



the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Volume 51

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In This Issue	Page
President's Column	1
Celebrating Calix' 75th Anniversary - Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM	2
Letter from Archbishop Hebda	4
Sydney Unit News and Outreach - Kevin S	5
We are a Eucharistic People - Carrying the Message - Susan H	6
Canadian Calix Retreat Information!!	7
Staying in the Moment - Fred H	8
Calix Reaches Seminarians - Jim R	9
Editor's Notes	10

The retreat went very well.

THANKS TO:

Chairman: Steve O

Speakers: Jim B., Jim R., Fr. Roland, Dan M.

Calix meeting chairs: Al P. and Jim B.

Organizers: Steve O., Jim R.(For transporting many),

Fr. Roland, Steve P., Gary M., Morgan D

Rosary leader: Joe M.

Mass presidents: Father Roland (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) and Bishop Williams Sunday

At the retreat I gave a card which most of us signed and a small gift to Bishop Williams.

Here is the text of my short talk when I gave him the card.

Seventy-five years ago Bill Montroy wrote our charter. Our charter was reviewed by Bishop Grace or Bishop Murray, I can't remember which one. Now here we stand seventy-five years later with Bishop Williams and Fr. Roland helping us. I can't express the depth of gratitude that is in our hearts for the help that the clergy has given us on our faith journey. Please accept this card and small gift as a token of our gratitude that you are here today.

I am also grateful the kayakers Gary and Karen went out on the river and came back too. Ha!

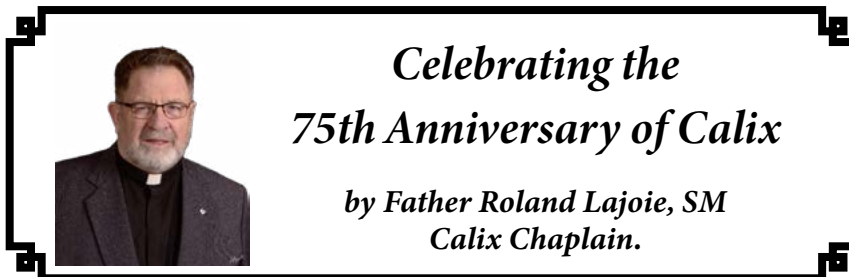
I went to the Eucharistic Revival. There were many awesome speakers and I believe you can find their talks on YouTube. It was amazing to see 2000 priests process into the stadium before mass. It took 25 minutes just to get them seated. Services were 2 hours long but it didn't seem too long. Eucharistic adoration was really beautiful. They put out some theatrical smoke, dimmed the lights, and focused maybe 20 spotlights on the monstrance. The effect was stunning.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

At the revival I was feeling unworthy, being a sinner. Then as a spiritual experience it came to me. The great David sinned, Jonah got on the ship to Tarshish when he was supposed to go to Ninevah and Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land because of a misdeed. My conclusion, I am a sinner with many flaws but God still wants me to do his work as best as I am able.

Mike



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of The Calix Society at the 2024 Annual Calix Retreat, August 2-4, - at the Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center - Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota.



Dear Calix friends,

The St. Paul East Calix Unit is honored to sponsor the 2024 Calix Retreat, with the theme “**CARRYING THE MESSAGE**” a sequence to the wonderful Eucharistic Congress recently held at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17-21. A number of Calix brothers and sisters were in attendance and many others followed it on the EWTN and various other podcasts and Media transmissions.

It was just amazing to witness the thousands of faithful, who participated in the 10th National Eucharistic Congress processions across the country and the many other Eucharistic processions throughout our cities and towns. Jesus was always at the forefront of all processions calling us to follow Him. We, Calix members, are a Eucharistic people finding our strength in recovery from our reception of the Holy Eucharist. “He is our bread of life that comes down from heaven to nourish and sanctify us.

On this 75th Anniversary of Calix, we honor our founder William Montroy, from St. Paul, Minnesota in 1947. “In the beginning Then God said, “Let us make man in our own image, after our own likeness.” In the eternal truth, we come to know that Mister Montroy was to become a saint and form other saints in the image and likeness of God. In his early twenties, Mister Montroy, overwhelmed with his own drinking problem, he received an indelible experience. Standing in front of a news stand on Broad and Oregon Streets in South Philadelphia, he looked above wooden shack at a double-sided sign. On the first side of that billboard he read: “**Dear Jesus, I have a problem and its ME.**” Walking around to the other side he read the remedy. “**Dear brother, I have a solution to your problem and its ME.**”

Jesus is the solution to our problem. In a letter to Sister Mary Madonna, Poor Clare nun, August 29, 1976, Mr. Montroy wrote about our spiritual helper. “In over thirty years in A.A. and Calix, when I needed help, I asked the Holy Spirit as to how I should go about it. I have found that working through the Holy Spirit will solve our problems.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

In an anonymous, "God letter" we read:

**"Dear God,
So far today, I have done all right. I haven't cursed, lied, cheated or stole. I haven't lost my temper or been impatient. I haven't been grumpy, nasty selfish nor greedy. No drink, no drugs, no impure thoughts or bad words. No dreadful deeds. And I thank you for that. But in a little while, Dear God, I will be getting out of bed and I will need all the help I can get."**

The Third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, - the Helper, - who makes Jesus present, is the helper that we all need, especially for addicts.

As Calix members, we pray, that God will bless all, who in our will to glorify, will adopt the principles and practices of Calix. Shower, O Lord, us with the help to repel all temptations to our former excesses. Refresh us with love of Your sacramental presence in the Holy Eucharist, so that our state of goodness will be a continuing act of praise to our Divine Provider. Amen.

Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM



Our Lady of Recovery

**"A.A. restores our health and keeps us from an early grave .
Calix saves our soul and puts us on the road to heaven."
-- William J. Montroy, A Founder of the Calix Society**

Some 2024 Calix Retreat Photos





ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 24, 2024

The Calix Society
National Chairman, Michael Gooley
168 Sixth Street East, #3805
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Friends,

Welcome to all of you as you celebrate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Calix Society at your national annual retreat on August 2-4, 2024, at Dunrovin. I regret that I will not be able to be with you because of prior commitments but am delighted that Bishop Williams will be able to celebrate with you.

With great joy and prayerful best wishes, I write to extend to the Calix Society congratulations as you celebrate your seventy-fifth anniversary and am so proud that Calix has its roots in our Archdiocese. I am happy to join all of you in giving thanks to Almighty God for the many ways in which He has blessed and strengthened the Calix Society in your mission to welcome all who struggle with addiction, both substance related and behavioral.

May God who has begun this good work within you "continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

With every good wish and promise of prayer, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Sydney Unit News and Outreach

By Kevin S



Monthly Unit Newsletter, August 2024

Greetings members and friends. I trust you are well today. August is a big month for Calix Sydney Unit, with nostalgia and saints. Please make a note of the following two dates:

- August 10 – In person meeting as below
- Tuesday August 13 - Zoom meeting [Topic: Saint Maximilian Kolbe]
- Tuesday August 27 - Zoom meeting [Topic: Saint Monica]

Members, please let me know if you would like to present either of the Saint topics. All are welcome to join with us in prayer for Total Abstinence and Catholic Spiritual Development.

August 10 in person Calix meeting at Saint Joseph, Enfield

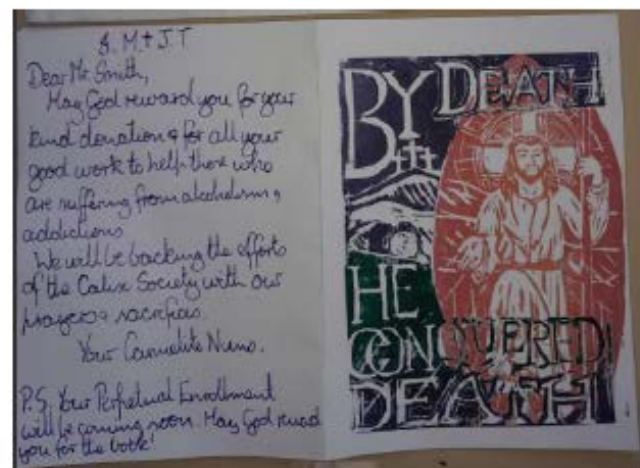
Consultation with members and prayer leads me to favour simplicity. Meeting is therefore:

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Small Group Room. Focus on Chapter 3 *Story of Calix* which indicates August 1947 as the month of first Calix Mass. Includes tea and light snack.

You are welcome attend 5:30 pm Mass with the parish intention for Calix Sydney Unit. We also hope to have silent Adoration at 7:30 pm (TBC), which would conclude at 8:30 pm.

Prayer Warriors

I am delighted to announce that The Carmel of Elijah in outback NSW have accepted our prayer request - see below. This is as per recommendations in chapter 5 of *Story of the Calix Society, Catholic Spirituality for Addicted Persons*, by Father Doug McKay. Thank God!



Saint John of God and Venerable Matt Talbot, Calix Sydney Unit patrons, *pray for us*. Let us continue to pray for those who suffer from addictions (Js 5:13-15) [James, CHAPTER 5 | USCCB](#)

Kevin S., for Calix Sydney Unit

We are a Eucharistic People - Carrying the Message

By Susan H

CALIX Retreat – 2024

Hosted by: St. Paul, Minnesota – Calix Unit East

Our retreat took place from August 2-4, 2024, in the 'Upper Room' at the Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat House in Marine on Saint Croix, Minnesota. The second-floor chapel and conference room were seamlessly connected, creating a unified space where we spent most of our time, except for meals in the first-floor dining room. For those who have attended before, the layout is familiar and convenient, with easy access, including a slow but functional elevator.



Father Roland, the Calix Chaplain, provided spiritual guidance through the Sacraments, presentations, and personal conversations during the retreat. His handouts included prayers and a format for the retreat. The dedicated Dunrovin staff served delicious home-style meals, with endless coffee, and the beautiful grounds offered opportunities for walking, contemplation, and rest. Interestingly, a few days before the retreat, the pond at Dunrovin unexpectedly drained due to a broken culvert support, leaving a dry dock. No canoing this year!



Nearly forty attendees participated, including local Minnesota members, five newcomers to Calix, and members from as far as Maine and Georgia. The retreat featured scheduled presentations, a mini bonfire with stargazing on Friday night, and a wild thunderstorm during the Saturday evening session. Bishop Williams, a longtime friend of Calix, presided over Sunday Mass and joined the group for lunch. His recent transfer to the Camden, New Jersey Diocese is seen as a blessing, as there's an active Calix unit there.



Overall, I had a experience at this, Connecting in per-faces and newcom- with Calix friends back!

A HUGE thank you St. Paul Minnesota planning and hard coordinating this And to all the attend- memorable week-



blessed and inspiring my third Calix retreat. son with the on-Zoom ers and reconnecting keeps me coming

to the Calix Unit East unit for all the effort, work that goes into event! It is appreciated. ees for making it a very end.




CALIX COMES TO CANADA

Addiction Has No Boundaries

An International Retreat for those in and around the 12 Step Program



Justin R. has been an active member of the Recovery community for over 10 years. He worked as an in-take worker for a detox/homeless shelter and was executive director of a non-profit organization. He has participated in many interventions and 12 step calls, and facilitated over 50 Big Book studies. He has sponsored over 30 people in anonymous fellowships and was recently a fellowship convention keynote speaker.



Sylvain L. is a grateful member of Workaholics Anonymous (W.A.) which he helped start in Edmonton in 2015. Chaplain and spiritual director at the Star of the North Retreat House in St. Albert, AB, he has authored five books, two of them on addictions awareness, receives many Step 5's, and has offered retreats and workshops on the 12 Step program both locally and internationally.



Tom W. is a long-time member of A.A., with a deep love for the program and a great desire to be of service to anyone in need, especially in need of recovering from addiction. This retreat is the result of his connections with Mike M. of Calix in the US, and his initiative to get it started in Canada.



Mike M. has been a member of several Calix Units in the Northern Virginia area since 2014, and is an active member of Al-Anon. Service is an important aspect of Mike's recovery. He has been a Group Rep for a mixed Al-Anon group and is currently treasurer for a Men's group. Mike is also an Alateen Group Sponsor for teens affected by someone's addiction.



The Calix Society

Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program... We welcome others who are not members of our Catholic faith, and anyone concerned with the illness of alcoholism and addiction who wish to join with us in prayer for our stated purposes. Find more information and read the Calix Credo through the link below.

OFFERED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024
THE STAR OF THE NORTH RETREAT CENTRE

EARLY REGISTRATION	
ONLINE WEEKEND:	\$85
COMMUTER WEEKEND:	\$165
OVERNIGHT WEEKEND:	\$335
AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST	
ONLINE WEEKEND:	\$135
COMMUTER WEEKEND:	\$215
OVERNIGHT WEEKEND:	\$385

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 1ST - NOTE THAT ALL PRICING IS IN CANADIAN FUNDS - FULL RETREAT INFORMATION THROUGH LINK BELOW

REGISTER AT [STAROFTHENORTH.CA/CALIX](https://starofthenorth.ca/calix) OR 780-459-5511

Star of the North Retreat Centre, 3A St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB





Staying In The Moment

*Fred H.
Calix Member*

An Internet favorite, this painting is a slightly different perspective on Jesus helping Peter out of the water. He had sunk down in it because he took his eyes off Jesus and started looking at the waves. Yes, Jesus is standing on top of the water, reaching down into the

water to pull him out. Who can't relate to that drowning feeling?

Interestingly enough, this is one of the few images that I can connect you to the actual artist who painted it. [Please support Yongsung Kim by clicking here and purchasing his work if you are so moved!](#) He has many other beautiful paintings in addition to the one shown here.

On the flip side of the image you'll find Moment Prayers that I've used a lot over the last few years. They are simple and sing a bit like nursery rhymes, but they work when I remember to use them.

For me at least, it is all about staying in the present moment as much as possible. C.S. Lewis says in the Screwtape Letters that God wants humans:

"to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which they call the Present. For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity."



Moment Prayers

Past Moments:

*Surrendering outcomes of past deeds, I do
Ask You to transform them, I'm trusting in You.*

Future Moments:

*Lord Jesus I'm trusting You to lead the way
Into every moment of this blessed day
Your presence there always to guide and console
Lord I ask for awareness of this in my soul.*

Present Moment:

*Jesus, You are with me in this moment.
Help me to listen deeply before I speak or act.
Show me what is really going on.
Move me to say or do what needs to be done
for the good of all.*

Image by Yongsung Kim. Present Moment from Fr. Jim
Chelich. More info is available via the QR code to the right.
This card is freely given and never for sale.
Grown at Photon Farms 6/29/22.



Getting there is the hard part, for one must release the past moments to God's care and completely trust Him to transform them into something beautiful and good. Then with future moments, especially the dreaded ones, trusting that He is already there waiting, ready to give counsel on how to behave lovingly and ready to give comfort should it prove painful, for after all, He has endured a bit of pain along the way and knows how it feels to be unfairly treated. He goes before us into every moment ([Mt. 28:7](#)).

Bottom line, and this is important to anyone, but especially those of us with serious abandonment issues, He will never let us go through it alone. Even when I step out of the boat and start looking at the waves and sink under the waters, he smiles and reaches down through and pulls me back up. He never leaves me.

Father Mike Schmitz delivered a really good sermon on the story behind this icon. [Listen to it here.](#)

Calix Reaches Seminarians

By Jim Rathburn

Our credo advises we meet as people working a 12-step program. Step 12 provides that upon having a spiritual awakening, we try to carry the message to others trying to recover or maintain recovery.

The ST PAUL MINNESOTA unit wants to carry the message of CALIX to parishes. There is outreach by having our brochures and meetings listed in bulletins and other communications as a resource for those in need - coming at the Diocese level and at parishes.

Many priests do not know of Calix or addiction ministry that we can provide parishioners. One effort to improve this is to teach seminarians about the disease and its impact to as high as 25-50% of those in the pews. And further the education on the basics of addiction treatment. We educate about Calix as a holy resource for those who want to maximize their faith to aid in recovery.

In June of 2024, the ST PAUL unit conducted its 3rd annual session with seminarians, in partnership with St Paul MN Seminary.

As part of the session, The unit also conducts a shortened “live meeting” to show how we conduct our meetings.



The session leaves a wonderful impression upon those men soon to be responsible for a parish. The disease impacts all other forms of ministry (grief as an example) at a church. You help a parishioner or their loved one with addiction and they and the whole parish will be stronger in their support at a church.

You can do this in your diocese. It takes finding a receptive seminary contact. The ST PAUL Seminary experience provides an excellent referral review and illustrates a roadmap.

Jim Rathburn, ST PAUL unit CALIX member, can answer questions and provide the outline of a session to use. He can be reached at 612 383 8232.

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 our next 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!!

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 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

The Calix Society
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