



the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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President's Column

by Mike G.

The Mystery of Suffering

From the book Finding God in Difficult Times by Richard J. Hauser:

How does God work in the world?

1. God works in the world in human hearts through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. God works within the laws of nature in a hidden way.
3. God also intervenes in creation and works contrary to the laws of nature.
4. God works in all of the above ways.

From Fr Robin Ryan:

"There are two mysteries here --- the mystery of God and the mystery of human suffering. You can't completely wrap your mind around either one. Even the best rational explanations of why suffering exists and how it fits into the whole order of things falls short.

A problem is something that is solvable, at least eventually, but a mystery is not something you can solve. It's something you encounter and that you grapple with and learn to live with and try to make sense of the best you can, but there is no overarching explanation that can put a mystery into some nice, rational box. "

I can't understand what God is doing, and I will have to accept that I never will. I do know that God is not tempting me because --from the letter of James: No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God", for God can't be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it (James 1 13-14).

I must remember that Saint Mary suffered during her life knowing her son would suffer. I feel I need to

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praise God in good times and bad and accept I will not see fairness on the earth. Why do some have such bad luck – I am not going to get an answer on this. I think suffering can cause some to reject God and cause some to move closer. Perhaps it is a choice we all need to make in times of suffering.



Chaplain's Corner

*by Father Roland Lajoie, SM
Calix Chaplain.*

Dear Calix Brothers & Sisters - friends,

I am writing to you from the Twin cities, Minneapolis/St Paul. It is Tuesday after Labor Day. We are beginning the fourth season of the year, Fall.

How the Jubilee Year of Hope is cruising on. More than ever, we live in hope that the light of Christ will dampen the darkness that overshadows our cities, our country and our world. Pope Leo refers to the times we live in, as a pandemic of gun murderers all around the world, especially affecting our children. The evil spirit has entered the minds of people and is destroying good innocent people.

Have you noticed that when you are about doing good, sinful temptations try to destroy your efforts? Sometimes we have to deal with divisions in the choir of the church, for the evil spirit does not like us singing praises to our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How we, recovering addicts, when trying to live by the 12 steps, struggle to obey the norms that will bring us to sobriety. We forever have a need to surrender to our Divine Sponsor, Jesus, the one who saves. We are his Prodigal Sons and Daughters. We surrender in hope, through Faith.

In the book of Hebrews 11:1, faith is defined as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". This means faith involves trusting God and His promises, even when they aren't yet visible or fulfilled. The "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11 provides numerous examples of biblical figures who lived by this kind of active trust, demonstrating that faith is not passive but leads to obedience and action in the face of hardship, ultimately pleasing God.

We must often return to the twelve steps to stay focused on our redemptive journey of hope. We turn to steps 11 and 12:

Step 11: "We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with our heavenly Father, as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry it out." What is the knowledge of His will for us? "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. Jesus says, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly," John 10.10



Step 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to our brothers and sisters (alcoholics) or other addictions to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

At our virtual retreat on Saturday August 2, I gave a talk on “Addiction and the Prodigal Son. I offered a prayer of hope that many appreciated. It is very simple but it is powerful and it works to keep us focused on our process of recovery. It is a prayer of total surrender and hope. Here it is:

“Joseph, take my right hand, Mary, take my left hand, Jesus, take my heart, Holy Spirit, guide and protect me.” (3 times) morning noon and night or whenever.”

It works!

Peace and Joy,
Fr. Roland

Pope Leo's Greetings to Rome and the World

8/5/25

Peace be with you all!

Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for God's flock. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world.
Peace be with you!

It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally.

We can still hear the faint yet ever courageous voice of Pope Francis as he blessed Rome, the Pope who blessed Rome, who gave his blessing to the world, the whole world, on the morning of Easter. Allow me to extend that same blessing: God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God's hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another other! We are followers of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace. Thank you, Pope Francis!



I also thank my brother Cardinals, who have chosen me to be the Successor of Peter and to walk together with you as a Church, united, ever pursuing peace and justice, ever seeking to act as men and women faithful to Jesus Christ, in order to proclaim the Gospel without fear, to be missionaries.

I am an Augustinian, a son of Saint Augustine, who once said, “With you I am a Christian, and for you

I am a bishop.” In this sense, all of us can journey together toward the homeland that God has prepared for us.

A special greeting to the Church of Rome! Together, we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming, like this Square with its open arms, all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love.

[Learn more about our new Pope here: [Biography of Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost](#)]

La Crosse Calix and Prayers Answered!

By Jim R and Christine K

I am Jim Rathburn, Calix Board Member. While doing outreach to inform Dioceses of our organization, I connected with a very interested group in La Crosse, Wisconsin. They formed a group with me as their mentor. They meet twice a month via zoom and welcome people to join the zoom. The leader of the group is Christine and I was able to join the meeting, last week. Christine and I are great friends. She refers to me as Jim R below. Having gone through liver transplant operation successfully she highlights the power of prayer :

From Calix leader in LA CROSSE WI:

Ok, for the exciting news.....But....first I need to explain a bit on how the Holy Spirit has been running a golden thread thru this journey. About 3 years ago Jim approached the La Crosse Diocese about putting information into the bulletins introducing Calix. Through the works of the Holy Spirit a Calix group, this group, was developed in the La Crosse Diocese. Jim is a mentor and participant in this Calix group. He shared with this group that he was in need of a liver transplant. This group has been praying specifically for this request. Mid July a participant of this group felt the push to call into The Family Rosary across America on Relevant Radio. This participant requested specifically that Jim would receive a liver transplant. The same night another participant felt the push to turn on The Family Rosary and pray the rosary with 30,000 others across America joining in on the same rosary, same prayers. This participant heard the request for Jim. (This is a Holy Spirit moment. Two members from our group were praying the same prayer for Jim, along with others across the country and did not even realize it.) At the Tuesday night meeting, Jim shared with the group that he successfully has received a liver transplant and the recovery is going very well. Praise God! A beautiful and emotional celebration was had. God's goodness puts us in awe. Yesterday, Wednesday, the scripture reading Matthew 18: 15-20 states “ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” This testimony is beautiful.

[Think about how prayer without me knowing it was going on through Relevant Radio. A wow moment.]

With God and Community, healing does occur. I look forward to our next meeting. The meetings are set up in a way if you miss a meeting you can step right in and not skip a beat. May we keep all in prayer. Please invite those that you feel would benefit. I have learned that sometimes all someone needs is an invitation. Please share my email with others that may have an interest in joining, it is: healthandharmonywi@gmail.com. I will send them the meeting link and meeting content.

Peace,
Christine K

Sydney Unit News and Outreach

By Kevin S



Calix Society, Sydney Unit – Spring 2025

Newsletter approved by Paul K (Pres.), Tim P (Vice Pres), Kevin S (Secretary).

How grateful we are to see sunshine after weeks grey skies and rain. We also give thanks for the Calix meetings Zoom convened during winter where we prayed over the books *Boundaries* and *12-Steps and the Sacraments* during winter. There was a meditation day (with Mass) at the Sylvestran Monastery in Arcadia. Calix continues to be advertised in various parish bulletins, and by word of mouth.

Saturday Mass and About Calix talks [St Joseph, Enfield]

- September 13
- October 11

Please "Bring a plate", a suitable friend, or find some other way to serve.

Prayer warriors

The enclosed Carmelite in the regional NSW town of Mathoura continue to pray for us and send us prayer cards. Our unit meetings feature plenty of prayers.

About Paul K. President, Calix Sydney Unit



I never wanting to ever stop drinking, rehabs just got me itching for more. So I never "surrendered", although had to admit that living became just lurching through the day, from one drink to another. But on 4 October 1983, finding some old bottles of Brandivino in a wooden caravan that was my shelter and not even getting my tongue wet, I gave up and fell asleep but woke up the next morning with the craving gone, for good. Maybe it was St Francis who helped me, as I used to be a Franciscan seminarian for 7 years but dropped out to do my own will. The Lord in His mercy eradicated the craving and set me free to do His will, and I have stayed close to the Church and the sacraments.

God did for me what I couldn't do for myself and I thank God for each day of my recovery.

I came to believe that God is the author of my life and I am just his instrument. Despite my never wanting to stop, He intervened in my life and just totally obliterated the craving, which to me is miraculous, and each time I'm asked to share, I have to admit that I had no intention of ever stopping, but God had the last word. His mercy and love is beyond my comprehension.

After 4 decades in 12 step recovery, it was almost miraculous reading about Calix in The Catholic Weekly, it was the 11th step in the Catholic tradition. Calix fits for me as I usually get to daily Mass and the Eucharist and meetings in Sydney.

Since that day in October 1983, my life and will belong to God because He has intervened in my life and saved me from myself. If how my life has changed brings another alcoholic closer to God, then my life takes on more meaning. When other addictions have plagued me, like gambling, I have asked the Lord for help and GA has been another path to recovery.

God gave me a wife and a son for which I am grateful. I have had other blessings, like living close to the beach. I'll conclude with a little bit of trivia. I ate at the same table with Sam Neil the movie star for three days when I was filled in as a movie extra *Robbery under Arms*, from the novel. God must have a sense of humour because I played the part of a jockey gone bad with the booze leading a horse up and down the main street.

Unit Chaplain Reverend Father Kim



"... There are many doors, let us choose the right door to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" – From a Homily by Fr Kim, St Joseph, Enfield – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

A non-speaking part. So I had a look when the movie was released but couldn't see myself there but then realised that I had wound up on the cutting room floor. What a deflation of ego at depth! I had a couple of other parts as an extra but my career into Hollywood fizzled out.



Our blessed mother Mary has requested we pray the rosary every day and I follow that. I turn to her for guidance and protection... Paul K. Woolongong, NSW.

Saint John of God and Venerable Matt Talbot, Calix Sydney Unit patrons, *pray for us.*
Kevin S. *for Calix Sydney Unit*

We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

Thank You Archbishop Sylvain!!

By Edmonton Calix Unit

On behalf of the members of the Edmonton Calix Unit, and indeed of Calix members everywhere, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your vision, support, and friendship over this past year.

It was under your guidance and with your personal involvement that Calix came to life in Canada once again. Beginning with the September 2024 retreat at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert, you helped re-establish Calix in Edmonton—the first and only local unit in our country today. Your encouragement, prayers, and willingness to walk alongside those who suffer from addiction and their families have borne remarkable fruit. Some of our members have even been drawn deeper into the faith life of the Church, including participation in RCIA.

We are mindful that in recent months your health challenges have prevented you from continuing to host our gatherings in person. Please know, however, that your presence is still very much alive within our community. The foundation you laid continues to bear fruit, as our meetings now continue at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church under the assistance of Fr. Jim and Fr. Mark. Though not physically with us, you remain a guiding and spiritual father to our group, whose identity and growth will always be rooted in your generous “yes” to helping Calix take shape in Edmonton.

Your Grace, beyond your role as our chaplain and leader, you have been a true friend of Calix. We remember with gratitude your service as retreat master at St. Mary Retreat House in Washington, DC for the Calix Society annual retreat in 2022. Over this past year, your blessing and dedication have brought hope, healing, and spiritual strength to many who are seeking to live fully their Catholic faith while embracing the graces of recovery.

As we mark one year since Calix returned to Canada, we give thanks to God for your servant leadership and for the many ways you continue to guide us closer to Christ, the true source of healing and peace. We ask that the Lord bless you abundantly in your ministry, strengthen you during this time of illness, and sustain you in your generous dedication to His Church.

With gratitude, prayers, and in Christ,
The Members of Calix Edmonton and the Calix Society

“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” — Romans 5:3-5



The Calix Society

We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

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.

For more information about Edmonton Unit meetings, contact us at edmcatrixsecretary@shaw.ca

A monthly meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at OLPH Parish in Sherwood Park. Begins with Mass at 6:15PM, followed by fellowship and Calix meeting.

For more about CALIX visit <https://www.calixsociety.org/>

Addiction and the Journey of Hope

By Fr. Roland Lajoie, S.M.

Most of us are familiar with the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke Chapter 15. Although we have heard this story countless times and in countless ways, if we struggle with addiction, it is also a timeless story that has much to show us in recovery.

Addiction is a journey that often feels like wandering in the wilderness—full of pain, shame and confusion. But, just as in the story of the Prodigal Son, recovery offers the hope of redemption and the grace of a loving Father. (Great is our God).

For those / we, on the path to recovery, the story in Luke 15:11-32 is one of the most powerful illustrations of the forgiveness and restoration that await us, no matter how far we've strayed. It also highlights the importance of extending that same grace and forgiveness to others, especially those who are still struggling. We live in hope one day at a time.

The Prodigal Son: A Journey of Loss and Return

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable of a younger son who asks for his inheritance early, leaves home and squanders everything he has in reckless living. When a famine hits and he finds himself starving, he decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (Luke 15:18-19).

The prodigal son is not unlike someone caught in the grips of addiction: he makes poor choices, pursues temporary satisfaction and loses everything—relationships, health, security and self-worth. His foolhardy lifestyle leaves him feeling isolated and unworthy of love. This is the same experience for those bearing the weight of addiction—the sense of being lost, broken and far from the home they once knew.

- But the key moment comes when the son decides to return home.
- The father, seeing him from a distance, runs to embrace him. He doesn't wait for an apology.
- He welcomes his son with open arms, saying, "For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:24).



This is the heart of God's grace: He does not wait for us to be "good enough" before He offers His love. In the same way, addiction recovery is not about earning a place back in the world—it is about recognizing the need for grace, returning to the Father and accepting the love that is freely given.

(Great is Our God)

- For those in recovery, the message is clear: there is always hope.
- No matter how far you have fallen, your Father is waiting with arms open wide, ready to offer you a new beginning.
- Recovery may be a long journey, but it is a journey that begins with the acceptance of grace.

The Older Son: A Lesson in Forgiveness

While the story of the prodigal son is often celebrated as a tale of redemption, it's the older son in this parable, who offers a powerful lesson for those walking alongside someone in recovery.

Upon hearing that his brother has returned and been welcomed with a feast, the older son becomes angry and refuses to join the celebration.

"All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends" (Luke 15:29).

- The older son's reaction can sometimes be seen in those who have been hurt or disappointed by a person battling addiction.
- The idea of grace and forgiveness for someone who has made poor choices can be hard to understand.
- But the father's response to the older son is a powerful reminder of the importance of mercy and compassion:

"My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:31-32).

- This is a crucial message for the community of people supporting those in recovery. When someone who has been under the chains of addiction returns to health and healing, it is a cause for celebration. As a community, we must be like the father in the parable, welcoming those in recovery with open arms and a loving heart, not judging them for their past mistakes. Forgiveness isn't just about letting go of anger; it's about recognizing the value in each person's journey and supporting them as they rebuild their lives.

Supporting the Recovery Journey

The story of the prodigal son teaches us that recovery isn't a linear process. It is a journey marked by failures, setbacks and moments of despair.

- But, just as the father did not wait for perfection before he welcomed his son back, we must remember that recovery is not about immediate perfection—it is about the willingness to return to God and seek His help in the process.
- We, who are in recovery, we extend that same love and forgiveness that the father showed to his son or from our sponsors who have walked in our journey of hope.
- This means creating an environment where people can admit their struggles without fear of rejection, as we experienced.
- It means offering second chances, being patient and celebrating victories—no matter

how small they may seem.

- Just as the father embraced the prodigal son and celebrated his return, we are called to celebrate the recovery and redemption of those who have been lost and are now found.

Redemption and Grace for All

The prodigal son's story is a beautiful illustration of God's grace and redemption, and it serves as a powerful reminder for those in addiction recovery. No one is too far gone to be restored. Whether you are in the depths of addiction or walking beside someone who is, there is always hope in God's love.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3.16)

It's a love that welcomes us back, forgives our mistakes and offers us a fresh start. Whether you're just beginning your recovery or have been walking this road for a while, here are a few Bible verses that can help keep your heart focused and your spirit strong.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Recovery is a process of renewal—spiritually, mentally and emotionally. This verse is a cornerstone of hope, reminding us that through Christ, our past no longer defines us. We are made new.

2. Isaiah 41:10

"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."

God doesn't promise that life will be easy, but He does promise that we will never face it alone. In times of temptation, doubt or despair, this verse reminds us that God's strength is available when ours runs out.

3. Psalm 34:18

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

God is not distant from your pain—He is near. He understands every wound, every cry, every moment of weakness. In the toughest parts of recovery, you are not abandoned.

4. Romans 8:1

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Shame is one of the heaviest burdens people carry in addiction and recovery. But the cross removed that weight. If you are in Christ, you are not condemned. You are forgiven, loved and free.

5. Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

On the hardest days, when the desire to quit creeps in, this verse becomes a battle cry. Recovery is possible—not by our own strength, but through Christ who strengthens us each day.

Hope Through Healing

We believe recovery is more than sobriety—it's about transformation from the inside out. Through faith-based counseling, biblical teaching, life-skills training and personal discipleship, we walk alongside individuals ready to experience the new life God promises.

Whether you're struggling with addiction or supporting someone who is, know this: there is hope. And it's not just wishful thinking—it's grounded in the promises of a faithful God.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

If you or someone you love is seeking freedom from addiction and a life built on hope, you don't have to walk this journey alone. Calix is here for you to help you find healing through Christ.

There are 10 truths that the Prodigal Son teaches us about recovery:

1. We're All Given a Choice.

The father gave the prodigal son freedom when he, "agreed to divide his wealth between his sons" (Luke 15:12b, NLT). God gives us all a choice. Although we are free to choose addiction, we are not free to choose the consequences.

2. Behind Every Addict Is an Enabler.

The prodigal son must've had friends that helped him spend his money and enable his lifestyle. But when he ran out of money, he had to move because he had no one. Somewhere along the way, someone may have enabled us; we alone, though, are responsible for our recovery.

3. There Is Strength in Weakness.

As he set off on his journey, the prodigal son seemed so sure of himself. Later, he was so hungry that "even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him" (v. 16). We can keep in mind that we are weak; but Jesus, our Higher Power, is strong.

4. Recovery Begins When Rescuing Ends.

The prodigal son came to his senses because his family didn't try to rescue him. Our family may have made excuses for us and bailed us out of tough situations. Instead of looking for someone to rescue us, we must take responsibility.

5. Life-Change Is a Must-Have.

After the prodigal son repented and turned his life around, there was a great celebration. It's not just enough for us to admit we have a problem; we also have to be willing to turn our life around. Once we are willing to do the work, God will give us the strength to do it.

6. True Love Is Tough.

The father's actions were based on love and compassion. If our friends and families establish boundaries with us, they may seem harsh or cruel. But they are showing tough love to us—it's a sign they want the best for us. Likewise, we must learn to say no to temptation. And this means we must establish boundaries, too.

7. Not All Rebellion Is Outward.

While the prodigal son rebelled on the outside, the older brother struggled with rebellion on the inside. He struggled with resentment, bitterness, jealousy, and unforgiveness. This is a good reminder for us to address the issues that we struggle with inside.

8. An Addict Must Own Up To Their Consequences.

Part of the prodigal son's recovery was facing consequences. For example, one thing he had to live with for the rest of his life was that everything his father owned would go to his older brother. The same is true for us—when we recover from addiction, we must own up to our actions.

9. Addiction Affects The Whole Family.

The consequences of the prodigal son's poor choices affected not only his relationship with God but his entire family. If you struggle with addiction, it is recommended that your family get help. Encourage them to go to a Life Recovery Group, and see a licensed counselor.

10. Confession Is Healing.

The prodigal son confessed to his father, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you" (v. 18). His repentance and confession led to the Prodigal Son reconciling with his family. We must confess our sins to the Lord, those whom we've hurt, and someone we trust to find healing.

(Would you like to learn more? We recommend [Take Your Life Back by Stephen Arterburn and Dr. Dave Stoop](#). It's not too late to return to the Father—He has been watching and waiting for you to come back home.)

Closing prayer:

The "Matt Talbot Prayer" is commonly used by individuals seeking help with addiction, inspired by the life of Venerable Matt Talbot, who overcame a severe alcohol addiction through prayer and penance. Prayer to Matt Talbot (also for his canonization):

Lord, in your servant, Matt Talbot, you have given us a wonderful example of triumph over addiction, of devotion to duty, and of lifelong reverence for the Most Holy Sacrament.

May his life of prayer and penance give us courage to take up our crosses and follow in the footsteps of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Father, if it be your will that your beloved servant should be glorified by your Church, make known by your heavenly favors the power he enjoys in your sight. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Our Retreat Was Featured in the Herald!

By Catholic Star Herald

Faith-based retreat Aug. 2 for people, families living through addictions

by Christina Leslie, Correspondent

July 24, 2025



Men and women living with addictions. Those in recovery. Families who are struggling. Friends who are impacted.

All are invited to a faith-based Zoom retreat Aug. 2 presented by the Calix Society, an organization of Catholics in recovery who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their faith and a 12-step program.

“Addictions are really a physical illness but more than that, they’re a spiritual battle,” said Jo Anne B. Farrell, Addictions Healing and Prison Ministry Services coordinator for Catholic Charities of South Jersey.

The retreat, titled “Great Is Our God,” is being sponsored by Catholic Charities of South Jersey’s Addictions Healing Services and hosted by the Church of the Incarnation, Mantua. It is being live streamed via Zoom to the church.

Though people can watch the Zoom from home, in-person attendance is being encouraged for fellowship, the building up of community and prayer. For those who attend in person, the morning will start with continental breakfast; lunch will be provided at noon by the parish’s Angel Ministry. At 4 p.m., attendees may participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; they are invited to the parish’s vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

“We want people to get together, to know someone cares,” Farrell said about the retreat. “We are with them in the struggle.”

All of the speakers are involved in the Calix Society. Calix, Latin for “cup” or “chalice,” is an international organization created in the 1940s as a faith-filled next step to Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous programs; its goal is not to replace AA, NA or groups that focus on other addictions, but instead help those in recovery to grow spiritually. Its credo is, “We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the Cup that stupefies.”

Addictions can be alcohol, drugs, food, media, sex, pornography and more, “all of which corrupt one’s lifestyle and affect relationships,” said Jen Drees, who serves as Calix facilitator in the Church of the Incarnation. “There are so many things we as humans accumulate throughout our journey in life. ... Are these things we have clung to because we are trying to fill that God-shaped hole? Have we used those things to put up a fence as a catch-net that we then push away God?”

The Calix Zoom retreat will include a variety of speakers and subjects. Beth Sheridan, a school psychologist who lives in New Hampshire and member of the Calix Board of Directors, will speak on the topic “God so loved the world that He sent his only son to love us into life”; Marist Father Roland Lajoie, a senior priest from Saint Paul, Minn., and Calix national chaplain, will share his views on “Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope”; Susan H. will lead attendees in praying a scriptural Rosary; and Ken Johnston, “In His Sign” Catholic radio host and frequent presenter at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, Pa., will speak on the Venerable Matt Talbot, an Irish Secular Franciscan who lived at the turn of the 20th century who many dub as the patron of those struggling with addiction.

Those living with addiction, their families and loved ones, and members of other faith communities all are welcome at the Calix retreat, Farrell said. “They will know someone cares and that we will be with them in the struggle.”

She added, “Our call to action is to be a welcoming people, and we know what our higher power is. This could be a way of evangelizing as well as to open the door.”

Johnston, who has been sober for 33 years, says religion has an important role in the continuing search for sobriety.

“In 2025, we don’t talk about religion,” Johnston continued. “Usually, Catholics who attend AA are frustrated [that] it is turning secular, but with Calix they say, ‘This is exactly what I was looking for.’” Calix meetings usually begin with a Catholic Mass or Communion service, and recitation of the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, “but there is no set formula,” he said. “The 12-step meetings introduce topics, and members really focus on their Catholic faith.”

Drees, a Secular Franciscan, church musician and music therapist, explained that the Mantua parish began offering the Calix ministry five years ago “as a way to grow in the Catholic faith. It is open to all those in recovery and people supporting them.”

The ministry’s weekly Monday night Zoom meetings – from 8-9 p.m. – further enrich the participants’ faith and inner strength, and serve to cast a wide net for possible members, since the site is the only such group in the state of New Jersey.

Drees stressed that Calix is designed for those who desire to maintain sobriety, and “have moved past the [addictive] substance. This is a Catholic way to continue,” she asserted. “The meetings are a great opportunity to keep us close to God. There is always an open door.”

The Calix Zoom retreat, “Great Is Our God,” will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 2. In-person attendance will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. To register for either in-person or online, call the parish office at 856-468-1314. There is no cost for the retreat, but a free will offering will be taken for those who watch the live stream at the church. Church of the Incarnation is located at 240 Main St., Mantua.

For more information on the Calix International Society, see calixsociety.org.



Membership Update

by Ken J.
Calix Treasurer

Membership

Just a reminder that we would like all those that attend our virtual and in-person Calix meetings to consider becoming a member. We do have expenses for things like Zoom, phone line, office expenses, etc. that we can use your help with. It would also help if and when we approach other organizations that we can let them know how many members we have. We currently have over 850 people receiving our emails but only 167 people that are current with their annual dues of \$25. In the email you received announcing the availability of this issue of the Chalice it should have listed your membership expiration date. If it is in the past, please consider renewing now. If it is blank it means that you have never been a dues paying member and we would ask you to please consider joining today. You can visit <https://www.calixsociety.org/membership/>. No one will ever be turned away from being a member. If you cannot afford a membership please send an email to treasurer@calixsociety.org and we can get the information we need to make you member!

Membership Cards and Books

Every dues paying member should receive a membership card. You are also entitled to paperback or ebook copy of "The Story of the Calix Society". There are a lot of people who have not completed the form in order to receive these. If you fall into this category please visit <http://www.calixsociety.org/story-of-calix/> to request your card and book.

Thanks, Ken Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2026 Calix Retreat

August 7-9, 2026

[Carmelite Spiritual Center](#)

Darien, Illinois

Be there!

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 2025 4th Quarter 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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