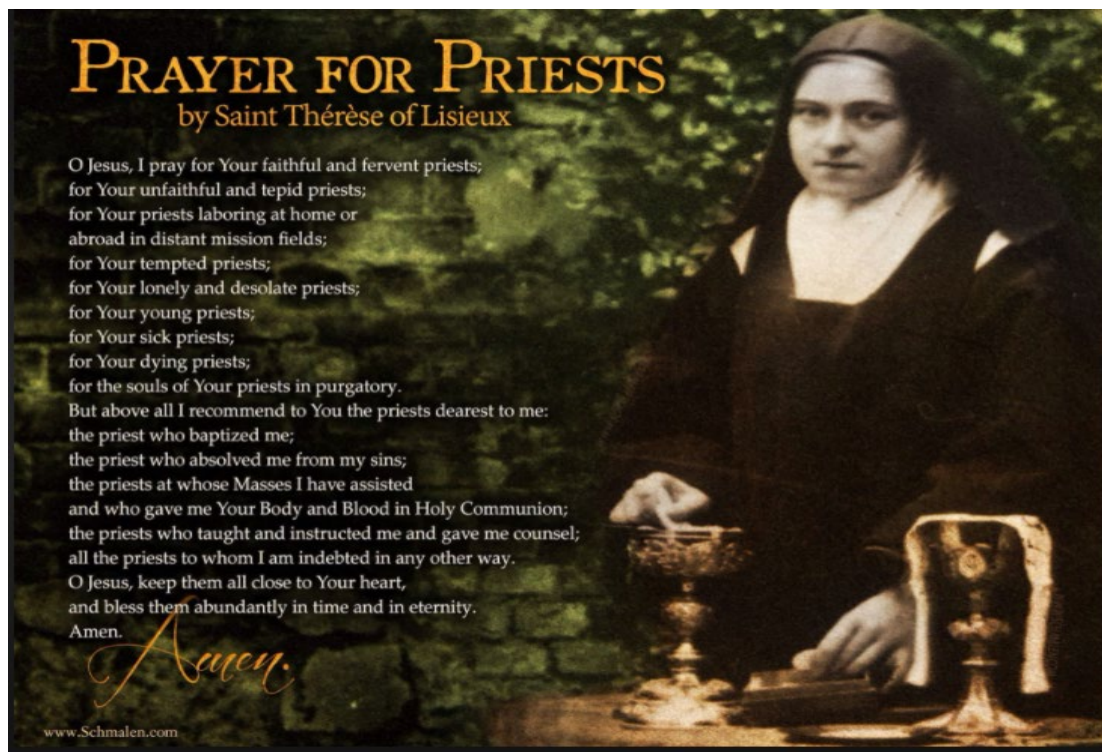
I met Fr. Tom several years ago at a Calix Convention/ Retreat in St. Paul, MN when our Cathedral Unit hosted the retreat. He greeted me warmly and blessed me with a hearty chuckle. He carried that demeanor with him as long as I knew him.

Fr. Tom received certification in chemical dependency, was a recovering alcoholic and a wonderful priest. There was not any question on the Board when he stepped up in our hour of need. I received many calls when we had the Calix office asking for guidance. I remember one call from an active Catholic Air Force member who had gotten in trouble because of his drinking, and he was soon to answer to the base commander. He was in a quandary as to what to say. I called Fr. Tom and gave him the information regarding this fellow and Fr. Tom followed up with him. Later, Fr. Tom told me that he thought that he had led this person to the right path. I felt assured that he did!

I heard Fr. Tom's AA story, and the most memorable part was when he told the story of how he got into treatment. It seems that one of his subordinates had enough courage to tell Fr. Tom that he thought he drank too much. Fr. Tom pondered this message for a few days, and he called a priest he knew who was in recovery. That started him down the path of recovery, and he said that he was grateful to that subordinate that was willing to deliver the message. I think that shows what a decent guy Fr. Tom was.

About 2 months ago, I answered my telephone, and I was delighted to hear Fr. Tom's voice. He said that he had been going through his telephone list (probably a Rolodex) and found my name and number. We had a great conversation, talking about his dog, his limitations on the physical side and the curtailment of travel for him due to Covid. He sounded happy and jovial as was his usual behavior. I'm so happy for that conversation. May he rest in peace!

Jim B.



Two Returned Citizens, by Bruce G.

This is a true story of two returned citizens, men who were incarcerated for substance abuse issues, and who returned to our community after serving their time. Both men attended Calix Society meetings at Loudoun Club 12 in Leesburg, VA prior to their most recent jail time, but neither was a group member.

“Do you miss Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass?” That was the text message that was sent to VB on the morning of Thursday, September 2, 2021, at approximately 7 am. *“Yes, I do,”* was VB’s initial reply which was quickly followed by the text, *“Have a blessed day, Sunshine”* - end of conversation.

VB was released from the county’s Adult Detention Center on July 1, 2021 and started attending daily Mass on the following day. He became a regular attendee for a month, and was visibly moved to tears at each Mass, particularly during the consecration. VB, 58-years old, came into the Church three years earlier while still in jail. The jail’s Catholic chaplain baptized him and introduced him to the other Sacraments of Initiation. VB’s witness at Mass testified to the healing power of the Eucharist. By his own admission, he lost his drinking obsession for the first time since he was a teenager. When he missed a week of Mass, including two Sundays, his drinking obsession returned. He drank and lost his Oxford house residence. He returned to Mass, and through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation opened himself to powerful graces. During Mass on the Feast of the Assumption tears flowed freely, and he was inconsolable as he looked at the Crucified Christ suspended above the altar. The following Wednesday, practical necessity caused VB to move to a homeless shelter a dozen miles from the church community he was beginning to experience. Since that move, VB has given no indication that he is attending Mass. Without a car, he has not contacted the local parish for assistance. And since county buses are out-of-service on Sundays, VB feels himself excused from his Mass obligation.

“This is CW, a friend of JB. We met 18-months ago, please call me.” This text was received at 2:00 p.m. on the same day as the text to VB. With a tear-filled voice, CW explained that JB, her friend since high school, had died from a heroin overdose on August 31st. He was 38-years old and had lived for 367 days after his release from Virginia State Prison. In a twist of fate, his body was found in the bedroom of his Leesburg townhouse by his twin 8-year-old sons, paralleling how he witnessed his own mother’s overdose death at roughly the same age. The hour-long conversation with CW was shocking and tragic, particularly her descriptions of the lengths that she went to help JB from her home in San Antonio. Not belonging to the Al-Anon fellowship, CW was blind to how her actions enabled JB’s addiction.

(continued next page)

Two Returned Citizens, by Bruce G. (continued)

After his August 2020 release, I started meeting JB for coffee and chess at Shoe's Cup & Cork, a rustic establishment near the county courthouse in the Civil War-era downtown of Leesburg, VA. We played chess periodically before he went into prison, and I knew he played regularly with other inmates while incarcerated. My hope was that periodic contact would lead to re-establishing our friendship and that through his friendship JB, he would return to Calix and the church. Shoe's "Hidden Garden" behind the main building was the perfect place to social distance during COVID. During the winter, they even erected heated tents, so our periodic meetings continued until Spring. In April 2021, JB decided that switching from court-prescribed suboxone to methadone prescribed by a recovery center would be a better treatment. For counseling, he was planning on periodically accepting rides with family to the recovery center in Winchester, approximately 38 miles away. When unable to get a ride, he would attend counseling sessions via the Internet. Our periodic games stopped when he made this methadone switch; he thought I would turn him into his probation officer as he was beginning to use more than methadone. I saw JB once in July and received a one-line text message in early August stating that he was in rehab at the Life Center in Galax, VA, approximately five hours south of Leesburg. My assumption was that he would be there for at least twenty-eight days, so I prayed for him but did not expect to hear from him for some time. Two weeks prior to his death, I was surprised when JB texted me from Leesburg and asked if I would buy some computer gear from him so that he could make his car payments. I declined his offer and asked when we were going to play chess again. I never received a reply, and that is how our relationship ended.

Chess provides an apt metaphor for how JB managed his addiction. He thought he could make the right moves on his own against a cunning player. My mistake was playing his game. Unlike with VB, I reproach myself for not encouraging JB to attend Mass, and for not at least bringing him once to church. Deeply sorrowful and in shock after speaking with CW, I went for a walk on a trail along the Potomac River intent on praying a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for JB. I offered this prayer for JB's soul and for the comfort of his family and friends in their grief. During the prayer, I perceived the darkness that enveloped JB. The darkness was real, personal, and malevolent, like a black snake striking out from its hiding place.

I am done referring to alcoholism and addiction as "a disease." The disease model had its day in the 20th century, as an antidote for society's treatment of substance abuse as a moral failing. Today, the disease model fits society's rational materialist perspective too well. From my perspective, rational materialists remain willfully ignorant of the full nature of reality in all of its dimensions. Truth is knowable, and Christ is both Savior and Redeemer for a reason. He reminds me of why I remain a Calix Society member. He reminds me to bear His Light for others.

"And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and that men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." – Jn 3:19

The Collage, by Daphne K.

This collage represents something I saw one day at Mass on the altar. I was looking at the chalice and the light was shining down on it in such a way that this was the effect it made. It looked as though the Holy Spirit was descending on the chalice – which is so symbolic – that I never forgot it and later made this collage.

Since the Holy Trinity is both Three and One, it is not surprising that there is this unity between the Holy Spirit and the Blood of Christ:

'Lord, You are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness, let your Holy Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.' (Second Eucharistic prayer).

Since God made us all in His image, there is something of God in each one of us, but sometimes this seems to be too wonderful to be true! In the Eucharist, Christ invites us to eat his Body and drink his Blood. This helps us to believe that He really is in us, and we are in Him. When St. Augustine distributed Communion, he sometimes said, not 'the Body of Christ' but 'you are the Body of Christ' which is also true.

Because none of us have perfect parents who can give us the unconditional love we long for, we look for that comfort all our lives – often in the wrong places! It's not surprising that the Holy Spirit is called 'the Comforter' because only He can fill our 'God-shaped hole'. He reminds us that God loves us because He is Love, not because we are worthy. 'He brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved, through faith: not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. (See Ephesians 2:5-10).

We may not feel like works of art but we are 'works in progress' and it's God's work. In the meantime, as St. Therese of Lisieux put it: 'If we are able to bear serenely the trial of being displeasing to ourselves, we are a pleasant place for Jesus to dwell'. This is a great antidote to our urges to perfectionism!

As Christians we are very blessed to know that it is the Holy Spirit himself, 'the Spirit of Jesus' who wants to give us a 'spiritual awakening'. When Bill W. was describing his own experience, he spoke of 'a wind not of air but of spirit' and 'a Presence which seemed like a veritable sea of spirit' (*As Bill Sees It*). He adds 'For the first time I felt that I really belonged. I knew that I was loved and could love in return.'



Call for articles

Picking up where my colleague and Father Doug McKay left off, we are going to continue to center the next few editions with a focus on the Sacraments. This last issue was Penance. The March/April 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 Heather Ondik at hondik@tkrial.com or 215-910-2393 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	Submission Deadline
March/April	Holy Communion	February 27
May/June	Confirmation	April 20
July/August	Marriage/Holy Orders	June 20
September/October	Anointing of the Sick	August 20

Prayer Requests

For the repose of the soul of Dan Mathis, brother of Grays Ferry Calix member Paul Mathis (from: Ken J.)

Desperate help needed for overeating, drinking and drugging (from: Phyllis G.)

For my mother-in-law Janet to find the truth about her alcoholism and reclaim control over her life (from: Jonny A.)

To be free of the addiction to pornography. (from: Dennis R.)

For my husband to find healing and well-being, either through prayers, or through the discovery and acceptance of Calix and all that it offers. (from: N.L.)

PLEASE FIND THE PRAY REQUEST FORM ON THE WEBSITE:

www.calixsociety.org

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