



the Calice

Volume 49

March – April Issue No. 4



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Ken J.

YOUR WILL NOT MINE BE DONE

I WANT TO THANK THE CALIX SOCIETY, THROUGH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT. PAST PRESIDENT, CYNDY PYLE WAS A WONDERFUL FRIEND. I'VE KNOWN CYNDY FOR OVER 10 YEARS, AND WE WALKED A JOURNEY TOGETHER AS 12-STEP MEMBERS, CALIX MEMBERS, AND SECULAR FRANCISCANS. I SAW CYNDY AFTER SHE GOT SICK BUT BEFORE BEING HOSPITALIZED. I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME I'D SEE HER. WE SWAPPED TEXT MESSAGES AND THE LAST MESSAGE I RECEIVED FROM HER ON 10/17/21, WAS "THANK YOU." SHE WAS RESPONDING TO MY MESSAGE, "I'VE NOT SENT AN E-MAIL TO ALL CALIX MEMBERS FOR PRAYERS, MADAM PRESIDENT. CAROL KEATING AND I THINK IT'S TIME". WE PRAYED AND GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS, JUST NOT ALWAYS HOW WE WOULD WANT OR EXPECT. CYNDY WILL CELEBRATE HER ETERNAL BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 30TH

In This Issue

page

President's Column

1-3

Announcements

4-7

Article by Calix Chaplain, Fr. Doug McKay

8-9

Social Media and News from The Board

10

Article by Fred H.

11-13

Article by Dr. Bob K.

14-15

Call for articles & Prayer Requests

16-17

President's Column, by Ken J. (Continued)

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CYNDY IN PRAYING AND PLEADING FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE CALIX SOCIETY.

I HAVE BEEN SOBER FOR THIRTY YEARS. I FOUND CALIX IN 2007 AND STARTED A UNIT IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. IN 2009, I ATTENDED MY FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RETREAT IN PITTSBURGH. IN 2010, AT THE ANNUAL RETREAT IN OMAHA, MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, I WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AFTER SERVING THE TWO-YEAR TERM, I REMAINED ON THE BOARD. IN 2017, I BEGAN SERVING THE BOARD AS TREASURER. I RECALL SAYING AT THE 2010 OMAHA ANNUAL RETREAT, THAT "CALIX COULD BE TO THE 21ST CENTURY WHAT AA WAS TO THE 20TH CENTURY." **I'VE NOT GIVEN UP ON THAT GOAL.**

ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, I LEARNED ABOUT A WOMAN NAMED LUISA PICCARRETA. SHE IS KNOWN AS THE "LITTLE DAUGHTER OF THE DIVINE WILL". SOMEDAY, SHE WILL HOPEFULLY BECOME A SAINT. AT THIRTEEN, SHE RECEIVED HER FIRST VISION OF JESUS. SHE WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE REGULAR VISIONS UNTIL THE AGE OF SEVENTY-THREE. ALTHOUGH LUISA WAS A HEALTHY CHILD, SHE WAS CONFINED TO HER BED AT TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF AGE. SHE WAS A VICTIM SOUL. AT THIRTY-THREE, HER CONFESSOR (AND JESUS) TOLD HER TO BEGIN RECORDING THE MESSAGES FROM THE LORD. THE MESSAGES WERE EVENTUALLY COMPILED INTO A SERIES OF VOLUMES TITLED, "BOOK OF HEAVEN".

THERE ARE SO MANY PUBLICATIONS (INCLUDING PICCARRETA'S VOLUMES) AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND/OR DOWNLOAD THAT SOMETIMES IT BECOMES OVERWHELMING. THAT SAID, MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF LUISA OR THE "BOOK OF HEAVEN". CALIX MEMBER BILL H. AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY TO INTRODUCE THE GIFT OF THE DIVINE WILL TO CALIX. WHY, MAY YOU ASK? MANY OF US IN RECOVERY, OFTEN SAY TO OURSELVES ON A DAILY BASIS OR MULTIPLE TIMES PER DAY, "THY WILL, NOT MINE BE DONE". IF YOU ARE EARNESTLY SEEKING GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE, WOULDN'T YOU BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT AND LIVING IN THE DIVINE WILL? STAY TUNED FOR A MEETING OR EVENT FOCUSED ON THE DIVINE WILL OF GOD.

IN THE MEANTIME, HERE IS A SELECTION IDEAL FOR MEDITATION DURING THE EASTER SEASON. LUISA WROTE A BOOK CALLED THE "HOURS OF THE PASSION" WHEREIN SHE DETAILS HOUR-BY-HOUR WHAT JESUS REVEALED TO HER FROM THE TIME HE LEFT THE BLESSED MOTHER UNTIL HIS BURIAL.

God's Will not mine be done.

President's Column, by Ken J. (continued)

SHE WRITES REGARDING OUR LORD'S SECOND HOUR IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE:

"BUT, O JESUS, DELIGHT OF MY HEART, I SEE THAT CROWDS UPON CROWDS, OUR SINS, OUR MISERIES, OUR WEAKNESSES, THE MOST ENORMOUS CRIMES, THE GRAVEST INGRATITUDES, ADVANCE TOWARD YOU, ASSAIL YOU, CRUSH YOU, WOUND YOU, BITE YOU. AND YOU – WHAT DO YOU DO? THE BLOOD WHICH BOILS IN YOUR VEINS COMES TO FACE ALL THESE OFFENSES, BURSTS THE VEINS OPEN AND POURS OUT IN LARGE TORRENTS; IT MAKES YOU ALL WET, IT FLOWS TO THE GROUND, AND YOU GIVE BLOOD FOR OFFENSES - LIFE FOR DEATH. AH LOVE, TO WHAT A STATE I SEE YOU REDUCED! YOU ARE ABOUT TO BREATHE YOUR LAST. OH, MY GOOD, MY SWEET LIFE, O PLEASE, DO NOT DIE! RAISE YOUR FACE FROM THIS GROUND, WHICH YOU WET WITH YOUR MOST HOLY BLOOD! COME INTO MY ARMS! LET ME DIE IN YOUR PLACE! BUT I HEAR THE TREMBLING AND DYING VOICE OF MY SWEET JESUS, WHICH SAYS: "FATHER, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, LET THIS CHALICE PASS FROM ME; YET, NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE."

EVERY TIME I HEAR THE PHRASE, "THY WILL, NOT MINE, BE DONE", I WONDER IF PEOPLE REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE PRAYING FOR AND WHETHER THEY ATTEMPT TO LIVE GOD'S WILL. WHEN WE PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE ONLY PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES, HE INCLUDED THE WORDS, "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN". WE TEND TO SPLIT THIS SENTENCE INTO TWO PHRASES, "THY WILL BE DONE" AND "ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN". BUT IT IS ONE SENTENCE AND A PROPHECY! GOD'S WILL WILL REIGN ON EARTH BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD. JESUS IS NOT A LIAR. IN THIS TIME THAT WE LIVE IN, I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW GOD WILL PERFORM HIS WORK. HOWEVER, HIS RIGHTEOUS WAY WILL REIGN, MAYBE EVEN IN OUR LIFETIME! FIAT! COME DIVINE WILL!

Announcements

2022 Retreat

WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU

AUGUST 5-7 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 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. The International Board of Directors Retreat Committee is finalizing the details. Please keep an eye on your e-mail for more information.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The following Committees need support:

The following committees have vacancies and need support from our members:

The Outreach Committee - Responsible for promoting growth and increasing awareness of The Calix Society.

The Membership Committee – Responsible for creating and supporting communication, support and growth of units. Members will serve as liaisons with unit leaders.

The Retreat/Spirituality Committee – Responsible for planning annual retreats, Days of Recollection and other projects.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Editor, Heather Ondik via e-mail at serenityhet@yahoo.com.



Announcements

SCHEDULE OF ON-LINE MEETINGS

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 - 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 – 6 p.m. EST – Calix Holy Hour and Mass: Prayers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Mass. On the 3rd Tuesday of the month, Mass will start at 7:00 p.m. All other Tuesdays, Mass begins at 6:16 p.m. EST hosted by Grays Ferry, Philadelphia Unit. Use this link: [Use this Link: Grays Ferry Mass Link](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 465 531 4736 Password: 19471947

Tuesday – 8 p.m. Sydney time - 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. Please check time zones by using an on-line time conversion mechanism at [Time Zone & Clock Changes in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia](#)

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

Join with landline : 02 8015 6011



Announcements

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

hosted by Dale C. of Pittsburgh, PA

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 – Calix Beginner's Meeting

hosted by Bruce G of Leesburg, VA

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

hosted by Gaylen E of Cleveland, OH

Friday - 12 p.m. EST – “12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises” by Father Jim Harbaugh, SJ *hosted by Catherine C.*

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.

MATT TALBOT PRAY FOR US!!



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, pamphlets, clothing and other Calix swag available at the Calix Store on our website www.Calixsociety.org

A Covid Blessing, by Father Doug McKay

On September 27, 2021, I tested positive for the Covid virus. My friend Chuck, drove me to Chestnut Hill Hospital for the antibody infusion. After the procedure, on the way home, I felt cold, chilly, and congested. Coughing, through the opened car-window, I struggled to breathe. In the shortness of breath, death crossed my mind. *Should I go back to the hospital, I thought, or go home to my private chapel?* I figured, if I am dying then “there’s no place like home”, in my chapel, before His Real Presence. Though the drive home took less than an hour; it seemed to be the longest ride of my life.

Arriving home, I felt nauseated. Rushing up the stairs into the bathroom, I regurgitated and afterwards felt better. Saying my prayers before the tabernacle, I began burning up, sweating, and then was chilly again. Bundled-up in bed, I believed that I might be dying. Praying the Rosary and not knowing if I would wake in the morning, I fell asleep.

The next morning, Chuck woke me to see how I felt. “Exhausted,” I moaned.

“Stay in bed,” he said. “I’ll get you coffee and donuts.”

“No thanks, Chuck, I need to sleep.”

For several days, being waited on, I stayed in bed. Just to lift my finger to scratch my nose was like a hike in the woods up-hill; to make it to the bathroom was a journey; and to go downstairs would be a pilgrimage.

Word got around the town that I was seriously sick. For the next several weeks, I got more prayers than ever in my life, and heaven heard those prayers, and God blessed me – tremendously!

On October 2nd, the feast day of the Guardian Angels, I sprang out of bed early in the morning. That whole day, I experienced remarkable joy, like the Apostles on Pentecost – sober inebriation – and like the joyful martyrs who knew then that the Pearly Gates were just ahead. Beside myself, I sang, danced, and floated in spirit above my kitchen floor. Fearless, I welcomed Sister Death as a dear friend leading me to my dearest Friend who had already destroyed my death. I never before experienced such joy. In my ecstatic bliss, I wondered, was my Savior preparing me to see Him in verdant pastures beside restful waters?

That night, before the Eucharistic Lord, I ended my prayer vigil with the *Angel of God* prayer. Leaving the chapel, I entered the bedroom and sat at the end of the bed to remove my shoes. In the darkness, at the other end of the bed, I perceived a human-shadow-form, and in my heart, I heard Mother Mary’s voice, “Be good to him.” Could this shadow be my guardian angel? I wondered.

Not so!

A Covid Blessing, by Father Doug McKay (continued)

In that instant, like out of “Scrooge”, I was at my gravesite – in the valley of death – gaping 6-feet down at my dismal casket. Standing next to me, I saw the dark shadow. It spoke to me in a harsh, garbled, threatening voice revealing itself as the devil himself. “Why do you love God so much? Can’t you see what He’s doing to the world? What He’s doing to you?”

By an intuition, I knew not to converse with Satan, but I wanted to say, *You’re the one behind the evil!* “One shovel full of dirt,” the dark shadow commanded. Before my eyes, I saw the dirt fall over my casket. Then, the devil uttered the words that he spoke to Job so long ago. “Curse God and die!” Still joyful, I waited for him to speak again. “You know you are going to die?” Then, unafraid, I spoke. “I know I’m going to die, and when I do, I’ll be rid of you!” I wanted to go on and converse with him but couldn’t. I wanted to add, *And I’ll probably miss your angelic form, you Lucifer you, that once-upon-a-time Glorious Angel. Why did you turn away from God?* But I didn’t converse with the Accuser. He may have tangled me up with my own guilty and past drunken sins. Anyway, the Prince of Darkness couldn’t even get me to hate him. My radiant heart was filled with unconditional love, a divine love that made him fade away.

Left alone, I gazed down at my dirty casket. Right behind me, I experienced God’s joyful, loving, and saving presence. I wanted to turn around and see, but a gentle force prevented me. If I did turn around, I know now, I wouldn’t be writing this article for you, because I would be “in that place” that Jesus had already prepared for me.

Suddenly, God’s truth enlightened my spirit, and I proclaimed to my immortal soul: “Hey, I’m not in my casket. I’m above it. There is no death. Christ conquered it! Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting?”



Still in the dark valley, I realized – more than ever – that there is a devil, and he’s trying to conquer every one of us. I knew Satan to be a sore loser, and that he has no power whatsoever over us, unless we give it to him. We who believe in the Risen Christ and remain faithful to His Gospel are glory bound. So be not afraid, the Lord is with us now and forevermore. Amen.

Oh, what **A Covid Blessing!**

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

- ✓ We are happy to announce the return of Ken J. of Pennsylvania as the President. We are also proud to announce that Dr. Bob K. of Pennsylvania and Kevin S. of Australia will now be serving as Board members. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!
- ✓ We are in need of assistance for our various committees. Please see page four for details.
- ✓ The Chalice will be published on a bi-monthly basis. **Your articles are necessary and welcomed. Kindly e-mail your articles to Heather at: serenityhet@yahoo.com.**
- ✓ Keep your eyes peeled for a new on-line meeting developed by members Ken J. and Bill H., "Introduction to the Gift of the Divine Will". This meeting will be based upon the writings of Luisa Piccarreta.

I Was Famished and Now I'm Nourished, by Fred H.

Hello, I'm Fred H. and though I am a new member of the Calix Society, I felt compelled to respond to the editor's request for articles on how Holy Communion has impacted my journey in recovery. It was the recent prayer requests of Phyllis G. and Dennis R. that convinced me I should share.

Like a mother offers her child her own milk, made from her own flesh and blood, Jesus offers us His body, blood, soul and divinity as food and drink for the nourishment and healing of our bodies and souls.

Frankly, such a thought would have never crossed my mind fifteen years ago. I was in my early forties then and had wandered through many versions of the Christian faith that afforded little access to such a mystery. I was one of those desperate souls with many vices in tow. Lust was the leading problem but rage, binge buying, and over-eating were not far behind. Nothing I tried could free me from them or feed the true longings of my heart.

In that sorry state I crawled famished through the door of a local Eastern Orthodox parish in 2008. Immediately, I encountered priests and liturgies that ushered me into the mysterious depths of the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. Here, Jesus declares that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood, or we will have no life in us. I now had pastors who insisted that this has always been the most critical teaching of the Christian faith. The Church, they said, has always been a Eucharistic Community.

I wondered how I had ever missed this teaching before. It had never even occurred to me that you could really eat and drink God! I realized I'd been trying to subsist on simply studying scripture and praying. This may be the most common error of Christians today, and many seem to get by on such a diet, but *I was spiritually starving to death!* I was also spiritually bleeding out and I just knew in my heart at that moment that *I had to partake in that Blessed Sacrament* as soon as possible and as often as I could thereafter.

As I was going through Catechesis before my first communion, *I could barely wait!* It started sinking in that I was famished because I hadn't been consuming Jesus *literally, spiritually, mystically and physically* — terms I now believed could be held together in harmony, tension and paradox.

Boy oh boy, I had it all figured out! This was *all* I was going to need to kick the bad habits in my life... I thought I would just start taking Holy Communion and "presto-chango" I would *displace* my need for pursuing objects of lust, heal my rage and quit binge buying and over-eating.

I Was Famished and Now I'm Nourished, by Fred H. (continued)

It was my beloved wife that pointed out to me that I needed more. She suggested I get involved in a program like AA in order to truly get better. I didn't want to hear it then, but she was right. Even though I entered the Church and started taking Holy Communion on Easter of 2012, I didn't get sober until I joined a twelve-step group for sexaholics in August of 2014. I've been sober (but not always well) since then.

Healing and recovery has deepened over the past seven years. I worked the same twelve steps on my rage with eventual increasing success... and binge buying and eating... well, progress not perfection, right? Every step of the way I thank the presence of Jesus within me through the Holy Eucharist AND my twelve-step group/sponsor for these successes. God worked through both/and, not either/or for me.

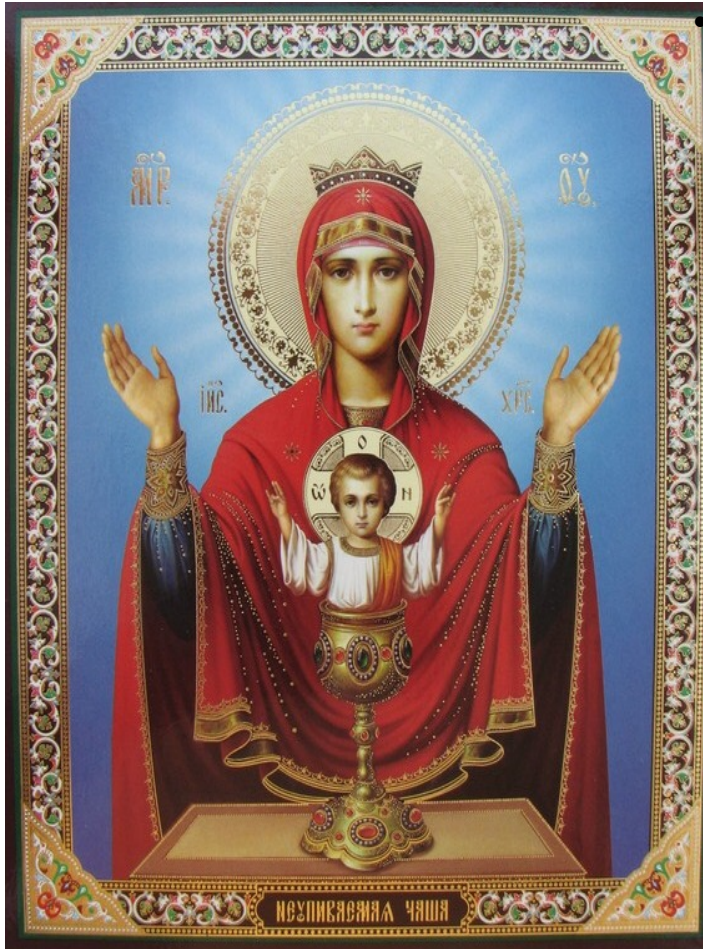
Being part of a Byzantine parish exposed me to many beautiful icons. I've included one of my favorites, "The Theotokus of the Inexhaustible Cup" because it aligns so well with the mission of the Calix Society. It has quite a history of helping alcoholics in Russia.

About 50 years before AA launched, a Russian alcoholic was healed almost instantly by gazing at this icon at a Monastery in Serpukhov. Since then, many addicts have integrated meditation upon this image or something like it with their twelve-step recovery. Our lady seems to be saying "My child, drink this, not that", indicating our need for true heavenly food to displace our disordered craving of mere earthly pleasures.

Suddenly I had a mother who cared for me and was offering me what my heart had really been longing for. I'd never had that sort of *loving feminine genius* involved in my spiritual life. Somehow, I sensed that Momma and Jesus together had exactly the kind of healing I needed to displace and redeem *all* the pornified images I'd consumed over the years. They could and would untwist my stinking thinking.

I think that is why I quickly bought several of those icons to place around the house with a whimsical hope of immediate healing like the Russian peasant in 1878. Well, let's just say my healing has come in a more measured fashion. I had to learn to trust God with my slower rate of healing and recovery.

On Easter of 2016, I entered the Roman Catholic fold as a Byzantine Catholic attending the *Novus Ordo* Mass. The best thing about this for me is that unlike the Orthodox Church in my area where Holy Communion is served only a couple times per week, Mass is served daily almost everywhere. I am SO GRATEFUL for this and trust me, I rarely miss a day. Now that I've found The Calix Society where I can both talk about and hear these mysteries declared more openly, I am more blessed. I look forward to journeying with you all for as long as our Lord allows.



“ABOUT 50 YEARS BEFORE AA LAUNCHED, A RUSSIAN ALCOHOLIC WAS HEALED ALMOST INSTANTLY BY GAZING AT THIS ICON AT A MONASTERY IN SERPUKHOV. SINCE THEN, MANY ADDICTS HAVE INTEGRATED MEDITATION UPON THIS IMAGE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT WITH THEIR TWELVE-STEP RECOVERY. OUR LADY SEEMS TO BE SAYING "MY CHILD, DRINK THIS, NOT THAT", INDICATING OUR NEED FOR TRUE HEAVENLY FOOD TO DISPLACE OUR DISORDERED CRAVING OF MERE EARTHLY PLEASURES.”

Jewish Roots of the Catholic Tree, by Dr. Bob K.

At a recent Zoom meeting of The Calix Society, the theme was Lectio Divina, based on the Mass readings for January 15th (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time, Cycle C). The Second Reading, St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:4-11), set forth the different gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of the group discussed the gift (not mentioned in the letter) of the priesthood, the ability to consecrate the bread and wine. As he was talking, the words of the liturgy came to me:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.



I recalled how, when I first heard these words some 26 years ago, I had thought “*that’s the Baruch, the blessing before eating at Passover.*” I mentioned this to my wife, a cradle Catholic who is much more knowledgeable in things Jewish than I—she has mastered Yiddish expressions, Jewish history, and, best of all, Jewish cooking. She noted another heritage: the priest’s stole derived from the tallit; the prayer shawl Jewish men wore. The discussion that followed, on other Jewish elements in Catholicism, I report below. I should add that my good lady is more knowledgeable than I, both on Catholic teaching and on Jewish heritage.

CHRISTIANITY: ANOTHER JEWISH SECT?

In this discussion, she startled me by calling Paul her least favorite disciple. If it hadn’t been for Paul, she reasoned, Christianity might have been formed as just another Jewish sect, retaining most of its Judaic heritage, instead of just a portion of it. I don’t agree. In order for Christianity to spread, it had to become separate from Judaism. As Paul argues to “the foolish Galatians,” it is faith in Christ, not obedience to the Law, that saves and sets us free.

As always, science-fiction makes the alternative history clear. In a story (the title and author this old man can’t recall) Pontius Pilate is merciful to Jesus: he is not crucified and lives to old age. Judaism becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire with the Emperor as its head. Christianity is aborted. There is no resurrection, and we are not saved by the sacrifice of God’s only Son. It’s a plausible outcome, and there are others that reach the same conclusion. Here’s another thing that would prevent Christianity from spreading as a Jewish sect: circumcision. Surely this would have been a bar to males converting as adults. (And don’t argue about the spread of Islam, in which circumcision was required—the element of forcible conversion has to be taken into account.) Despite the split of early Christianity from Judaism, there do remain Jewish elements in the Catholic faith. These I’ll discuss below.

Jewish Roots of the Catholic Tree, by Dr. Bob K. (continued)**JEWISH ELEMENTS IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

First, the cornerstone of the Catholic faith, the Eucharist, is derived from the Passover celebration, the Last Supper. At my first Mass, I was amazed by the similarities between the liturgy of the Eucharist and the Passover Seder: the ritual washing of hands, the offering of wine, and, most importantly, the sacrifice of the Lamb.

Another Catholic heritage from Jewish practice is that of confession of one's sins. Rather than addressing God directly to ask pardon for my sins (the Seven Penitential Psalms, Yom Kippur), I petition a priest, Persona Christi Capitis. Rather than the Yom Kippur scapegoat sent to carry away the sins of the people, Jesus Christ as the high priest offered Himself, once and for all, as the sacrifice. Also, there's fasting, stricter fasting in the Jewish tradition (24 hours without any food).

MY JEWISH HERITAGE

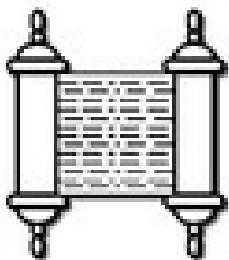
So, should I be proud of my Jewish heritage? According to St. Augustine (my favorite saint), it was the Old Testament, Judaism, that was the road to Christ, and it was God himself who kept the Jews from seeing Christ as Savior:

St. Augustine agreed with the older Christian tradition that the Old Testament prophecies bore witness to Christ and that the Jews should have recognized Him. But he developed the idea that God Himself was deliberately blinding the Jews from seeing this. He saw this as providential. Jews existed in large numbers throughout the Roman Empire and even outside of it. Their religion was ancient and respected even by pagans. Wherever they went, they brought Scriptures with them. When Christian missionaries began preaching the Gospel, they could then point to the books of the Jews as an independent witness to Jesus Christ.

—Arthur C. Sippo, St. Augustine's Defense of Judaism, New Oxford Review, October 2009

St. Augustine's point, in short, was that the Jews are "People of the Book." As a convert, I am "a person of the Book." I believe my Jewish heritage, secular though it was, has enriched my Catholic faith, as has my training as a physicist. I believe with St. Paul that God has not forgotten His covenant and that the day will come when my people will acknowledge the Messiah.

The post [Jewish Roots of the Catholic Tree](#) appeared first on Catholic Stand.



To Jesus through Mary

Call for articles!!!



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. Please see the chart below.

We also invite articles on any subject matter that is relevant to The Calix Society and our tenets. For example, testimony concerning your sobriety and faith journey or transformation experiences you'd like to share that relate to sobriety and our faith.

Contact editor Heather Ondik at serenityhet@yahoo.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
May/June	Confirmation	April 20
July/August	Marriage/Holy Order	June 20
September/October	Anointing of the Sick	August 20



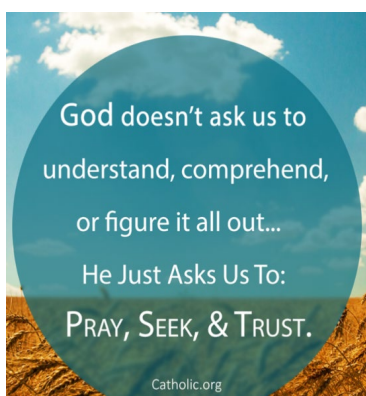
Prayer Requests

"A.A. RESTORES YOUR HEALTH AND KEEPS YOU FROM AN EARLY GRAVE. CALIX SAVES YOUR SOUL AND PUTS YOU ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN."

– WILLIAM J. MONTROY, A FOUNDER OF THE CALIX SOCIETY

PLEASE FIND THE PRAY REQUEST FORM ON THE WEBSITE:

www.calixsociety.org



The Calix Society
P.O. Box 26
Glenside, PA 19038
800.398.0524