

Volume 50

November - December 2023

Issue No. 3



# President's Column

by Mike G.

#### Dunrovin - A dream within a dream.

Saint John Baptist De La Salle had a dream of setting up free schools for children of workmen and the poor. There they could learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and a Christian education.

This idea of universal public education is a Catholic idea which we are rarely given credit for.

These Christian Brother's schools have now grown to 900,000 students in 80 countries.

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#### The core Lasallian principals are:

- 1. Faith in the Presence of God
- 2. Concern for the Poor and Social Justice
- 3. Respect for All Persons
- 4. Quality Education
- 5. Inclusive Community

On a personal note I attended De La Salle in Minneapolis MN for 2 years and they were the best years of high school.

A retreat center was the dream of Brother IIdephonsus Damian Brown, FSC, president of Cretin High School. He wanted to start a retreat center in the Twin Cities area for high school students. At that time, Catholic high schools required all students attend a retreat before graduation. Although Brother Brown died in 1952, Brother J. Felix Scanlan kept the dream alive and found the 50 acre estate called Dunrovin for sale in 1958.

(President's Column, Continued from Page 1)

A fundraising campaign was organized, the property was purchased, and there was a groundbreaking ceremony in 1963.

In August 2024 Calix will hold its annual retreat at Dunrovin. There we will encounter God through prayer and fellowship.

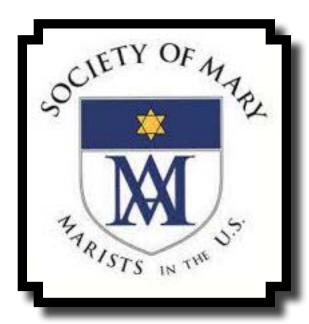
Finally we hope that this beautiful property will help with our dream, the dream that all Catholic people in recovery will grow in faith and become saints. We hope to see many members at our retreat at Dunrovin August 2-4, 2024.



## Meet Our New Chaplain -Thanks Father Doug!

by Father Roland Lajoie, SM Calix Chaplain.

At the end of the Calix Retreat 2023 at the Malvern Retreat House, Fr Douglas McKay, chaplain for Calix for many, many years, asked me, if I would consider becoming the new chaplain for the Calix Society, since he had taken on the responsibility of being the Rector of the Malvern Retreat House. After some thought and prayer I accepted the position with the Calix Board's approval. I thank the board for their approval.



I would first thank Fr McKay for his years of devoted services

to the Calix Society, especially for writing the history of Calix and all the research given to that task. I offer prayers of thanksgiving for him and wish him well in his new position as rector of the Malvern Retreat House.

#### The New Chaplain for the Calix Society

Who am I?

I am Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM – a priest of the Society of Mary, known as Marist Fathers. I am a senior priest serving at the parish of St. Louis King of France, downtown St. Paul . MN. I have been the chaplain of the St. Paul Calix Chapter since 2018. 2024 will mark my fiftieth ordination anniversary. I have served as a Marist Missionary all around the world. I am glad to offer my services to the Calix Society, having recovered from many afflictions through our higher power, Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. I will do my best to serve you in His Name and in the Name of Mary, our Mother of Mercy.

[Please go to page 6 to read Fr. Roland's Devotion for this issue.]

## Ain't It Great To Be Sober!

In Memory of Gene Ritter -By Dale Connelly

This is the remembrance about my sponsor and friend Gene Ritter, who recently passed away. If you see me in any of the Calix meetings online, you know that I always end my discussion with those words and agree to be sober. As Gene told me that's the attitude of gratitude to keep in your mind and that we're blessed to be sober.

I met Gene luckily right after I came in to Calix and it was a coincidence meeting him. But no coincidences in life, they are all God incidences. So, my birthday is April 23 and that's Gene's sobriety date and Gene's birthday is April 16 and it's my sobriety date!! So it was a cool coincidence I thought when I met Gene he was the one those guys you either love or hate. Some people thought he probably talked too much and then he probably did but it's fine. He was one of the holiest men that I ever met.

He always wanted to start any of the conversations we had with a prayer, and when he would leave you, 'Praise the Lord.' I came into Calix a year and a month after I came in AA, May 1989. Gene had been there since 1978 and died with 50 years of sobriety So I met Gene and the group of Calix by another God instance.

A guy that I went to high school with, Denny is here and when I saw him, it was like an Easter get together with the friends! I ask him how he's doing and he tells me that he's been sober for a couple years now. I'm just starting in about a year and he said well you need to come down to Catholic AA, which is called Calix which I never heard of. The meeting was at Saint Francis Hospital on the first Sunday of the month, just show up! That's what I did so that was my second coincidental meeting. My sobriety date is April 16, 1988. Gene is a character and we had found out that he had been going to Calix since 1978 ,came back from rehab, and he was selling encyclopedias in the Reading area. He is a lifelong Pittsburgher born under the Brady Street bridge then it became the Birmingham bridge which leads directly to the southside where he spend most of his time

The biggest sign was for Duquesne beer and that Iron city beer was the number one sold in Pittsburgh and Duquesne beer was the number two. The brewery was there and he with friends would hang out there. He told me about the guy that kind of saved him, a boxer, by the name of Rags. Gene was getting in trouble over there and Rags brought him in to box in a gym he ran. Gene's father died when he was real young.

Father Tom told me that their family was poor. He joined the service so that he could go to college on the G.I. Bill, which he did it at Duquesne University. Then he went to meetings joining AA in 1973 because he died with the 50 years of sobriety. I have a lot of stories to tell about our chaplain Father Tom a Capuchin priest. He probably heard the record number of confessions, which he heard daily down at St. Mary's of the point in downtown Pittsburgh. He had massive influence with recovery at all his confessions and I've heard a lot of the other guys that got sober and then after a time would lead them to Calix. Jim Morgan was the first one that I met. He was a retired State police guy who just kept coming back. I became the president for a few years and secretary. I try to pass it on. Gene was an essential part when we brought the key Convention to Pittsburgh in 2007.

It was Gene stomping the grounds to use St Paul of the Cross Retreat Center up on the hill in south side Gene started an AA group which met at Saint Paul's cafeteria every Monday and then he also opened one Wednesdays at Duquesne University.

(Ain't It Great To Be Sober!, Continued from Page 3)

I'm pretty sure he went to AA meetings every day. Gene helped a lot of people that he sponsored and whenever you would talk to him "How come you're so late?"he would say. I was talking to this guy that needed help ,and he always wanted to have the helping hand extended. He was a good sponsor for me because I would call him anytime and he would take the time to see what was going on. He had a lot of experience doing it As they say I have a million of them good Gene stories!! Great Calix and AA gentleman - Ain't it great to be sober!!

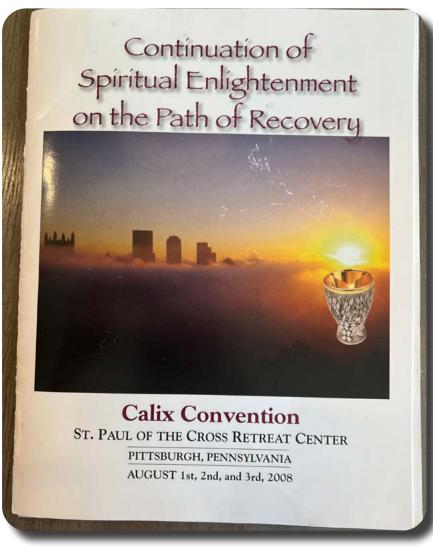
## 2008 Calix Retreat Flashbacks

By Dale Connelly



These photos are from the 2008 Calix convention. Look for Gene Ritter (mentioned in Dale's article above) with white mustache and Jim Billigmeier in blue shirt.







## Chaplain's Meditation

by Father Roland Lajoie, SM Calix Chaplain.

My dear Calix brothers and sisters,

November and December offer us great opportunities for spiritual inspirations for personal prayer and meditation. We can also use the opportunity to share our thoughts and inspirations with our sponsors or at weekly or by weekly meetings.

**November 1st - All Saints Day** - a holy day of obligation. Who are your favorite saints? Can you name them? Are they part of your recovery, your holy sponsors?

We are saints in the making. "Be ye Holy as your heavenly Father is Holy"

At our Baptism, the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon us . We were called by name "You are my beloved son / my beloved daughter, listen to me. Fear not, you are my beloved. I am with you and I will be with you until the end of time. You are mine! The call to holiness is a journey to the end of time. Jesus is our Divine sponsor. "Yes, we are saints in the making." "Follow me and learn from me," says the Lord.

**November 2nd - Feast of All Souls** - Death is a reality . It is not always sad for we are born to die. We focus on Jesus and we find the true meaning dying.

"We Remember How You Loved Us To Your Death, And Still We Celebrate For You Are With Us Here. And We Believe That We Will See You When You Come In Your Glory, Lord. We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe!

Here, A Million Wounded Souls
Are Yearning Just To Touch You And Be Healed;
Gather All Your People, And Hold Them To Your Heart."

-Christian Hymnal - Series 3W(2015

We remember our beloved dead, especially all who have died, afflicted by different addictions. Through the intercession of the Venerable Matt Talbot may they rest in the arms of Jesus, our reconciling and redeeming Lord.

**Thanksgiving** – as we gather around the altar of the Holy Eucharist – it is the greatest act of Thanksgiving, Jesus' greatest gift is the Holy Eucharist. He gives us His daily Bread. Take this all of you and Eat, this is my body. Taking the Chalice, he said, "Take and drink this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this meal, we remember that by Faith we receive what Jesus has done for us, and in Faith we proclaim that reality to others. Receive and proclaim what? What Jesus's death accomplished for us: his substitutionary death on our behalf — the breaking of His body and spilling of His blood — pays in full the penalty of guilt for our sin (<u>Hebrews 10:12–14</u>), and his perfect righteousness is freely given to us in exchange for our unrighteousness (<u>2 Corinthians 5:21</u>). This is the New Testament's clear teach-

The Chalice

ing of the Christian gospel.

After the "Our Father", Prayers of Thanksgiving are the greatest. After his conversion St. Paul always opened his letters with exaltations of thanksgiving.

Corinthians 1:3-4 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort, we ourselves, receive from our heavenly Father.

Ephesians 1-3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

#### Christ the King – Sunday November 26

Why do we celebrate Christ the King feast day?

As waves of nationalism and secularism were on the rise across the globe, Pope Pius XI instituted the Solemnity of Christ the King in 1925 as a reminder that Christ reigns above all earthly rulers. While temporal powers will fade away, Christ's reign and his kingdom remain eternal. November 17-25, the nine days preceding the Solemnity, let us offer our prayers to Christ the King for the freedom of the Church and all government leaders, Jesus Christ, Our King, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Advent Season - 1st Sunday of Advent - December 3. 2023 - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord."

**Advent Wreath:** Themes for each four Sundays: 1. Hope, 2. Peace, 3. Joy and 4. Love.

Our new liturgical years 2024 begins. What a gift to assist us in our ongoing conversion, It is our spiritual map." O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel." O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day, when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away."

Our Liturgical hymns help us to pray in song during our Advent season of prayer, fasting and good deeds in preparation for Christmas. We pray that we will experience the "Fire of His Love". Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night and show your face and bid us hail the dawn of grace."

#### Feast of St, Nicholas -St. Nicholas Day Traditions

On December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children traditionally leave a shoe or a boot in front of the fireplace. The next morning the shoe is filled with small gifts, like coins, candy and oranges. The coins are given in remembrance of the coins St. Nicholas left the girls in need of a dowry and oranges are given to signify the gold that St. Nicholas gave away to those in need. This tradition comes from the legends of St. Nicholas' generosity and led to the celebration of Santa Claus on Christmas Day today

#### December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, patroness of the USA

On May 17, 1846, the bishops of the United States proclaimed Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, the principal patroness of the whole country. Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception, Our patroness, (Day of Obligation.)

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe - December 12 - Patroness of the Americas

Every year, Latin American communities around the world celebrate the anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Mt Tepeyac, Mexico City on December 12. Mary, who the Latin American communities call the Virgin of Guadalupe, is now known as the Patron Saint of the Americas. Pope Francis in his homily on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2019 said: "May she speak to us as she spoke to Juan Diego with these three titles: with tenderness, with feminine warmth, and with a closeness of 'mixedness.' i.e. The color of her skin stands out, neither pale like the Spaniards, nor dark like the indigenous, she is a mestiza, a mixed-blood.

#### The Third Sunday of Advent – December 17

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent. The priest wears "Rose vestment." The rose color symbolizes joy and hope in the midst of the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.

#### Christmas Eve - December 24 - O Holy Night

Christmas, God brought his Son to earth in the form of Jesus. On Christmas Eve, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, who came into the world as the Son of God and Saviour to redeem humanity from its sins. Glory to God on High! A Merry Christmas to all!

#### Sunday after Christmas: Feast of the Holy Family

A blessing for all families:

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family/families. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Protect and bless all of us, both absent and present, and be merciful to those departed. O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My dear brothers and sisters, I pray this liturgical calendar will inform and assist you in your spiritual journey of recovery. Share the knowledge and the joy of our Faith!

Matt Talbot, pray for us!

Fr Roland Lajoie, SM



## Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi & Child of God

By Kevin S

Hey friends,

What comes out of my mouth is powerful - (It is not what goes in that makes a man unclean but what comes out - Jesus Christ).

A rosary tape that I would replay hundreds of times in early recovery had an old Redemptorist priest talking about Lex orandi, lex credendi - 'the law of praying is the law of believing', said that that faithful old padre as he would explain devotion to the Blessed Virgin ... 'Hail Mary, full of grace .... I believe you are full of grace (Jesus) because I say 'Hail Mary...'

Lex orandi, lex credendi: The way we pray leads to the way believe (angelusnews.com)

One old timer in the fellowship used to talk about the power of auto-suggestion - stating your addiction in front of people reinforces what you say you are.

Of course, we all have issues that need to be identified, but they do not define who we are. I believe I am an alcoholic, but that does not define who I am.

#### Who is a Child of God? | Catholic Answers Q&A

My name is Kevin, and I am a Child of God - the more I say that the more I believe that biblical fact and I am grateful to Father MacKay who wrote that in Story of Calix



The Chalice November - December 2023



## Pondering Birth Giving On Christmas

by Fred H. Calix Member

into understanding that an admiration for the Mother of God was appropriate, this practice of religious men taking on Mary's name seemed to unnerve me.

As my journey into the faith progressed, I began to understand just how heroic Mary's faith was. Then, as I studied the theology of our human bodies I began understanding that being human is sacramental... that our bodies, male and female are visible signs of unseen realities. I began understanding that our bodies tell a story and that their every aspect has a theology.

Did you ever wonder why some monks and priests take on the name of Mary when they join their religious orders? I know I have! What in heaven's name?! It was certainly odd to me when I began darkening the doors of Catholic and Orthodox Churches and monasteries in late 2008. Though I'd come great strides



Each of these men have taken Mary as one of their names e.g. Fr. Leonard Mary



God wants to marry us!

Then one day, the light went on and I realized that in the language of scripture, God wants to marry us... both all of humanity and in some very real sense each one of us. Yes, this too was unnerving on many levels. Yet scripture is very persistent on this issue even to the very last pages of the New Testament. Jesus is the Bridegroom, the Church is His bride, and St. Paul calls this a Mega Mystery. Indeed.

So how does this even make sense to those of us without a womb?

I would suggest that there are no humans that lack a womb... spiritually speaking that is.

Every human soul has a womb component. It is sometimes referred to as the God shaped hole in our hearts where we are told to receive Jesus. I know that for me at first I preferred the idea of being a wide receiver on a football team whose job is to get open to receive the pass. Lately I've become more comfortable in my own masculinity so I don't get unnerved like I used to when thinking about my soul having a feminine / receptive component. Interestingly, in many gendered languages (Italian, Spanish, Arabic, etc.) the word for soul is itself feminine, emphasizing this receptive aspect of being human.

So no matter whether our trillions of physical cells carry xy or xx chromosomes making us physically male or female, we all have a soul and the soul has a feminine component built to receive, like a womb. (See Note 1 below.)

What does this imply?

SO MUCH!

(For what I'm not implying see Note 2 below.)



#### The Chalice

It is this 'SO MUCH' that is the subject of this Visio Divina prayer and meditation. I'm sure I cannot sum it up here but I'm convinced that it should be pondered. At the very least it can clue us in on why both men and women down through the centuries after Christ have taken on Mary's name as their own.

Like Mary, those who love God desire to open up to His love and do His will. They wish to have her deep faith that God would do amazing things in, with and through her. Like her they desire to give birth to the divine in the world, infusing it with love and light. Like Mary they stand amazed at the ability of God to do

the impossible in, with and through the unqualified, the poor and the marginalized. Like Mary they magnify God for choosing them to be a blessing to all they encounter. Like Mary.



But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

#### Pondering Physical and Spiritual Birth Giving May it be done to me according to your word + The Word became flesh and dwelt among us + The womb of Mary is the intersection of heaven and earth + Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est + [The Word became flesh here] + Here begins the marriage of heaven and earth + Each soul has a womb + All souls are invited to receive the Holy Spirit, the great seed sower, that the Eternal Word may be conceived and gestated therein, dwell in them richly, and be birthed forth for the good of all + I open the womb of my soul to your will + "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"+ At every Holy Communion I receive Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity into my body and soul + The Church is the Body of Christ, the Word becoming flesh in, with and through us + Our desire increases to do all things In Him, With Him, Through Him + "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst" + The Church is ALL OF US who are opening the womb of our souls, receiving the Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ within, gestating Him and birthing Him forth as food for the life of the world. + Since we are all called to give birth to Christ to feed others, would it not be wise to call on one who has done this both physically and spiritually as a helper and midwife? Through her experience, example and prayers for us, Mary is the quintessential mother and helper in childbirth both physically and spiritually Mary, birth giver and mother of God, pray for us as we follow your example and become bearers of the Divine Life! Icon by Marek Czarnecki, used with permission, please sup-port his work. Ponderings reflect the theology of our bodies. Dive deeper via the QR code to the right. This card is freely given and never for sale. Bitthed at

Like Mary, we too can open to God's love for the sake of blessing others. (See Note 3 below.)

Pondering these things goes deep into our anatomy which is a sign (sacrament) of unseen spiritual realities. The enemy does not want us to take that deep dive.

You see, the evil one was told of his doom at the dawn of time... that the seed of a woman would crush his head. This caused him great fear which bred even greater hatred. Since that moment he and his minions have focused the greater share of their malice on women, twisting our view of them, objectifying their bodies, attacking their ability to bring life into the world and nurture it, degrading, abusing and demeaning them in a host of ways. Sadly, the enemy has often used men as accomplices in his hate. But by the grace of God, pondering the true meaning of our bodies, our Lord and His Blessed Mother can begin to untwist what the enemy has twisted and restore woman to her rightful place as the crown of all the created order. Seeing that scripture clearly depicts the people of God as his bride, anything we can do to allow Him to heal our view of women is a good thing.

May this Visio Divina Card be a tiny help to that end.

[Note 1: Indeed, every soul also has a masculine component as well. All souls have an innate ability to sow seeds, to be self donating. Perhaps that will be the subject of a future Visio Divina meditation.]

[Note 2: I am not implying that men can have a female soul any more than I am implying that women can have a male soul. I believe that to be whole, every man should properly integrate the feminine genius of receptivity and that every woman should properly integrate the masculine genius of seed sowing or self donation. The broken and twisted machismo of men has by and large prevented the proper integration of the feminine genius while women have excelled at incorporating the seed sowing / self donation of the masculine genius. Look how successful women have been at teaching (a form of seed sowing) in the last 150 years, it is indeed a beautiful thing to behold!]

[Note 3: The beautiful Icon is by Marek Czarnecki who graciously gave us permission to distribute this card freely, <u>please</u> <u>support his work!</u>]



## Membership Update

by Ken J. Calix Treasurer

#### Membership

Just a reminder that all memberships expire on 12/31. When you become a member for the first time your expiration date will be on 12/31 of the year AFTER you join. If you think it's

unfair that those who join in February get 10 more months than those who join in November, I refer you to Matthew 20:1-16. We went back to calendar year just because it was easier than trying to send reminders every month. That said, in the email you received this Chalice you should have seen the line in bold, "Your membership is set to expire on date". If the date is in the past then our records indicate that your membership has expired. If the date is in the future then you are current. If there is no date it indicates then you have not been a member (yet!). If your membership is set to expire at the end of this year you can renew at anytime. If you have never been a dues paying member please consider it now.

Another option is to become a member of the "Gratitude Club" by donating a minimum of \$5 monthly which will maintain your membership for as long as you continue monthly payments. Simply go to the Donate page on the website and sign up for monthly payments.

All members receive a membership card that include 2 prayers — one for the living and one for deceased members - which we ask all members to pray daily. For \$25 you will have a few hundred people praying for you in addition to supporting the society and the international level. Here's a link to the membership page: https://www.calixsociety.org/membership/

Please email Ken at <u>treasurer@calixsociety.org</u> if you have questions or need a replacement membership card.

Also, all dues paying members get a free copy – electronic or paperback – of Fr. McKay's book, "The Story of Calix". If you have not received yours yet, please visit <a href="http://www.calixsociety.org/story-of-calix/">http://www.calixsociety.org/story-of-calix/</a> and fill out the form and your book will be sent out.

Thanks again for your support! Ken John	nston, Treasurer, Philadelphia, PA
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#### "The Calix Story"

Just a reminder that all dues paying members get a free copy of Fr. Mc Kay's book, "Story of the Calix Society". Many members have not requested their copy. If your membership is current, please go <a href="http://www.calixsociety.org/story-of-calix/">http://www.calixsociety.org/story-of-calix/</a> and complete the information. All new members will be asked to complete the form when they become members..

## A Visit To A London Calix Member!

By Dale Connelly

Whenever I met Adrian on zoom in 2020 or 2021, I knew he was a special person. His insomnia became more a blessing (meetings were 0100 in London) as we say about sobriety it's a blessing and a curse.

When I was able to go to London after our Viking tour of Italy and Greece, I contacted Adrian and he met me at my hotel and we spent a wonderful day together. It's funny to see someone in person after seeing him for so many years, just on zoom.





He was a gracious host, and we saw all of London thanks to Adrian taking us on the tube and joining us for Saturday evening mass at Westminster Cathedral. I will always remember him and this trip. Hopefully I invited him to come to the US and maybe he'll be able to do that if his health is better!



## Editors Notes, Call For Articles, etc.

- ★ At Calix, we strive to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to each other, geared to our growth toward spiritual maturity.
- ★ For the Chalice newsletter, we want to share our members' recovery and spiritual journeys, recognizing that each individual is on a different part of that journey or path.
- ★ So, wherever you are on your recovery / spiritual journey, please consider writing an article for the Chalice.
- ★ Board member Susan H. has taken the lead in getting the Chalice back on its feet post COVID, she is doing a great job at soliciting articles so please send them along to her by <u>clicking here</u>.
- \* Articles can also be sent directly to the editor (Fred H.) at <a href="mailto:photonfarms@gmail.com">photonfarms@gmail.com</a>.
- ★ Please include your first name and last initial at the top of the article so we know who the article came from

As editor, I'm happy to assist in the layout of the chalice while Susan has volunteered to encourage members to submit articles for upcoming issues, collect them and forward them to me.

We are taking articles for the January - February issue already, so feel free to send them at any time. Tell your own story or share whatever you think will be helpful to other members (articles written by other, images, etc.).

We have no theme requirements to follow at this time, so consider upcoming articles as a sort of topplate share... whatever is on your heart regarding your recovery.

We welcome feedback and suggestions, so just send them along to Susan or myself or any board member for that matter and we will consider them.

Blessings everyone!!		

#### **Attention Calix Authors!**

If you have submitted copy intended for publication and it has not been in the Chalice, please resubmit it to <a href="mailto:susanhaibeck@gmail.com">susanhaibeck@gmail.com</a> and in the subject box please say "For Chalice". We receive so much wonderful correspondence, sometimes I may think it is an FYI and it was intended to be in the Chalice! It is encouraging and fascinating to learn of all the wonderful outreach and meaning work occurring in parishes all over the world by our members. The Chalice is another tool easily sent to a potential member.

Thank you!

Chalice Staff



But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

### NATION TO A TONO DE LA PARTICIO DE LA PARTICIO DE LA PARTICION Pondering Physical and Spiritual Birth Giving

May it be done to me according to your word + The Word became flesh and dwelt among us + The womb of Mary is the intersection of heaven and earth + Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est + [The Word became flesh here] + Here begins the marriage of heaven and earth + Each soul has a womb + All souls are invited to receive the Holy Spirit, the great seed sower, that the Eternal Word may be conceived and gestated therein, dwell in them richly, and be birthed forth for the good of all + I open the womb of my soul to your will + "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" + At every Holy Communion I receive Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity into my body and soul + The Church is the Body of Christ, the Word becoming flesh in, with and through us + Our desire increases to do all things In Him, With Him, Through Him + "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst" + The Church is ALL OF US who are opening the womb of our souls, receiving the Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ within, gestating Him and birthing Him forth as food for the life of the world. + Since we are all called to give birth to Christ to feed others, would it not be wise to call on one who has done this both physically and spiritually as a helper and midwife? Through her experience, example and prayers for us, Mary is the quintessential mother and helper in childbirth both physically and spiritually.

Mary, birth giver and mother of God, pray for us as we follow your example and become bearers of the Divine Life!

Icon by Marek Czarnecki, used with permission, please support his work. Ponderings reflect the theology of our bodies. Dive deeper via the QR code to the right. This card is freely given and never for sale. Birthed at Photon Farms 11/14/23.

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This Visio Divina Card is freely given and never for sale along with many other such creations grown on the farm. If your Parish would like some, go to https://photonfarms.blogspot.com/p/images-words.html to learn more.





The Calix Society PO Box 26 Glenside, PA 19038 800.398.0524