



# the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## President's Column

by Mike G.

### Retreat News

Bishop Joseph Williams from the Archdiocese of St Paul & Minneapolis is planning to celebrate mass with us on Sunday August 4th. He was associated with Calix before but being new I am not sure his exact role. I hope to find out at the retreat.

National Chaplain Fr Roland Lajoie, SM celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Marist and his 50th year of being a priest on Sunday April 28th. Fr. Roland has served the Marists in Rome, Italy, Pomey, France, Dakar, Senegal, and many locations in the USA. I think he mentioned South America at some point, and having mass on Mt Sinai so he has served the Church in at least five continents. A large congregation celebrated these milestones including three priests. There were five Calix members in attendance from the St. Paul unit. Also two sisters from Little Sisters of the Poor where he says daily mass once a week. After the mass there was a reception with coffee, cake, cookies and beverages.

On personal news... my wife and I are becoming Associates of Jeanne Jugan. Associates are lay helpers of the Little Sisters of the Poor. St. Jugan was the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. We have attended twelve classes to learn about St. Jugan and the Little Sisters of the Poor and care for the elderly. I think the key idea is the value of people is always the same and doesn't depend on what we can produce. In a wild coincidence they gave us a book to read Heaven's Homecoming by Father Douglas McKay, the past national chaplain. It is a book about the indwelling presence of God and his transforming love for us. I haven't completed it yet but I do like all that I have read.

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## *Living in the Season of Recovery*

*by Father Roland Lajoie, SM  
Calix Chaplain.*

My dear Calix brothers, sisters and friends,

A blessed Easter and Pentecost Season. Following the season of Lent, a season of prayer, fasting and good works, we the “Body of Christ,” rejoice in the spirit of Christ’s redeeming love. Jesus Christ is risen and raises us to newness of life with Him.

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose **I have come into the world**—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:37)

“**I have come into the world** as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

“**For this reason I was born**, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ESV.

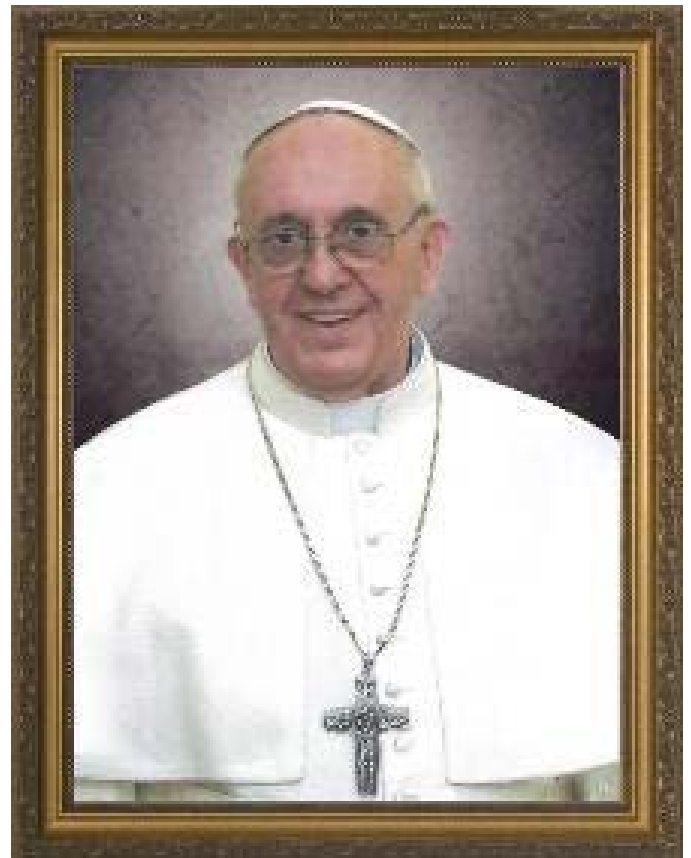
“Dying He destroyed our death , rising He restores our life. Come to me all you who hunger and thirst for holiness and I will give you rest, Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and your souls will find rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” The four Gospels are messages of Joy for the believers.

Pope Francis, in an excerpt from Walking with Jesus, encourages everyone to experience the Joy of the Gospel and look to Jesus for purpose, forgiveness and meaning. ( Steps: 5-6-7)

The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.

Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. [Step 2)

The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of His love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers, too. Many fall prey to it and end up resentful, angry, listless and powerless.. That



is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit, which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ. (1) (Steps: all steps)

Yes! Rising He restores our life. – (Step 7)

The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step toward Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love. Yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace." How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! (Step 2)

Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:22), has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness that never disappoints but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus; let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire [us] more than his life, which impels us onward! ( Steps 4-5-11)

My dear brothers and sisters what encouraging words are given to us through Pope Francis. He is truly a caring good shepherd, not letting his age nor his health get in the way of proclaiming the Gospel of Joy. Let us share our joy in these seasons of recovery, Easter and Pentecost. Jesus is our sponsor. He keeps reminding us:

" So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. 13 For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. ( Isaiah 41.10)

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and I'm thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4: 2-4 (NIV)"

Let us turn to the Venerable Matt Talbot For his intercession in our time of need:

For the Addicted

May Matt Talbot's triumph over addiction, bring hope to our lives and strength to our hearts. May he intercede for all who struggle with an addiction. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Great Healer. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit overshadow you. – Peace be with you!

1.excerpt from Walking with Jesus by Pope Francis (Loyola Press 2015)  
The Joy of Encounter, From the apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium  
("The Joy of the Gospel"), November 24, 2013

## Celebrating Hallmark Anniversaries

On April 28, Feast of St. Peter Chanel, Marist Priest, First Martyr of Oceania, I, Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM your Calix Chaplain, celebrated 60 years of religious profession in the Society of Mary, the Marist Fathers and Brothers and 50 years of priesthood in the same Society. The highlights of my anniversaries rest in the fact that I have said yes when chosen. It has been a perpetual yes. Every time I celebrated masses and heard confessions I was saying yes to his call: John 15:16



**“When a priest celebrates the sacraments, his work is secondary to that of Jesus Christ. Thus, the sacraments do not depend upon the strength, the skill, the intelligence, the eloquence or even the holiness of the individual priest. For it is Christ who acts—though through His unworthy minister—in every sacrament.”**

Scott Hahn  
*Swear to God*

“16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” Re9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. remain in my love!

I am grateful – for I too have said before receiving communion, “Lord I am not worthy that your should come under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”

Praise be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ for His great love and mercy.!

Pray for priestly vocations: no priest no Holy Eucharist nor Sacramental absolution.

Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM - May 2024

## ***Sydney Unit News and Outreach***

*By Kevin S*

On March 7, 2024, Kevin Smith (Board Member, Australia) was interviewed on Radio Maria Australia and discussed Saint John of God and Calix Sydney and the 12-steps for various additions and Addiction and Grace, and more, especially the Charism of Hospitality.

Saint John of God is the Spiritual Patron of Calix Society Sydney Unit.

Calix Sydney Unit is grateful to Saint John of God via 2 retired Brothers Hospitaller, without whom we would likely not exist.

Kevin from Sydney is recording and posting Fr McKay's book 'Story of the Calix Society on You tube, one chapter at a time.

Introduction and First Chapter

<https://youtu.be/iTk2RtHizKQ?si=GkzK7X-fUI-CGpsE>

## ***Calix Sydney @ U of ND Australia!***

*By Kevin S*

### **Calix Sydney Unit, at The University of Notre Dame Australia**

#### **Chaplaincy Sydney Campus | Notre Dame**

The third Tuesday of Easter, 2024, Chaplain Father Reginald Mary Chua OP is introduced to the Calix Society. The meeting opened with a prayer from the heart by Father Reg. Kevin S and Tim P present the young Dominican with a copy of Story of Calix and point to some key points in the book. For example: Calix proclaims the gospel to the membership of 12-step programs, founded 1947 by Bill Montroy, letter from Bill W, audience with Saint Pope Paul VI. Copies of the board endorsed flyer made for Calix Sydney were provided, and the good young padre enthusiastically responded with ideas about how to let the students and visitors know about Calix.

"I can mention this to students and visitors, we have a men's day in May, and a women's day later in the year."

"Oh yeah, father, that's great!"

"There are always more women at these gatherings," he continued.

We all laughed, in acknowledgement of how things go in Church.

We spent about three quarters of an hour in the leafy courtyard that separates Saint Benedict's Church and the Chaplaincy office. What was the meeting outcome? What of the future?

Well, we have a contact in the University of Notre Dame who will receive monthly emails from Calix Sydney, who is open to the idea of Calix, and who will pray for the Calix Apostolate. That in and of itself is very encouraging.

We mentioned the possibility of a “H&I”, as Tim has years’ experience of “Hospital and Institutions” visits to give his testimony as a recovered Alcoholic; a similar thing could occur at Notre Dame. Also, anyone could attend our zoom sessions, by calling and asking for a zoom link...

“Father, perhaps the best way for people to find out about Calix is to attend an “About Calix” talk after a Mass offered for the intentions of the Calix Society,” I offered. Calix Sydney unit continues to evolve, with members spread across a wide geographic area; we plan to meet in person on the first Saturday of each for Mass, “About Calix discussion”, Supper, and Adoration. We turn our lives and wills over to Jesus Christ.



# 2024 RETREAT



**The Calix Society**  
We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

WE ARE A EUCHARISTIC  
PEOPLE  
**CARRYING THE  
MESSAGE**

**DUNROVIN RETREAT CENTER**  
15525 SAINT CROIX TRAIL NORTH  
MARINE ON SAINT CROIX, MN 55047

**AUG 2-4, 2024**

DAILY SPEAKERS

**COVERING THE EUCHARISTIC  
REVIVAL AND THE 12TH STEP**

**COSTS:**

FULL EVENT: \$300  
COMMUTERS: \$150  
SATURDAY ONLY: \$125  
COUPLES: \$500

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**

[www.calixsociety.org](http://www.calixsociety.org)

"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



*A Beautiful Icon of Pentecost -- Giving  
Mary and Women Proper Honor*

*Fred H.  
Calix Member*

Perhaps there has never been a more beautiful icon of Pentecost. This one could also be titled 'Our Lady, Spouse of the Holy Spirit' because of the way Momma Mary is central in the scene. In much of Christian Iconography, the women are not even included in the painting! This one however shows it

more true to the bible which recounts that the women were very much present and as my pastor has often quipped, Mary was most likely instructing "the boys" on true faith.

The legend of Mary's faith is extraordinary. In fact it said that they had to gently remove her from Jesus' grave because she alone was certain in her heart that he would rise again and she wanted to wait for it... from that same trust and deep understanding of her son's words she was able to teach the apostles with and without words, especially the nine days after the ascension in that upper room, waiting for the Spirit to descend.



*Prayers to the Holy Spirit*


O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,  
Who art everywhere present and fillest all things,  
the Treasuring of good things and the Giver of life,  
Come and abide in us, cleanse us from every stain  
and save our souls, O Good one.

Come, Holy Spirit, I need Thee!  
Come, Holy Spirit, I pray  
Come with Your strength and Your power  
Come in Your ever gentle way.

Come Holy Spirit, All the hearts of Your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of Your Love.  
V. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created.  
R. And His shall renew the face of the earth.  
Let us pray.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct  
the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy  
Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His  
consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Image from www. The prayer is a common Byzantine form, rather than the Latin version in the west. The middle is a reference to the Holy Spirit. More info is available via the QR code on the right. This card is freely given and hence for free. Copyright © Thomas Merton, 1971/21.



Many women played an "equal to the apostles" role in the early Church and in my understanding that hasn't changed today! Different roles perhaps, but not less important. See the [icon of St. Photini here](#) as she is an example of a woman called by the Church "Equal to the Apostles".

With all that being said, the prayers to the Holy Spirit that are on the back of the card and on some versions inscribed around the icon, are [repeated often on the farm](#). It has been emphasized repeatedly from the pulpit that God is gentle and humble of heart and will not barge His way into our hearts. Again and again pastors have made it clear that opening one's heart in surrender to the Holy Spirit is the key to living a truly Christian life. We are told that such prayers, repeated from the heart often, remind us to stay in that attitude of surrender. That's why the farm takes that pastoral advice to heart.

[Click here to download or listen to this prayer being intoned.](#)





## *Membership Update*

*by Ken J.  
Calix Treasurer*

I'd like to thank all those who have renewed their memberships for 2024. As of this writing (5/20/24) we have 188 current dues paying members and 395 who had a membership at one point but have not renewed for

2024. The email you received with a link to this Chalice has the date when your membership will lapse. If the date is in the future that means you are current. If it's in the past, please consider renewing. We also have 212 on our email distribution who have never been dues paying members. New members will receive a membership card with two prayers that you are asked to pray daily, one for the live and one for the deceased members of Calix. Having a few hundred people praying for you daily is reason enough to plunk down \$25. All members get a free copy of "The Story of Calix" (ebook and/or paperback). So yet another reason to join. Finally, we have no way of knowing how many people are actually attending Calix, online or in-person, unless you become or remain a member.

On another note, I found Calix in 2008 when I was going to start my own program called, "We Are Not Saints, YET!". Not Saints was dormant for about 15 years but I resurrected it last fall when I was asked to start directing retreats and had a couple offers to speak in parishes. I started publishing some of the talks and other items on Substack. I recently did a series on the 12 Steps that you might find interesting. You can see my writing at [notsaintsyet.substack.com](https://notsaintsyet.substack.com). I also have a website at [www.notsaintsyet.org](http://www.notsaintsyet.org). I will start a series this week on the Litany of Humility.

## *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 [clicking here](#).
- ☆ 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 July - August 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 top-plate 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!!

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### **Attention Calix Authors!**

If you have submitted copy intended for publication and it has not been in the Chalice, please resubmit it to [susanhaibeck@gmail.com](mailto:susanhaibeck@gmail.com) 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

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