



# the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 52

Fourth Quarter 2025

Issue No. 4



## *President's Column*

by Mike G.

In September, I went on a retreat with Father Kaley and his talk was titled: "Go Forth: I Am With You Always." Here are some notes I took:

- Father Kaley says after his crucifixion Jesus revealed himself to Mary of Magdala and said to her, "Stop holding on to me for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them what you have seen."
- Jesus says the same thing to us as he said to her: Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them what you have seen, what you have come to know about God's love and presence in your life.
- God loves us just as we are.
- We need to go tell what we have seen about the love of God.
- Walk through the door and tell others what you have seen.
- Your guidebook is the Gospel.
- God is in our hearts.
- We know God's presence through others.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- New love comes to people when we speak love to them.
- You need to be encouraging to others.
- We have good news and it needs to be shared.

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Reflections on Gratitude

by Father Roland Lajoie, SM  
Calix Chaplain.

My dear Calix brothers and sisters,

Peace and Joy!

As I write this reflection, Thanksgiving Day USA is just two weeks away. Our hearts turn to a spirit of gratitude. We count our blessings. In step 2 of the twelve steps “ We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity,” “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth.” (1 Peter 1,3-5)

Step 12: “ Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of the 12 steps, we try to carry this message of hope to all alcoholics and addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs.” How blessed and grateful are we!

To help you meditate in a spirit of gratitude I offer you some scripture texts. Enjoy! Whether you’re waiting for God to speak or move, it’s important to remember to practice gratitude for His presence in our daily lives, When we give thanks to God in prayer, even when it’s hard to, we are promised comfort and provision for our needs.

Use this prayer as you meditate on the collection of Bible verses about gratitude and blessings — including His Word.

St. Paul is well known for writing Scriptures about being thankful. Some of his most well-known passages are focused on gratitude, including giving thanks for all things, in all circumstances ([Ephesians 5:20](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)), being thankful even in suffering ([Romans 5:3-5](#); [James 1:1-4](#)), and to do everything in the name of Jesus out of a spirit of gratefulness ([Colossians 3:17](#)). You can also use [Bible verses about thanksgiving](#) and [Psalms of Thanksgiving](#) to help you experience the power of grateful living no matter what you are facing.

Gratitude is an important aspect of a happy and fulfilling life, and the Bible has many verses that emphasize the importance of being thankful. Here are a few Bible verses about gratitude:

1. “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#))
2. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” ([Psalm 100:4](#))

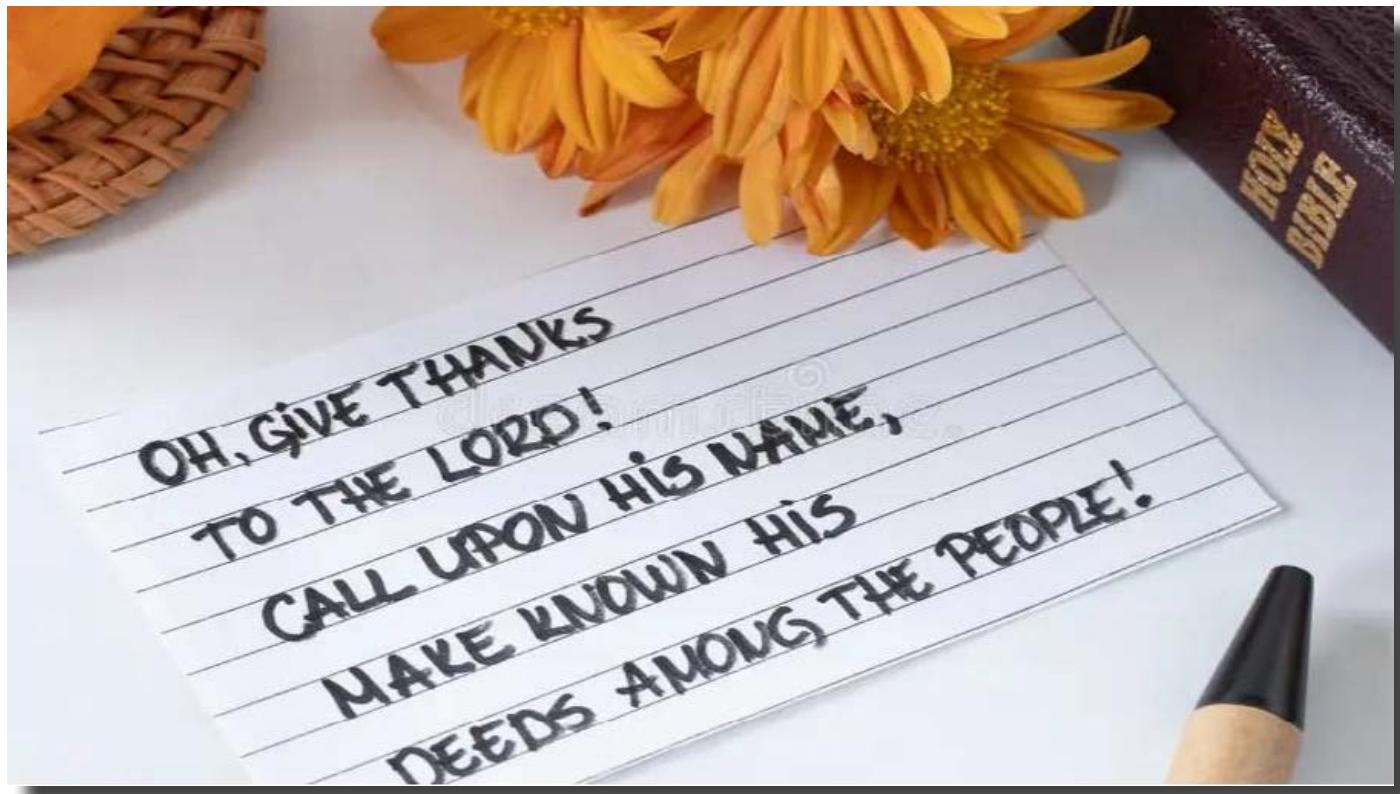


3. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ([Philippians 4:6](#))
4. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." ([Colossians 3:15](#))
5. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." ([Colossians 3:17](#))

These verses remind us to be grateful for everything we have, even in difficult times. By expressing gratitude, we can find joy and peace in our lives and strengthen our relationship with God. Finally, one of my favorite scripture verses from St. Paul:

Ephesians 1:3–14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the, praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Amen.





## Calix Society, Sydney Unit – Summer 2025

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

We are into hot weather with violent thunderstorms here in Sydney, but that sort of pales into insignificance when compared to the alcoholic who can *roar his way through the lives of others* (Ch. 6 Big Book of AA). And so we continue to work to maintain our sobriety with the 12-steps and our Catholic faith (Sacraments). Let us stay cool with cold water!

**Unit Chaplain**  
Reverend Father Kim  
Ms  
P.P., St Joseph Enfield



resetting the G.P.S.;  
you get back on the  
right road to the  
destination (Heaven)"  
— gathering after Unit Mass,  
Saturday, November 11.

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

- February 14 Yes, Valentine's Day is coincidence
- March 14 Odd or God, 14<sup>th</sup> for both months

Zoom: Plans to shift from Tuesday 8pm to Saturday 11am



### Billy got Baptised

Billy H. became a Child of God recently, when he "put on Jesus" at the parish of St Luke, Revesby. This is "Big News". We continue to walk and pray with each other in the faith journey and this will be made more possible with plans to change the time of Calix Sydney Unit Zoom meetings to 11am Saturdays (Friday evenings Harrisburgh time). A faithful member of his 12-step home group, which meets on a Tuesday evening, Billy has been able to attend monthly Masses of a Saturday and pray with us on an ad-hoc basis. Calix Sydney Unit continues to pray for the conversion of all people in 12-step programs, and that we all continue to experience awakenings.



### CALIX is ... Lucy M, Melbourne

Calix means a cup or chalice, used in Christian and Catholic religious services. It is a sacred cup or vessel. The chalice symbolizes the promise of eternal life and redemption offered through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

The Calix Society is different to other organisations dealing with addictions as it aims at addressing spiritual needs of Catholics recovering from alcohol addiction, though it also ministers to those affected by other addictions. Having a spiritual base, members of Calix have a Higher Power to lean on and gather strength from other members who share similar pathways or journeys.

Calix enables members to grow in Faith, Fellowship, and Sobriety in Christ.

### Prayer warriors

The Sisters of the Carmel of Elijah - in Mathoura continue to pray for us and send us prayer cards. We have been invited to a "Breaking Ground Ceremony", 10 January 2026, to mark the commencement of construction of the first stage of their monastery residence. You can see what Architectural Images and see details of the mud brick construction: <https://www.elijah.org.au/news/groundbreaking>



As recommended in *Story of the Calix Society*, by Fr Douglas McKay, recruiting Prayer Warriors can be helpful to sustain Calix Units.

**A TYPICAL DAY IN CARMEL:** *The day starts with the sound of the traditional "clapper": a call to praise God dating from the time of St. Teresa herself.*

*The Monastery orchard in springtime.* Just before daybreak, the sisters rise to pray Lauds and Prime, along with an hour of silent prayer in the Choir together, before the most Blessed Sacrament... (from website).

Does your Calix Unit have "Prayer Warriors"?

\*\*\*\*\*  
Jesus said : "At 3 o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony.

This is the hour of great mercy...in this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (Diary 1320).  
\*\*\*\*\*



**Unit President, Paul K**



Now, back to that notion of inclement weather ..... who was it that calmed the sea? Well, we sometimes get upset and resentful about stuff; losing our God centred faith can really upset us and make us feel like we are in stormy seas. Who do we focus on? Like Saint Peter (Matthew 14:22-23). Let us keep our focus on Jesus lest we begin to sink like Saint Peter, until he looked to Jesus for help.

Let us keep-it-simple, and simply-keep-it (sobriety).

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Let us pray for the intentions of all our Calix members, especially those who are unwell.

Let us remember those who have passed from this world.

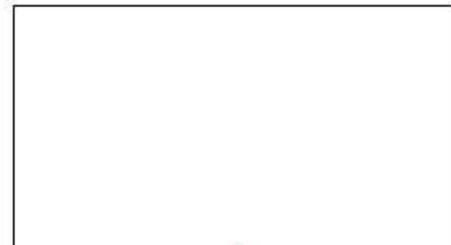
Our Lady of Recovery, pray for us

Saint John of God, pray for us

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us

Venerable Matt Talbot, pray for us.

Kevin S. for Calix Sydney Unit



Why a blank space? In Gerald May's *Addiction and Recovery*, we found that space is what is needed to get over addiction because grace can enter ...

We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

Lloyd

Jim

Beth

Kevin

Garnett

Butch

Fr. Roland

Gaylen

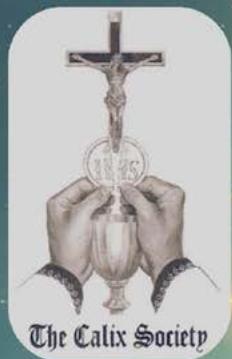
JoAnne

Michael

Susan

Ken

Steve



*A Holy Advent - A Merry  
Christmas - A Holy and Happy  
New Year 2026 to one and all.*

*—Calix Society Board Members*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



*Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth*



*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*



*O Come Divine Messiah*



*O Little Town of Bethlehem*



*Away in A Manger*



*The First Noel*



*What Child is This*



*Silent Night*



*O Holy Night*



*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*



*Angels We Have Heard On High*



*O Come, All Ye Faithful*



*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



*Joy To the World*



*Go Tell It on The Mountain*



## Edmonton Calix Unit Update

Dear friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas everyone! It has been one year now since we officially started a Calix meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Our group meets on the last Tuesday of each month. We begin with Mass, followed by about half an hour of fellowship with coffee and treats, and then an hour-long Calix meeting.

Over this past year, our numbers have grown steadily, with new people joining us each month. Many have shared how good it is to be able to speak so freely about God and the Catholic faith, and to talk honestly about the addictions and struggles we have faced. We are hoping in the new year to add more meetings and, God willing, to offer a spring retreat in the Rocky Mountains near Jasper.



Our unit is blessed to have Archbishop Sylvain as our spiritual director and co founder, and we are deeply grateful to Fr. Jim for hosting our monthly meetings at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sherwood Park. We are also thankful for Fr. Mark, who assists us occasionally with Mass and our meetings and supports us with his priestly ministry.

In prayer, we entrust the growth of Calix to the Lord, asking that in time more units may be established across Alberta and throughout Canada, so that many more people wounded by addiction can encounter Christ's mercy and the support of a loving Catholic community. May Our Lady and the Venerable Matt Talbot intercede for all who are still suffering and for those who accompany them. May God bless you and your families, and may you enjoy a holy, peaceful, and very Merry Christmas.

In Christ,  
Edmonton Calix Unit



## Visitation Calix Elmhurst Update

By Susan H

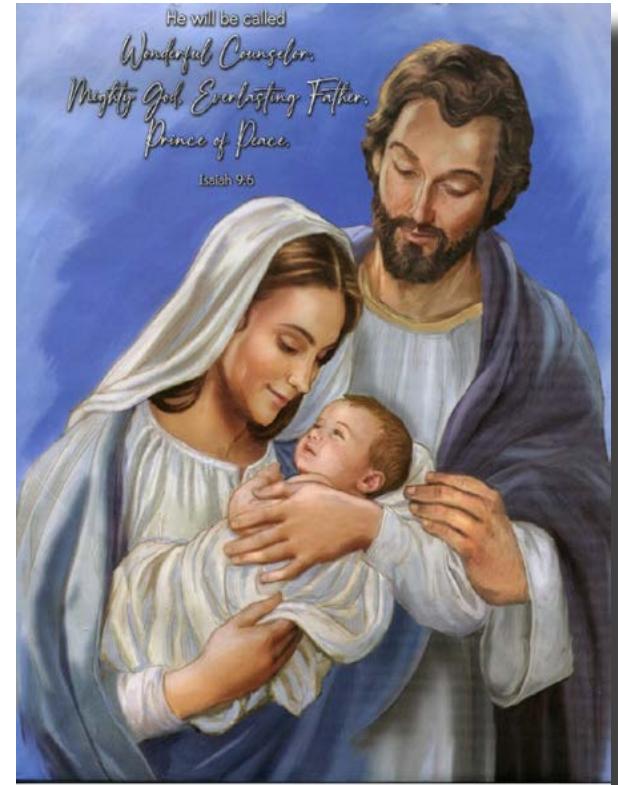
To: Pastor Father John Lindsey  
From: Susan H

RE : Visitation Calix Elmhurst, II Unit Update

November 13, 2025

The Visitation Calix Elmhurst Unit completed its first year of monthly meetings on October 11, 2025. In October 2024, we started with a core group of 5 members, who knew each other from Alcoholics Anonymous and Calix meetings. Our current roster (email list) contains 25 members with various addiction concerns (mostly AA and Al-anon) from 5 local parishes. The age range is from 20 -75 years. We are the only unit in the Diocese of Joliet.

Our format opening includes reading the Calix Credo, Prayer for the Canonization of Matt Talbot and the Serenity Prayer. The first several meetings we shared on a short Calix reading from a collection of homilies from a previous Calix chaplain's book. We then moved on to study the short book "[The Saints who Struggled with Addiction: People are not defined by their struggles and Failures](#)" by Fr. Henry Sseriiso. Attendees are encouraged to share regarding the reading or what is hindering or helping their sobriety. They are very grateful to share the Catholic faith with reference to their addiction and 12 step challenges. We also participated in the National Calix Zoom Retreat in August 2025 and fifteen members in the Multipurpose Room engaged in the Zoom offering with over 100 members from around the country viewing the presentations.



We thank you for supporting this ministry and look forward to continue doing so on the second Saturday of every month. The room is comfortable, convenient with minimal traffic. Members offer donations and related literature is purchased for the units use.

We intend to continue to carry the message to others regarding Calix and the Visitation Unit and would be available to assist other parishes to start their own unit. Encouraging the younger adult population is also on our radar, locally and nationally, by including the Newman Centers on college campuses and the Young People's Groups of AA in our outreach.

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

## Why Calix?

By Jim R

A true story:

A Catholic man in St Paul, Mn was in the throes of alcoholism and nearing his bottom. He had nowhere to turn. The chilling vapor of isolation, despair and shame enveloped him. He turned down the street to his church rather than the liquor store a few blocks up the road. He asked to see the priest, desperately seeking help. The church had no addiction ministry and the priest had only a vague idea of what Calix was.

They had a deep conversation. He made a confession. At the end of a tear filled session, the priest reached behind him and took a used book off the shelf . It was the Matt Talbot story. In it was a business card for Jim B , a man in successful recovery and Calix member. He said “call this guy, he can help”. Ongoing life turbulence continued to suffocated him. In a dark moment, he found the card and called Jim B. After engaging in many discussions, he began to find his way. To this day he is the man’s sponsor.

He decided to check into a treatment center. After completion, he attended a CALIX meeting and is now a part of the group, gaining strength in sobriety. He is also active in AA.

He has been helped greatly by members of the groups and their support. He continues to work a 12 step program. He has now achieved long term sobriety. Having had a dramatic spiritual awakening, relations with his family and work have been repaired.

The parish had no active addiction ministry. Thank heavens, the priest just so happened to have a CALIX member’s card and gave it to him – but for that encounter would he be sober today? Was it odd or was it God?

That man was me.

Let’s not leave people who need help to random circumstances. We need to make sure our parishes advise parishioners of this blessed mission. And act on it.

-Jim R, St Paul, Mn



## Matt Talbot Film Update

“Matt Talbot: Urban Mystic” is a feature documentary about a man who overcame addiction through radical faith and whose life speaks to today’s silent epidemic

### SCREENING

Matt Talbot: Urban Mystic featuring Cardinal Dolan— New York Premiere

Monday, December 15 · 7 - 9:30pm EST



To watch the trailer and further updates about international screenings and information please check the website:

<https://matttalbotfilm.com/>

[CLICK HERE FOR THE OFFICIAL TRAILER](#)



## Obituaries

### Susan McLaughlin Johnston

Susan McLaughlin Johnston, loving wife, mother, Gigi, sister, and friend, passed away surrounded by the family she cherished so deeply. Born in Roslyn, she was the daughter of the late Herbert and Joan (nee Graham) McLaughlin. She graduated from St. John of the Cross, Roslyn in 1973 and Bishop McDevitt, Wyncote in 1977.

Sue is survived by Ken (Calix member), her husband of 36 years, her children Megan Illig (Steven), Matthew Johnston, Michael Johnston, and Mary Katherine Johnston, and her grandchildren, Julia and Parker Illig. She is also survived by her sisters Mary Pfahler, Ellen Scullin, Eileen Toda, and brothers, Michael and Patrick McLaughlin.

### Barbara Hummell

Published by Legacy Remembers on Jul. 24, 2025.

Barbara "Birdie" Hummell, 81, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2025 in Bulverde, Texas. Born on July 24, 1943, in New York, New York, Barbara lived a life filled with compassion, laughter, and unwavering devotion to her family and faith. She was a member of the York, Pennsylvania Unit.

### Adrian Patrick Duggan, 1950 - 2025

Celebrating Adrian (Calix member)

This site is a tribute to Ady. A much loved and special man, with a huge heart and a smile on his face, and whose family, friends and faith meant everything to him.

Love you Ady and God Bless xxx

<https://adrianduggan.muchloved.com/Gallery/Pictures/715234017>

From Dale Connely:

Anyone that was on the zoom call with Adrian will remember him always. He would always choose to go first and everything that he said was well thought out and knowledgeable. I usually got something about the subject that would help me. Met him on zoom when we first started in 2020 and from then on, we hit it off. We're about the same age and about the same sobriety date 1988. He was in hospice for a while in London and his life story would be very interesting to tell. I know a little bit about it that he would take groups over to Medjugorje, as a special veneration for our Lady. He chaired a large Calix group in London for a long time. As in most places things broke down with Covid and that's when he went on online with us and luckily he had insomnia so would join our 8 o'clock pm Tuesday meeting and it would be 1 o'clock in London so he couldn't sleep and would join our meeting. I was lucky enough to visit him in London for a day that we will both remember, my wife, Linda and I meeting Adrian. He showed us all around London, many places that the tourist wouldn't be at as well as a lot of regular things you want to see. We went to Mass and that was enjoyable with him leading the way. I'll always remember Adrian and anyone that joined us in those meetings. Also, since this is All Souls month I would like us all to remember all members of Calix and AA that we no longer see and that they may be in heaven looking down on us, we pray for their souls as they pray for us, Amen.



## *How I discovered more about Father Ed*

by Fred H.  
Calix Member

response to this has largely been of the variety:

*The what of the who?!*

Well, I'm not the only recovering addict to say that about the Spiritual Exercises. I found out that Bill W. said pretty much the same thing to Fr. Ed Dowling.

Ok, back up... how do I know this?

Part of my course requirements have been to attend a 5 day Ignatian retreat. I was able to fulfill that requirement this past summer. I showed up at the [Bellarmine Retreat Center](#) for my required five day retreat very much looking forward to it.

Three hours into it at the closing of dinner time, they say what everyone but me knows.. this is a silent retreat from here on. Enjoy! ([Read more about my Bellarmine Retreat adventure here.](#))

*What?!*

That must have been in the fine print somewhere... hmm... this is going to be interesting.

Silent, that is, except for going to Mass and meeting with my spiritual director. Her job was to lead me through some of the Spiritual Exercises.

Well alrighty then!

But I needn't have been worried, God knows what he is doing.

My first meeting with my spiritual director I found out she is a recovering alcoholic, ten years sober. I'm not sure we ever got through many of the Ignatian Exercises, because we were both geeking out about being in recovery and how we work with our sponsees and so on. We spent a lot of time comparing notes on those fronts.

As we were talking she asked me if I'd seen the "Fr. Ed" book in the Bellarmine book store?

I said no and asked her what it was about.

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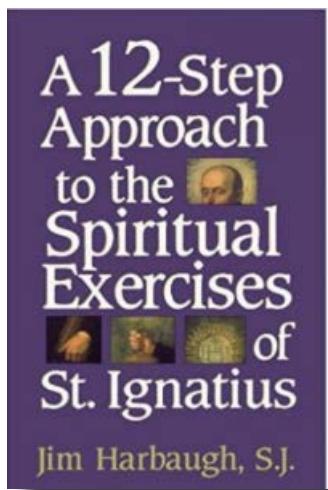
As a student in the [Divine Mercy University's Spiritual Direction Certification program](#) the entire last semester has made it abundantly clear that I need to become very familiar with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Not being a priest or in a religious order or having much Catholic education, my re-

**Father Ed**  
The Story of Bill W.'s Spiritual Sponsor

Dawn Eden Goldstein

Turns out, as most of you know, Fr. Ed Dowling was a great champion of the early AA organization. He also befriended Bill W. and became one of his most trusted spiritual advisors.

My spiritual director then explained that the book was written by an excellent research journalist named Dawn Eden Goldstein, a Jewish convert to Catholicism. She said that Dawn takes great pains to meticulously explain how Father Ed helped Bill W. see the connections between Ignatian spirituality and the 12 steps.



So I of course bought the book along with several other of Goldstein's books (all very good by the way) and I've been slowly reading it during my weekly holy hours.

I have to say, this is really helping me get my head around the spiritual exercises now that I understand that this spirituality actually permeates much of AA and all 12 step spirituality. It is starting to make sense to me.

I guess if I'd only gone to the Calix Society Store when I first joined a few years back I might have seen the excellent book [by Father Jim Harbaugh that explains how the 12 steps are related to the Spiritual exercises](#). Maybe I'll read that one next.

But back to Goldstein's book. She is indeed an excellent researcher and an amazing story teller as well. She makes a biography interesting. I guess that isn't too hard considering the subject matter for someone like me.

Anyway, get yourself a gift this Christmas and buy "[Father Ed: The Story of Bill W's Spiritual Sponsor](#)" and sip on it. If you're like me you'll learn a whole lot about the spiritual formation that Jesuits go through at the very least (that is the first part of the book). Then I guarantee you'll learn things you never knew about the first decades of AA... Dawn Eden is one of the best research journalists I've ever read.





## Membership Update

by Ken J.  
Calix Treasurer

### Membership

Just a reminder that annual memberships are based on the calendar year. Please consider renewing your membership for 2026 if you have not recently become a member or haven't renewed yet. The email you received should have your membership expiration date. If the field is blank it usually means you were never an "official" member. Official membership is not required to participate in any Calix functions but recommended. Questions? Send an email to Ken J at [treasurer@calixsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@calixsociety.org)

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

## 2026 Calix Retreat

August 7-9, 2026

Carmelite Spiritual Center

Darien, Illinois

Be there!

Also, check out our new website, it is so nicely done!!

You can always find old issues of the Chalice there... click here to see.



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

We have no theme requirements to follow at this time, so consider upcoming articles as a sort of 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!

Here are some ideas to get you started on writing something for the Chalice:

“Calix has enhanced my sobriety by \_\_\_\_\_”

“The spiritual practices I use to maintain my conscious contact with God are \_\_\_\_\_”

Please submit it to [susanhaibeck@gmail.com](mailto:susanhaibeck@gmail.com) and in the subject box please say “**For Chalice**”. Thank you!

Chalice Staff

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