

the Chalice

Volume 49 May-June 2022 Issue No. 5



 Pentecost is one of my favorite feast days in the liturgical calendar. As an addict, I experience my share of fear. I often think of the apostles after the Passion and how much time they spent locked up in the Upper Room. They spent three years with our Lord and were scared to death following the crucifixion.

Then they experienced the resurrected Christ and ventured out a bit. Jesus tells them that he must leave again but, this time he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. This time Jesus tells them to go and wait. So, they head back to the Upper Room and wait.

The following is taken from Luisa Picarretta's, "The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will," Day Thirty:

Now, you must know that as my Son departed for Heaven, I remained together with the apostles in the cenacle, waiting for the Holy Spirit.

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

They were all around Me, clinging to Me, and we prayed together; they did nothing without my advice. And when I began to speak to instruct them and to narrate some anecdotes about my Son which they did not know — as for example, the details of His birth, His baby tears, His loving traits, the incidents that happened in Egypt, the so many wonders of the hidden life in Nazareth... — oh, how attentive they were in listening to Me! They were enraptured in hearing of the so many surprises, the so many teachings that He had given Me, which were to serve for them. In fact, my Son had said little or nothing about Himself to the apostles, reserving for Me the task of making known to them how much He had loved them, and the details which only His Mother knew. So, my child, I was in the midst of my apostles more than the Sun of the day. I was the anchor, the wheel, the boat in which they found refuge, to be safe and sheltered from every danger. Therefore, I can say that I delivered the nascent Church upon my maternal knees, and that my arms were the boat in which I led Her to a safe harbor, and I still do.

Then the time came for the descent of the Holy Spirit, promised by my Son, in the cenacle. What a transformation, my child! As they were invested, they acquired new science, invincible strength, ardent love. A new life flowed within them, which rendered them intrepid and courageous, in such a way that they scattered throughout the whole world to make Redemption known, and to lay down their lives for their Master. I remained with beloved John, and was forced to leave Jerusalem, as the storm of persecution began.

In an instant, the disciples go from being full of fear to full of courage; from being weak to having invincible strength.

In the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, we each receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten about this great gift. As recovering addicts and al-anons, we can now tap into that gift, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us daily and we, too, can experience that courage and strength to not only cope with our addiction but everything that life throws at us.

The following is a prayer to consecrate ourselves to the Holy Spirit from the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (a/k/a the "Pink Sisters"):

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, Love of the Father and the Son, in order to belong entirely to you, I consecrate to you now and forever my heart and my will, my body and my soul, my understanding and my whole being, my thoughts and desires, my words and deeds, my joys and sorrows, my life and my death. I also consecrate to you all who are near and dear to me. Rule over us, O SPIRIT OF LOVE, and guide us always. AMEN

Mary, Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.

The Holy Spirit is the love between The Father & The Son



Grace and the 12 Steps: The Cup that Sanctifies Replaces the Cup that Stupefies, by Bob K. (originally printed in the *Catholic Stand*)

CATHOLICS AND ALCOHOLISM

Are Catholics more likely to be alcoholics than Protestants? "Yes," according to the title of a recent article from the Pew Research Center. But if you read the article carefully, you'll see that title is misleading. The title doesn't distinguish between lapsed, C&E or observant Catholics. Moreover, if you examine the differences between different categories of religious belief, you'll see that agnostics and atheists are much more likely to engage in binge drinking than Catholics (of whatever degree of belief):

Agnostics: 33%Atheists: 26%Catholic: 17%

So, is this evidence that those who believe in God (or the 12 Step equivalent—a "Higher Power") can be sober, clean, free from codependency or from the other addictive behaviors that afflicts us mortals? Perhaps, but for many of us drunks, addicts,... it takes more than a vague, undefined Higher Power. As Venerable Matt Talbot, that good old Irish drunk, said in the opening quote, it requires a deep faith in the power of Our Lord to help us. But by itself, that deep faith may not always suffice for recovery. As one recovering priest put it at a Calix meeting, "if you have the flu or covid you don't to go to me for a cure, you go to an MD." Prayer is a good thing, but God expects us also to use medicine. Catholics are not Christian Scientists.

THE CALIX SOCIETY, A SPIRITUAL MEDICINE

What medicine, in addition to a 12 Step program, might one use to recover from addictions? My prescription is the Calix Society. Since I've written about the Calix Society elsewhere, I'll not give a detailed account here, but only quote from the Calix Credo (read at every meeting) to tell you what the group does.

Members share ESH (Experience, Strength and Hope) stories, stimulated by a book section read at the meeting, Lectio Divina on the Gospel or Divine Office. These ESH stories tell about being at the bottom and by the grace of God, being shown the steps to recovery, and conversion to the faith. Two images come to mind that will, I hope, set the scene.

- •Jack D lies in a snowbank after an all-night drunk, sees a church across the street, goes in to get warm, hears noises in the basement, goes down to an AA meeting...grace, given and accepted;
- •Anne T is in despair, recovery is not going well, she's white knuckling abstinence, her sponsor told her to go to a Priest for Step 5 ("admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs"), shaking as she begins Confession, the priest tells her "relax, I've been sober myself for 19 years—Remember, Christ is mercy and love.".... grace, given and accepted.



Grace and the 12 Steps: The Cup that Sanctifies Replaces the Cup that Stupefies, by Bob K. (originally printed in the *Catholic Stand*) (continued)

ACCEPTING GRACE FOR RECOVERY

Although many such stories can be put into a framework of grace and recovery, one question remains. Why is it that some people recover, come back to the Church and others do not? I don't hold with the Calvinist theology of grace, unconditional election and irresistible grace. Rather, Jesus Christ extends His Divine Mercy to us all. It is the other gift of God to us, free will, that makes the difference—our freedom to accept or to reject grace

In his book, By the Grace of God, Fr. Francis Canavan, S.J. emphasizes this point:

"...although we cannot do God's will without His grace, God never deprives us of our freedom. Grace is not an omnipotent decree of God which we cannot resist. Because we are free, we can, and unfortunately we do sometimes reject the grace which God gives us."—Rev. Francis Canavan, S.J., By the Grace of God, p. 43

By grace, the 12 Steps enable the drunk, addict or codependent to recover. But free will assent is required in doing the Steps. Step 1 requires belief that you can't recover on your own. Step 2 requires you to acknowledge that God can help. Step 3 requires surrender, to let God do it. Or, as the slogan condensation of Steps 1,2,3 goes: "I can't, God can, I think I'll let Him do it." And so it goes for Steps 4-12.

A THEOLOGY OF GRACE

The Catholic theology of grace applies not only to recovery from alcoholism but generally to recovery from all kinds of sin. According to Fr. Canavan,

"When we cooperate with the grace by which God saves us from our sins we are doing essentially the same thing that we do when we cooperate with God in our recovery from alcoholism." op.cit., p.42

Calix Society members recognize the grace given to them, as one father did in a recent sharing:

When I learned to go to Adoration and pray for knowledge of God's will, rather than for my son to be clean, it was God's grace that enabled that surrender, that abandonment of control. And God's grace that led my son to be free from drugs."



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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 - JOIN US for LIVE Exposition with Benediction (15 minutes) followed by Mass at 6:15 p.m. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. EST, there is Holy Hour and Benediction from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. followed by Mass: hosted by Grays Ferry, Philadelphia Unit. 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 <u>Time Zone & Clock Changes in Sydney</u>, <u>New South Wales</u>, <u>Australia</u>

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

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

hosted by Jim B of St Paul MN

Wednesday - 8 p.m. EST – Calix Beginner's Meeting hosted by Bruce G of Leesburg, VA

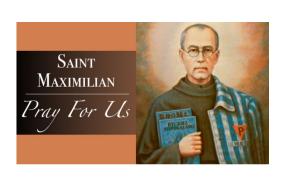
Thursday - 8 p.m. EST - "Theology of the Body" hosted by Fred H. of Michigan and Heather O. of Pennsylvania

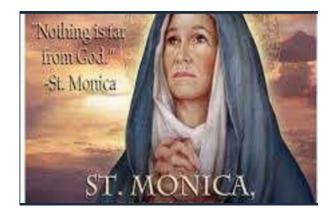
Friday - 12 p.m. EST – "12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises" by Father Jim Harbaugh, SJ hosted by Catherine C.

Saturday - **12 pm ET- Lectio Divina** *hosted by - TBD*

Nightly 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.





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 <u>treasurer@calixsociety.com</u> 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



2022 Retreat WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU AUGUST 5-7 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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. Availability is now limited. Please see the website to REGISTER! www.calixsociety.org

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.

Stay tuned – It looks like our 2023 Retreat will be hosted by the Lincoln, Nebraska Unit!

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



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Just a reminder that by keeping your membership current, you continue to support the efforts of the Society at the international level. We ask for \$25 annually. Another way you can help the society – which includes membership – is to become a "Sustaining Member". Sustaining Members pledge a monthly donation (via PayPal) for as little as \$5 each month. For more information about paying membership, please visit:

To become a Sustaining Member please visit: https://www.calixsociety.org/donate/

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

Additionally, I have mailed multiple membership cards over the past few months. Please email me at <u>treasurer@calixsociety.org</u> if you have not received your card or have any questions.

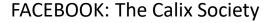


Social Media & News from the International Board of Directors

Like and follow us on social media







INSTAGRAM: calixsociety

TWITTER: @CALIXTALBOT

MEWE: The Calix Society







from the International Board of Directors

- ✓ We are in need of assistance for our various committees. Please see page eight 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.



God led me to Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous led me back to God, by Susan H.

This is a portion of my Christ Renews His Parish (CHRP) Women's Retreat Witness presented in January of 2022.

Although many lifeboats passed by during the last ten years of my drinking, at 57, I decided to stop drinking. The date was on 11/16/11. Forty-eight hours later, I went by ambulance to the Emergency Department and was subsequently admitted to the Intensive Care Unit for 5 days, of which I remember nothing. I woke up on a physical rehab unit.

I was truly at ground zero, rock bottom, the end of the line. I had nowhere to go but up. I was in quite a brain fog. I could only do what I was told and that was a good thing. *Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are we in the Hand of God* (Jeremiah 18, 1-6.). I felt like a lump of clay – I was ready to be formed. I could barely make simple day-to-day decisions and I wasn't strong enough to walk alone. I had to use a walker. It was scary. I am lucky to be alive.

It was suggested to me that I start attending Alcoholics Anonymous. meetings So, there I was, an alcoholic. The only alcoholics I knew, I had cared for in the hospital and were end-stage patients with alcoholism, pumpkin- orange dying in the hospital. I didn't know any sober, recovering alcoholics. I did not know the world of mental health. How embarrassing this was for me as a nurse. All I knew was I couldn't get to the store to get any wine, so I couldn't drink.

I did start going to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the local area and was I surprised, no shocked, at the number of AA meetings and drunks here is my own county.

At this point, I had to admit & accept that I was an alcoholic. I had to take action Alcoholism is an equal opportunity disease. The previous notion of a drunken homeless man in the gutter was true in the 30's and 40's and those were the visible last gasp folks. Nonetheless, we come in all shapes, sizes, colors and religions. My sobriety date is 11/16/11. I am now sober 10 years - one day at a time. We come into AA thinking we have to stay sober for the rest of our lives – that is simply not true. We stay sober one day at a time and live in the present. We can always drink tomorrow.

Of course, being so sick and broken, no one walks into the doors of AA with a smile on their face. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry (2 Timothy 4:5).

Sobriety must come first. I didn't choose to be alcoholic, but here I am. I was at the turning point. I remember what it was like to go through withdrawal. Who was that woman? I don't know her anymore.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:13-14).

I did not realize AA was a program of TOTAL abstinence. It is the first drink that does us in, not the fourth or fifth. Yes, I started out as a generous social drinker and I can't tell you when I crossed the line, but I did.

God led me to Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous led me back to God, by Susan H. (CONTINUED)

In the beginning, I had a glass of wine to unwind or relax. In the Novena to the Holy Spirit, it says: Peace surrounds me. I am Peace. You will recognize My presence by this Peace. Do not make the mistake so many others do. Relaxation of the body is not peace. Peace. My peace that only I can give is of the soul. Relaxation can be obtained in numerous ways, including drugs, sex and money. These are of the body and in excess harm the soul.

So, I was really looking to experience PEACE of the soul, not relaxation of the body. What a huge difference that is!

At about three years sober, my life had really changed and was continuing to do so. I was calmer, more patient and working full-time, soberly. I was mending my family relationships. I was going to meetings, listening to my sponsor and working the Steps. Bear in mind, this was not without some resistance - we can be like children – rebellious, resentful with a victim mentality.

I was back to attending mass and made my first sober confession at St. Peter's Church in Chicago, IL. I was terrified, but ready. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9). I went into the confessional and the little sliding door opened and I started blubbering, "Father I don't know how to do this, I'm newly sober." "Well, Father said, Don't worry, I am 20 years sober. Go ahead and make your confession." I never felt such grace and mercy. I almost fell off the kneeler, if that was possible. All I could think of was the adulterous woman when Jesus said, "go and sin no more." The full impact of that story hit me. Promiscuity and prostitution were not part of my story, however, those attributes float in the past of many alcoholics.

It is amazing what a few years of working the program of AA can do. I was sponsoring women and joined the service structure of AA. There are local and state districts as well as the General Service Office is in New York. I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:27). My Christian Awareness became stronger as I realized I was carrying Jesus' message couple with the message of sobriety.

In January of 2017, I saw a paragraph in the parish bulletin-calling women to increase their knowledge and growth in the Catholic faith by attending a Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) weekend retreat. I was available that weekend and I thought I'd give it a try. Heck, I had spiritual experiences during my newfound sobriety, didn't I? I felt the need to delve more deeply, in order to explore what I felt and believed in, and why. I was totally surprised and moved by the experience. To have that time to simply focus on my growing faith and myself was overwhelming. I was skeptical, but not negative. I decided to go to another event two weeks after the retreat and see where this would lead.



God led me to Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous led me back to God, by Susan H. *(CONTINUED)*

The members and the CRHP program met me where I was at in my spiritual journey. I felt I needed Catholicism 101, 201, 301, etc.

Another ministry I became involved in was that of an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist. I also bring the Eucharist to Catholic patients in the hospital. I am so at home and aware of the hospital culture.

. Our Lord and Savior says, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-14.16

Starting in June 2021, I started assisting our deacon bring Communion to the ambulatory and room-bound patients at three local nursing homes and as well as the homebound in our parish.

A few years ago, I was introduced to The Calix Society in a nearby suburb by a local deacon (who was one of us) and currently attends the international meetings online on a regular basis.

I am challenged by AA members when they say things such as – I'm a recovering Catholics, God hates me, God didn't answer my prayers or they can't be forgiven or forgive. It's discouraging to hear these comments. Yet, it demonstrates the spiritual poverty of the alcoholic. He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not. Whoever believes and is baptized will be condemned." (Mark 16: 15-16).

As an active member of the CRHP program, my Christian awareness has sprouted from that proverbial mustard seed to a young blossoming tree. Not only due to working with Catholics in our community but, extending my hand to those of little or no faith in AA.

I will conclude with this quote from Pope Francis: "Today, the word 'service' appears a bit hackneyed, worn out by use... To serve is not a courteous expression... Therefore, if we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve. And we know this often costs, because "it tastes like a cross." But, as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus. The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence."

Pope l	Francis
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Amen.



Humor Corner

Wedding White

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

Solomon's Temple

Where was Solomon's temple located? – On the side of his head. Duh!



The Sunday School Lesson

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."

The Kindergartener

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweety," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"



THEOLOGY OF BODY "PEARLS" BY, FRED H. & HEATHER O.

What is Theology of the Body (TOB)?

Theology of the Body is the collected teaching of our beloved St. John Paul II that addresses our "woefully inadequate anthropology". In other words, we don't understand how important our bodies are in our relationships with God and others. It is often seen as an antidote for the sexual revolution, but it is much, much bigger than that. A proper understanding of ourselves as persons created by God - <u>body</u> and soul, male and female - is critical in all areas of life, recovery from all forms of addiction not the least. It is with this in mind that we in The Calix Society are focusing on becoming familiar with TOB by reading and discussing appropriate documents and books for that purpose. Many people have found it to be a true game changer in their recovery and spiritual growth in general. Such is our hope as well.

Calix Society members Fred H. and Heather O. are hosting an on-line TOB meeting at 8:00 p.m. EST on Thursdays. We will be begin studying, "Fill These Hearts" by Christopher West in the next few meetings.

The human body includes right from the beginning... the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift – and by means of this gift – fulfills the meaning of his being and existence."

St. John Paul II

Below are some additional works that we may study during our time together (all works written by Christopher West):

- •An Encounter with Christ the Bridegroom An introduction and overview of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body
- •Original Man Who man and woman were created to be in the beginning, as found in the book of Genesis
- •Historical Man Who we are now after the fall and in the light of the redemption
- •Eschatological Man and Celibacy What we are destined for in heaven and how it relates to the celibate vocation
- •Marriage and *Humanae Vitae* Living the Theology of the Body in the vocation of marriage

Christopher West continually stresses the beauty and possibility of truly living as we were called to live in the beginning, as persons made in the image and likeness of God.

Call for articles!!!

Please consider submitting an article for the July/August issue about how your relationship with God influences your recovery. See the below chart for future topics!

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	Торіс	Submission Deadline
July/August	How does your relationship with God influence your sobriety?	July 21
September/October	What drew you to The Calix Society and how did you find us?	September 21
November/December	How has your membership in The Calix Society enriched your sobriety and your program of recovery (12-step program)?	November 21
January/February	Tell us how your journey with the Sacraments has influenced your sobriety.	January 21





Prayer Requests

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