



the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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President's Column

by Mike G.

There is a "Venerable Matt Talbot Centenary Weekend & Shrines of Ireland Pilgrimage" June 1 to June 9, 2025.

The spiritual director is Rev. Douglas M. McKay.

You will recognize the name because he was our National Chaplain recently. Full disclosure- I want this to fill because I signed up to go.

The organizer is Marian Pilgrimages www.marianusa.com

John Wayne fans – note we will go to Cong where the Quiet Man was filmed. There is also an abandoned Abbey there.

Saint Patrick fans -- the tour will go to Croagh Patrick where St Patrick fasted for 40 days.

We will visit the St Mary apparition site at Knock.

Friday evening to Sunday there are events relating to the Matt Talbot Centenary Celebrations.

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How I came to join Calix

My godfather Mike G. was in Calix. He told me about it when I lived in Forest Lake, MN. I thought it was too far to go in the winter so I didn't join until I moved to downtown Saint Paul. This was about 6 years ago. The old timers there did remember him but sadly he passed years before I joined.

OTHER NEWS

Steve O. has resigned from the board. Thanks to Steve for your service! We now have two openings on the board.

I filed our 990-n with the IRS. This annual filing allows us to keep our tax exempt status. If you skip this for three years, they revoke your tax-exempt status.





Jubilee Holy Year

*by Father Roland Lajoie, SM
Calix Chaplain.*

Dear Calix brothers and sisters, friends, disciples of Jesus,

I give thanks to our God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ every time I think of you, which is constantly, in every prayer I utter - rejoicing as I plead on your behalf at the way you have and are continually helping one another to surrender your addiction to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Through Faith and Hope. You heal one another's life through Love. You are precious in our Father's love. Gratitude fills your hearts with Hope.



2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

Our daily Calix journey plays a very great significance in the spirit of this Jubilee Year, we are Pilgrims of Hope. We follow in Jesus's footsteps as we respond to His invitation to follow Him for he says, "my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Learn from Him for He is meek and humble of heart and our souls find rest."

Living the 12 steps, we find Hope especially through reconciliation. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Step 3, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, helped us make a decision to turn our wills and our lives over to His care. He became "our Hope."

Step 7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcoming.

Step 5. We admitted to God, to ourselves and to our confessor, receiving the sanctifying graces through the sacrament of reconciliation - our souls were fully redeemed. With the help of His grace, we Hope to Overcome our addiction.

Step 11. We seek through prayer, meditation, the sacrament of Reconciliation and the

Holy Eucharist to improve our relationship with the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, praying for the knowledge of His will for us and the power to live it out.

Step 12: Having a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we hope and pray that we will arrive at overcoming our addiction (s) We pray, "O God our help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, our shelter from stormy blast and our eternal home.":

The Jubilee Door.

The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome was opened by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, to mark the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year. The Holy Door will remain open until January 6, 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany.



Why is the Holy Door opened?

-- The Holy Door is a symbolic sign of the Jubilee year, which is a time for renewal and forgiveness.

-- The opening of the Holy Door is a liturgical gesture that marks the beginning of the Jubilee year.

-- The ultimate goal of the pilgrim is to pass through the Holy Door.

Other Holy Doors in 2025:

-- The Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran opened on December 29, 2024

-- The Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major opened on January 1, 2025

-- The Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls opened on January 5, 2025

For those who are not able to go to Rome on Pilgrimage to walk through the Holy Doors, your diocese will have named Cathedral, Churches or Shrines for making a Jubilee Pilgrimage and obtain a plenary indulgence. Check your diocesan website for designated locations.

Plenary Indulgence? (Re; Catechism of the Catholic Church)

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority.

What are the three conditions for a plenary indulgence? What must I do to gain plenary indulgence?

-- Make a sacramental Confession within the days before your pilgrimage or after the day the indulgence is sought.

-- Receive Holy Communion, also within days before or after your pilgrimage.

-- Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and say the Creed and Our Father.

Pilgrims of Hope will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage: to any sacred Jubilee site: by devoutly participating in Holy Mass (where the liturgical norms allow for it, the Mass of the Jubilee might fruitfully be chosen, or one of the Votive Masses: for Reconciliation, for the Remission of Sins, for the Promotion of Charity or to Foster Harmony); a ritual Mass for the conferral of the sacraments of Christian Initiation or the Anointing of the Sick; or any of the following: a celebration of the Word of God; the Liturgy of the Hours (office of readings, lauds, vespers); the Via Crucis; the Marian Rosary; the recitation of the Akathist hymn; a penitential celebration, which ends with the individual confessions of the penitents, as established in the Rite of Penance (form II);

Pious visits to sacred places

Likewise, the faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, individually or in a group, they devoutly visit any Jubilee site and there, for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God, so that in this Holy Year everyone “will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children” (Spes non confundit, 24).

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee 2025 reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Sydney Unit News and Outreach

By Kevin S

We continue to sow the seed of Calix with dialogue between people who have made inquiries. One example is communications with a person in New Zealand who has expressed interest in the formation of a new Calix Unit. Such communications are in a positive and encouraging tone, and provide considerable depth of detail as to the processes by which our unit came to be in existence. We have arranged promotional materials with our logo, such as Mugs, Pens, Key Rings with Light, Candles embossed with our Logo for presentation to new members. We practice the "Induction Ceremony" as written by The Calix Society, which is a good witness to those present. We are in regular contact with your Unit Chaplain, who continues to advertise Calix in the Parish Bulletin and pray for the unit. In this regard, I would recommend units consider the time commitments of priests and invite your chaplain to unit meetings on an auspicious occasion. For example, I invited Fr Kim to attend "the first meeting of the 2025", and after I reminded him the day before he attended (priests are busy).

We continue to find ways to make meetings more efficient for all involved, which is a challenge when people arrive late and there are deep concepts with subject texts. We do the best we can with what we have, and this means cultivation of a positive attitude and focusing on what positive contributions by attendees. The reality is that we are a small group of regular attendees, and sometimes people do not attend for extended periods of time without any explanation; in these circumstances all there is to do is focus on the Objectives of Calix and be mindful of the amount of personal energy that is expended in the name of Calix because this can cause burn-out. November 2025 will be the fifth anniversary of Calix Sydney Unit, and the "charism" of the unit has evolved as one would naturally expect. Notably, I have discerned that Calix Sydney Unit needs to have at least one in-person per month that is accessible to people in Sydney with our calendar formulated accordingly.

Historically, Calix Sydney Unit may be compared to a "Diaspora" because regular members have been from wide variety of locations in Sydney, Australia, and the US and UK. Recently, more females have been attending, which has in my view lead to the tendency of discussion toward AI-anon / Coda type philosophies and this subsequently necessitates the need to focus on the 12-steps. We read the CREDO every time we gather. At least one person has come to AA via Calix as the result of a considerable marketing campaign via the Archdiocese of Sydney, and another has expressed interest in the Catholic faith when he heard about the Calix Society at an AA I.D./Steps meeting that I convene. I continue to seek advise from elder Calix Statesman such as Dr Bob, Ken J, and listen what our members and guests say.

I am at the half-way point of a personal commitment to the Calix Society, and God willing, will review such commitment in 2030.

Non-Alcoholic Early Friends of AA

Anonymous

Father Ed Dowling was a Jesuit priest who played a pivotal role in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), particularly through his work with Bill W., the co-founder of the organization. His story is one of faith, service, and compassion, and his contributions to the recovery movement continue to be remembered by AA members and those who benefit from the program's principles.



Ed Dowling was born in 1906 in St. Louis, Missouri. Before becoming a Jesuit priest, Dowling pursued studies in philosophy and theology. His intellectual and spiritual grounding in the Catholic Church helped him develop a deep sense of empathy for those struggling with addiction. In the early 1940s, while working as a Jesuit priest in St. Louis, Father Dowling began to come into contact with individuals facing severe alcohol dependence. His personal encounter with alcoholism and his growing understanding of the disease led him to cross paths with Bill Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bill Wilson, often referred to as Bill W., had struggled with alcoholism for much of his life. His journey to sobriety culminated in the creation of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, alongside Dr. Bob Smith, with the aim of offering a new approach to helping people fight alcohol addiction. By the time Father Dowling met Bill W. in 1940, AA had already begun to grow, and its central principles had begun to take shape. Bill W. had found in the program an approach that encouraged individuals to take personal responsibility for their recovery through a combination of self-awareness, mutual support, and a higher power.

Father Dowling's introduction to Bill W. and AA came through a mutual acquaintance, Dr. Bob. The relationship between the two men grew out of shared values of service and support for individuals battling addiction. Father Dowling, known for his kindness and compassionate spirit, felt a strong pull toward Bill W.'s work. He recognized that AA's 12-Step approach aligned with the Jesuit focus on spirituality, humility, and community. However, Dowling also saw the spiritual component of AA as one that could transcend specific religious denominations, offering a universal path to healing for individuals from all walks of life.

One of Father Dowling's most important contributions to AA was his role as a spiritual advisor and confidant to Bill W. and other AA members. Although Father Dowling did not formally become a member of AA, his influence within the organization was significant. He encouraged Bill W. and other members to integrate the spiritual princi-

ples of AA into their lives, without limiting the program to any one religious framework. Dowling's insights helped shape the broader spiritual philosophy that AA continues to embrace today—an approach that allows for personal interpretations of a higher power while fostering a sense of humility, surrender, and personal growth.

Father Dowling's spiritual guidance went beyond just AA members. He also played an instrumental role in helping to create bridges between the Catholic Church and Alcoholics Anonymous. In an era when addiction was often viewed as a moral failing, Father Dowling advocated for a more compassionate, non-judgmental view of alcoholism. He sought to bridge the gap between organized religion and AA's unorthodox approach to recovery, which often didn't align with traditional religious teachings. By doing so, Dowling helped expand AA's reach, particularly among Catholic members, and helped lay the foundation for the program's growth beyond the confines of traditional religious institutions.

In his later years, Father Dowling continued his work with Alcoholics Anonymous until his death in 1960. His influence on Bill W. and the development of AA's spiritual principles is still felt today. Father Ed Dowling's legacy is a testament to the power of compassion, humility, and spiritual guidance in overcoming addiction. His collaboration with Bill W. was not just a partnership between two individuals, but rather a union of two paths toward healing and personal transformation, leaving a lasting imprint on the worldwide recovery community.

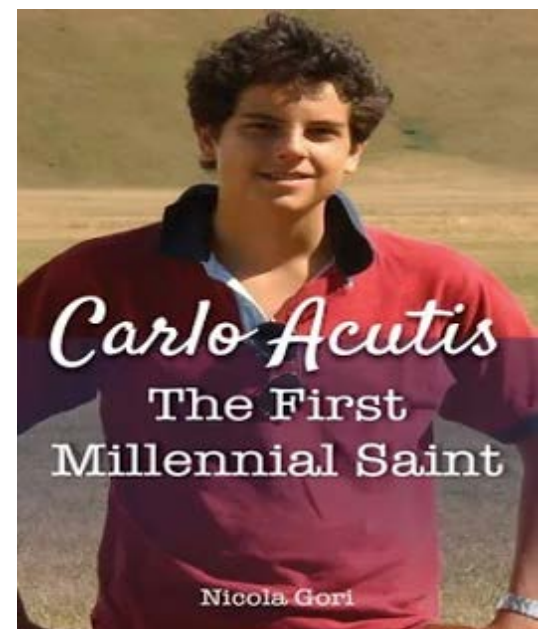
Carlo Acutis

Fr. Roland

Carlo Acutis (3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006) was a British-born Italian website designer who documented Eucharistic miracles and approved Marian apparitions, and cataloged both on a website he designed before his death from leukemia. Acutis was noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills, and devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life. He was beatified by Pope Francis on 10 October 2020. After a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis was confirmed in May 2024, Pope Francis granted approval in July 2024 to continue forward with canonization, which is scheduled for 27 April 2025.

Early life

In the document that concluded the Synod on Young



People in 2018, Pope Francis called Acutis a model for people who live normal lives to grow in holiness and praised him.

Carlo did not fall into a trap. He saw that many young people, if they seem to be different, end up, in reality, looking like each other, by running behind what powerful people impose on them via mechanisms of consumption and stupor. In this way, they do not let the gifts that the Lord has made for them flow into them. They do not offer the world these personal and unique gifts that the Lord has sown in each one of them.

In April 2022, the first life-sized statue of Acutis in the United Kingdom was erected at Carfin Grotto, North Lanarkshire, Scotland. A stained-glass window dedicated to Acutis was installed in St Aldhelm's Church, Malmesbury later in the same year, with his image chosen to connect with younger parishioners. In 2024, Timothy Schmalz created a sculpture of Acutis featuring a crucified image of Jesus emerging from his chest. Relics of Carlo Acutis, along with his Eucharistic miracles photo exhibition, have been touring around the world. Adaptations of Acutis' life story include a comic book and a video game.

Beatification

The call for Acutis to be beatified began not long after his death. On 12 October 2012, the sixth anniversary of his death, the Archdiocese of Milan opened the cause for canonization.

Catholic Charities and Calix Society

By Susan H.



On January 15, 2025, two Calix Board member presented a webinar whose intended audience was the social workers of Catholic Charities USA. Continuing education units were provided after the post-test and the following blurb promoted the event.

“Parishes and faith communities are often the first encounter for many individuals and families who seek help. Given the complexity of the addiction, parishes face challenges that leave clergy, parish staff, and volunteers to ask, “How?” Many of our parishes, however, encounter challenges that hinder them from doing more to serve these individuals and families. Being informed about what addiction is, how to journey with individuals and families non-judgmentally, compassionately and spiritually, Catholic Charities agencies can be pivotal in providing training, dispelling misconceptions about addiction, assisting in the development of parish addiction/healing ministries, and help-

ing parishes to connect with the Calix Society for those who seek recovery and healing in their Catholic faith. In this webinar, we will explore the role of Catholic Charities agencies in addictions healing and recovery; how Catholic Charities can be a bridge for parishes, individual clients, and families to the Calix Society for healing; what the Calix Society provides; and, how parishes can start a Calix Unit.”

Our special thanks to Bishop Joseph Williams, who opened and closed the webinar with his blessing. We would also like to thank Ben Wortham, vice president for behavioral health integration, Catholic Charities USA, for his ongoing support throughout the planning process and implementation.

Save the Dates for Retreats & Unit Updates

By Susan H.

SAVE THE DATES!!

2025 CALIX ANNUAL RETREAT

AUGUST 2, 2025
9:00AM – 3:00PM
VIRTUAL
MORE TO FOLLOW

2026 CALIX ANNUAL RETREAT

AUGUST 7th - 9th 2026
Carmelite Spiritual Center
DARIEN ILLINOIS

The Carmelite Campus is located at Bailey Road and North Frontage Road in Darien, Illinois. We are conveniently located just off the 273B exit of I-55, 20 miles southwest of Chicago on 40 beautiful acres. The Campus is home to several spiritual destinations.

<https://carmelitespiritualcenter.org/visit-carmelite-campus/>

MORE TO FOLLOW

UNIT UPDATES

-- Welcome to our newest group in La Crosse, Wisconsin! Their first meeting was February 11, 2025 at 6pm Central (Zoom). The topic was a reading about being Children of God, from the book “Loved as I Am”, by Miriam James Heidland, SOLT. The meeting will be every other Tuesday via Zoom. Christine Kainz, (healthandharmonywi@gmail.com) is the contact person for the link at this time. Father Keith Kitzhaber will attend the meetings and Christine is working with The Lacrosse Diocese to share the information in the parish bulletins.

-- The Berwyn, Illinois Unit celebrates one year of live weekly meetings on Saturday mornings this month of March!

-- Recovery stations are being held in several parishes of the Camden, New Jersey unit.

Let us know what activities your unit is holding!

WEBSITE REVISION UPDATE

Work continues behind the scenes for our major website overhaul. It is looking fantastic and the board remains excited to unveil it with relevant and current features!



Membership Update

by Ken J.
Calix Treasurer

Membership / Gratitude Club
Membership fees are based on the calendar year. At the end of February, we will flip those who have not renewed their membership from “current” to “lapsed”. You should see the “expiration date” of your membership in the email you received with the link to this Chalice. If you have not renewed, please consider it now. Membership fees are used to support things like the cost of our PO Box, our 800 number and our Zoom accounts. We are currently in the process of performing a complete overhaul of the website. The other thing that having dues paying members does is allow us to tell other organizations – the bishops, Catholic Charities, etc. – how many people are active in the society and could be a source of grants for some other projects. If we can grow a bit more we may be in a position to have paid help to take care of some of the functions we have. Right now it is all volunteer. So if you have not renewed yet, please consider it.

One of the ways you can renew – or join – is through the “Gratitude Club”. Rather than pay \$25 annually, consider donating monthly. Monthly donors never have to worry about paying annual dues and provide a steady stream of income that we can count on to handle our recurring expenses. That leaves annual membership fees and donations for projects to improve our offering. Questions about membership can be sent to treasurer@calixsociety.org

Matt Talbot Film

Last May Fr. McKay (chaplain of the Grays Ferry unit) and I were contacted regarding the making of a film about the life of Matt Talbot. Bill Rose, founder of Joyful Films, had an interest in Matt and learned that there was no film done in decades and wanted to create a new, state of the art film.

We started fundraising over the summer and in November reached the amount needed to go to Ireland to do some filming. Five of us made the trip. In five days we were able to visit many sites important to the life of Matt Talbot, interview a number of people for the film and reenact important scenes from Matt’s life. The last of the filming will take place in February and then Bill will spend hundreds of hours editing the film. We hope to have it completed by June, in time for the centenary celebration of Matt’s passing in June. For information about the film and to make a donation to help offset the cost of the making of the film please visit MattTalbotFilm.com.

Speaking of the centenary, there is a pilgrimage planned for June 1-9 that will start in the west of Ireland and culminate in a weekend of activities in Dublin centered on the centenary celebration of Matt Talbot’s passing on June 7, 1925.

Contact Ken J. (215-327-3236, treasurer@calixsociety.org) for more information about the film and/or the pilgrimage.



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 May-June 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

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