



the Chalice



CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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**President's
Column**
by Mike G.

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Today I am thinking about gratitude.

In 1 Thessalonians 5-18 it says "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

From Philippians 4:6-7, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

In AA they talk about an attitude of gratitude, and I believe they suggest making a gratitude list.

From the Old Testament Psalm 107:13-15 "In their distress they cried to the Lord, who saved them in their peril; He brought them forth from darkness and the shadow of death and broke their chains asunder. Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, such wondrous deeds for the children of Adam."

I have made a gratitude list. On the list is:

I have a great wife and an amazing daughter.

I have sobriety and health (At 72 I have a few issues) .

I have AA and my AA friends.

I have Calix and my Calix friends.

I am free from economic worry.

And most of all I am a member of the Catholic Church and one of God's heirs.

I look at this list, and I feel lucky even though there is some suffering in life.

It was AA that helped me break away from my addiction to alcohol and led me back to the Catholic Church. Calix has helped me to grow in faith. Calix is helping me in my earthly pilgrimage. Calix is helping me in my goal to become a saint.





Divine Mercy

by Father Roland Lajoie, SM
Calix Chaplain.

My dear Calix brother and sisters,

How good it is for us to experience the season of Lent together. We are being saved together through our gift of sobriety lived out in prayer, fasting and good deeds. How we are ever coming to know Him, to love, Him and to serve Him in one another.

The **rays of His Divine Mercy** penetrate the walls of our hearts and we find new life. How miraculously, we live now not ourselves, but Jesus lives in us.

“For the sake of His sorrowful passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (Chaplet of Divine Mercy.)

The image of the Divine Mercy appeared to St. Faustina in a vision (1931). She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of His Heart, from where two large rays came forth, **one red and the other pale**.

She gazed intently at the Lord in silence. Her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy, Jesus said to her:

“Paint an image according the pattern you see with the signature : “Jesus, I trust in you.” I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as my own glory. (Diary, 47, 48). I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for grace to



the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: “Jesus I trust in you” (327), I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and (then) throughout the world (47).

At the request of her spiritual director, St Faustina asked the Lord about the rays in the image. She heard these words in reply:

“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of the souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when my agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299) by means of My Mercy, because even the strongest faith is no avail without work (742).

These words indicate that the image represents the graces of **Divine Mercy** poured out upon the world, especially through Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

At the canonization of Sister Faustina in 2000, Pope John Paul II reflected that the message of mercy Sister Faustina imparted was like a “bridge” between the 20th century (one of the most violent in human history) and the third millennium (Pope John Paul II, Mass for the Canonization of Sister Mary Faustina Kowalska), St. Faustina, a Polish nun, was gifted with mystical visions of Our Lord Jesus, Her diary records her dialogue with Jesus as He proclaimed His Message of Mercy.

“Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy.” (No 30)

The quote sums up the entirety of Sister Faustina’s message. How often do we ponder God’s greatest attribute? “Blessed are the merciful, mercy shall be theirs.”

In our lives we always hope that people see us at our best. We pose for pictures by turning our good side to the camera. Do we try to hide our unsightly sins from God? He is an all powerful God, who is Truth, Beauty, and Justice: yet **His greatest attribute is Mercy**. Mercy is the side He wants all of us to see! Go to Him in your trials as well as in your failures - His mercy heals and saves. It is our path, “Follow me, say the Lord. “I am the way the truth and the life.”

“St. Faustina says, “I realized more and more how much every soul needs God’s mercy throughout life and particularly at the hour of death, This chaplet of Divine Mercy mitigates God’s anger, as He Himself told me.” (Diary No. 1036)

Divine Mercy Novena – (Good Friday to Sunday after Easter Sunday)

Jesus asked Sister Faustina that the Feast of Divine mercy be preceded by a Novena to Divine Mercy which would begin on Good Friday. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy. On each day you will beg My father, on the strength of My passion for the graces of these souls.

For the remainder of of Lent and for the Novena of Divine Mercy, (April 3 through April 12) let us remember daily our brothers and sisters suffering from addictions and their families.

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, (April 12, 2026).

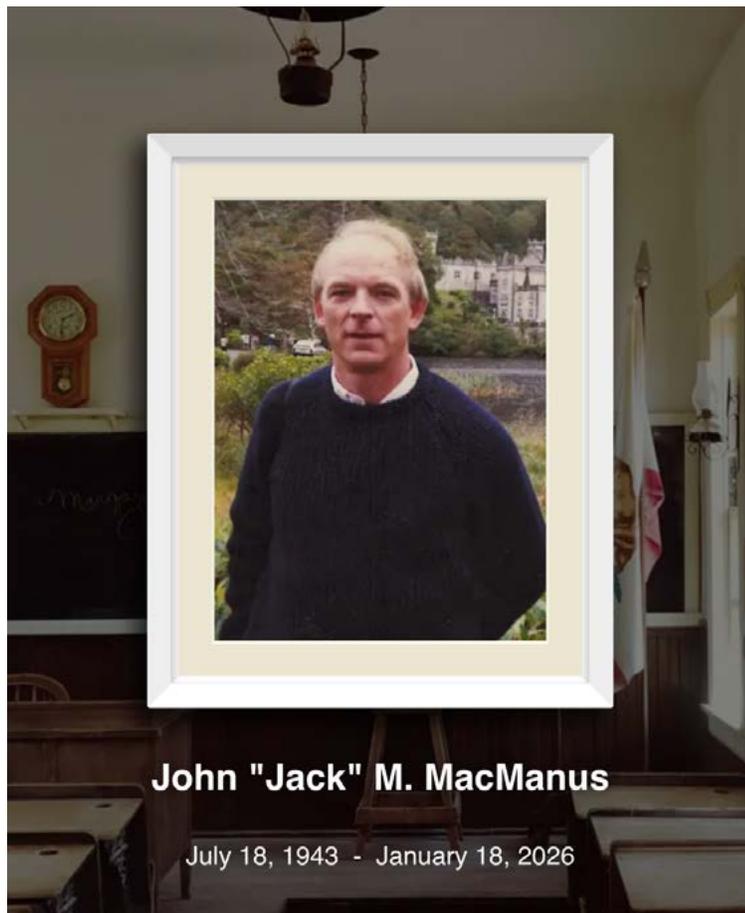
It was established by Pope St. John Paul II to fulfill revelations received by Sister Faustina. It offers a special plenary indulgence for complete forgiveness of sins, requiring confession, Holy Communion and complete acts of Trust : "Jesus, I TRUST IN YOU."

(For further information on Divine Mercy, Google: [Divine Mercy Sunday](#), [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#), [Divine Mercy Novena](#), [Sister Faustina Kowalska](#), [Sister Faustina's Diary](#).)



Memory Eternal to John "Jack" MacManus*Anonymous*

Let perpetual light shine upon him. This picture is of a young Jack that I never knew but blessed to have known him. He came to Calix and zoom for the last four years or so. He was also weekly attending our Saturday Lectio Divina meeting. Jack was always smiling and seemed to be happy. We were really surprised when we found out from his sister that he had passed away. You could tell by the way that he shared that he was very knowledgeable of the catholic faith and had a deep prayer life. His specialty was the psalms. He would always read the psalm in our reflections of the readings and would add a lot of important information and put it in a historical sense for the attendees at the meeting. Even though I never met him in person, I thought that I knew him because of these moments of sharing. That's how we learn about each other in those moments of sharing that we've become accustomed to in AA, sharing our experience strength and hope, and with Calix sharing our Catholic faith. Jack was a wonderful example of this. He will be greatly missed.



If you wish to visit Jack's memorial page, [please click here](#).



Matt Talbot Update!

Ken J.

The Cause for Matt's Canonization Has Momentum!

Next month it will be two years (March 2024) since Bill Rose of [Joyful Films](#) reached out to Fr. Douglas McKay with the idea to do a short documentary on the life of Venerable Matt Talbot. What started out as an idea in Bill's mind has blossomed into a world-wide renewal of energy for the canonization of Matt Talbot.

It was not just the film. Plans were already underway in Ireland for a celebration of the centenary of Matt's death to take place in June of 2025. The work on celebration combined with the work and completion of the film has rejuvenated Matt's cause and we plan to keep the fire lit! That centenary celebration also put pressure on Bill to complete the film in time for it to be shown in Ireland.

So where are we in February 2025? My good friend Michael Murphy has been traveling throughout Ireland and Scotland giving presentations on Matt Talbot and showing "Matt Talbot: Urban Mystic" at various locations. Last week he was in Navan and on Monday 2/23 he will be in Derry at the Brunswick Movie Bowl. He, with a great deal of help of the Knights of Columbanus (not Columbus, that's in the US!), have been promoting Matt's cause and the film after a great deal of effort was put into the planning and execution of the centenary weekend in Dublin in June 2025.



Meanwhile, here in the US we have had a number of showings of the film and are having conversations with folks that have the ability to get the film into over 1,000 theaters here in the US!

We never dreamed that the film would have this kind of reception and impact! Throughout the making of the film we saw God's hand in just about everything we did. Whether it was the sun shining through a window at just the right moment, a bartender in a pub giving us permission to film without any advanced warning or a mustached Matt Hayes showing up at just the right moment to play the role of Matt Talbot. These were just a few of the hundreds of "odd or God" moments during the film project.

As mentioned, people are on fire for Matt's cause now as a result of the events for the centenary and the film! An international committee is being formed to promote his

cause so that we are all working together using similar materials and messaging to promote Matt's cause.

To that end, I enlisted the help of my friend Rebecca Giles to create a new image of Matt Talbot that we can use for relic cards, pamphlets and other resources to promote Matt's cause. We loved an image from the film but were afraid that if we used the actual picture people might think it was really Matt Talbot. We are only aware of one actual photo of Matt and it was taken towards the end of his life.



When making the film we were trying to emphasize the fact that Matt sobered up at the young age of 28 and stayed sober for 40 years without the help of a 12-step program. That's why we portray Matt as a young man in the film and why we wanted a more youthful image of Matt to use for publications. I reached out to Rebecca Giles who had done a couple of pieces for me already:



"The Last Breath"



"Slam the Door"

Rebecca was up for job of creating the new image of Matt and we were ecstatic to see the final work:



Rebecca is an incredible artist and has a wonderful story that needs to be shared and I hope to do so in the near future! In the meantime, here she is holding her latest work:

As the new materials become available I will list them on my website, www.notsaintsyet.org. I expect to have the new relic cards and a pamphlet the week of 2/23.

If you have not signed up already, please go to MattTalbotFilm.com and get on our mailing list. We will keep you updated on all that is going on with the film. We are looking to have another screening of the film at the theater in Oaks, PA in March, possibly 3/19.

We are also expecting news out of Ireland surrounding Matt's cause including a new postulator in Rome and the establishment of the international committee to spearhead the cause for Matt's canonization.

12th Stepping in the Theater

Anonymous

It is very challenging to be a working theatre professional on any level let alone while witnessing to one's Catholic faith and love for Our Lord Jesus. One is often met with a lot of cynicism and resentment.

As a part of my recovery journey I discovered Open Window Theatre, a Twin cities based theatre company firmly rooted in our Catholic faith tradition with a generous nod to Christianity in general.

Founded by actor/playwright/director/producer Jeremy Stanberry in 2011, they create "must see" events that unapologetically celebrate our Catholic visionaries as well as provide a foundation for robust discussion by producing works by C.S. Lewis, works about Tolkien as well as plays that address our current cultural zeitgeist.

As is stated in their Mission Statement from their website:

"Open Window Theater was founded in May 2011 for the purpose of bringing multigenerational professional theater with a redemptive vision to the Twin Cities with a focus on telling relevant stories of faith, hope and reconciliation in an intimate and immersive environment. We view art as an inherently transcendent window to the Divine.

We focus on redemptive vision in the arts because we believe there's a crisis of Hope."

I have been privileged to direct three extremely well written scripts: The POTTING SHED by Graham Greene (a Catholic novelist from the mid twentieth century), 1984 adapted from George Orwell's dystopian novel and THE ORIGINALIST about the late great Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

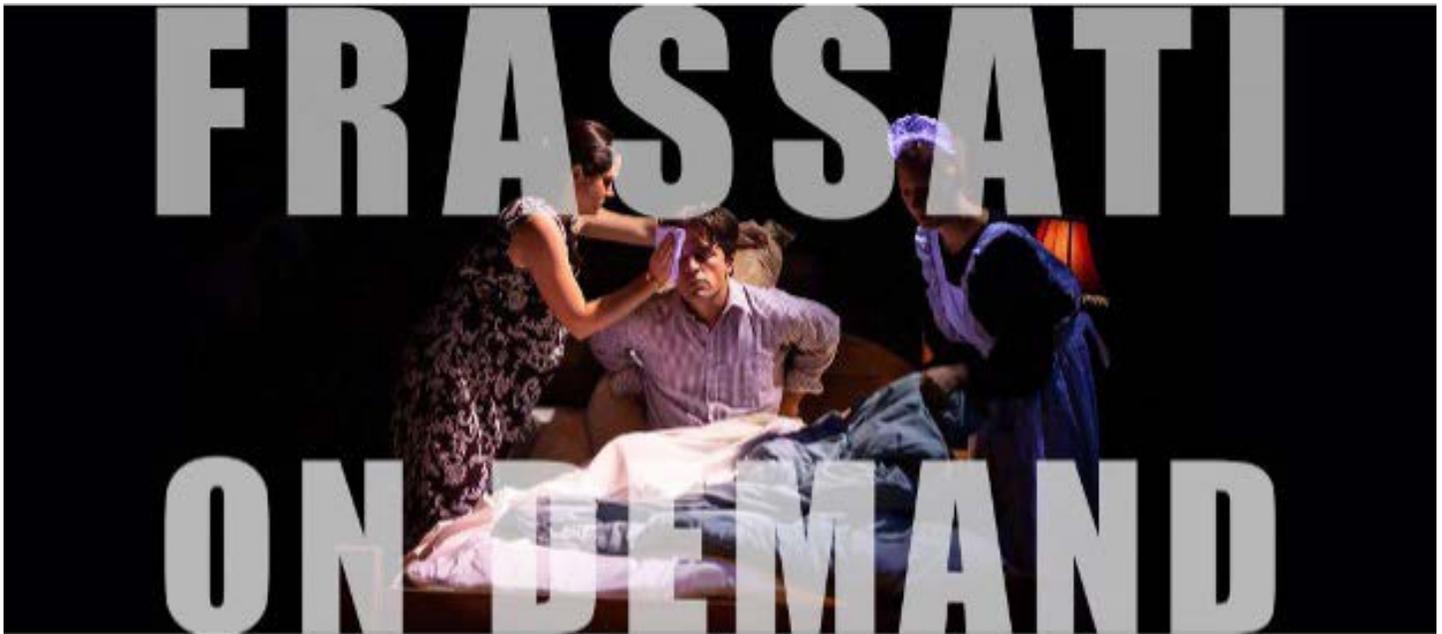
Researching and preparing for each production allowed me to use my God given talents in a thoroughly honest way (now that I am sober!) and in true 12th step fashion (... practice these principles in all our affairs.)

In addition I co-directed original new scripts by Jeremy in which he also appeared, with my job as a second set of eyes to help mount these works: LOLEK, which is about the Nazi occupied days of war torn Poland as Pope St. John Paul II prepared for the priesthood; FRASSATI about the newly sainted Giorgio Frassati, THE SCRUTINIES focusing on the same Gospel stories that we hear every Lent.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Jermey and the ensembles at Open Window. It fills my heart with joy, delight and awe for our Lord and our Holy Mother Church to bring such stories and issues to light in these very chaotic turbulent times.

During COVID two of the production I had the privilege of being part of were “filmed” for virtual audiences. They are still available for viewing. If interested you can pay-to-view a virtual performance of two of Open Window’s more successful productions “Saint” plays: LOLEK about the seminarian days of Pope St. John Paul II and FRASSATI about the newly canonized Saint Frassati.

They are well worth seeing! [Click here to go to their website.](#)



OPEN WINDOW THEATRE

LOLEK

A NEW 3-PERSON PLAY BY
JEREMY STANBARY

WORLD PREMIERE | OPENWINDOWTHEATRE.ORG

LIVE! LOST! LOST!

Presented by
Open Window Theatre

LOLEK Virtual Performance

Why is Compassion so Important?

Anonymous

There are many traits you can develop during addiction treatment that will serve you well in recovery and in life. These include patience, optimism, tenacity, courage, and mindfulness. One you might not think of is compassion. Compassion is an underrated trait that leads to many great benefits for you and the people around you. Here are some of the biggest ways compassion can improve your recovery.

Rebuilding Trust with Family and Friends

Addiction puts a tremendous strain on relationships, and some relationships it destroys forever. People struggling with addiction often do things they would otherwise never do, including lying, stealing, behaving violently or recklessly, and being generally unreliable. This behavior is hardest on the people they're closest to because those people stay around the longest and care the most.

When people enter recovery, they often feel remorse for their earlier behavior, but they also feel frustrated their friends and family don't trust them despite their sincere efforts to recover. This is where compassion is important. Being able to put yourself in their place and caring about what they're going through helps you understand that they want to trust you but it takes time. Caring about their suffering makes it easier to be patient and give them space to heal too.

Building Connections with Other in Recovery

As much as your family and friends may support you in recovery, they probably don't completely understand what you've been through. For many people recovering from addiction, it helps to have the support of people who do understand, especially early on. Studies have shown that the most effective part of 12-step programs is that they provide a strong sober network. People who are more involved with and connected to their groups tend to stay sober longer.

This isn't always easy. Many people in recovery have problems they're still working through, including stress, frustration, depression, anxiety, and anger. People going through a hard time aren't always pleasant to be around, but they need your support. Having compassion for other people in recovery helps you be supportive when it matters most. A strong sober network is forged by this kind of mutual support.

Forgiving Yourself for Past Behavior

We take for granted that compassion for others is a good thing, but many people fail

to have compassion for themselves. Not only do they neglect to have compassion for themselves, but they feel like they don't deserve it. If you've done some things you're not proud of, you might feel like forgiving yourself lets you off the hook when you deserve to suffer. While having remorse for destructive behavior is a good thing, continually beating yourself up over all the horrible things you've done is counterproductive. It keeps you stuck in the past, wallowing in shame rather than trying to improve.

Having compassion for yourself allows you to move forward. Since it's often much easier to have compassion for others, it might help to imagine your earlier self as someone else. Think of the pain and hopelessness of addiction and have compassion for the person experiencing that. Imagine how you would feel if a close friend were going through the same thing and apply that compassion to your earlier self.

Helping Out Your Future Self

Studies about self-control in recent years have shown us something surprising: self-control is closely linked to empathy. Whenever you have to make a choice between immediate gratification and a greater long-term reward, you are essentially choosing sides between the present you and the future you. Since you are the present you, you often choose the immediate gratification, to the detriment of your future self. The ability to put yourself in your own shoes a week, a month, a year, or ten years later greatly increases your ability to forgo immediate gratification for the benefit of your future self.

Relying on willpower to fight addiction is not a great plan. If you keep putting yourself in difficult situations, you will eventually fail. The better place to put your effort is in doing the things that keep you sober. This is where compassion for your future self is important. It helps you go to bed at a reasonable time even though you'd rather stay up watching television. It helps you go to a 12-step meeting when you'd rather do just about anything else. If you can see every decision as a small act of compassion for your future self, it's much easier to create a better future for yourself.

Greater Sense of Wellbeing

Studies show that having more compassion leads to a greater sense of wellbeing. Self-compassion is particularly important. Self-compassion, as with compassion for your past and future selves, means accepting and supporting yourself rather than condemning and criticizing yourself. It shouldn't come as a surprise that people are happier when they aren't constantly attacking and berating themselves. What may be more surprising is that self-compassion also improves your relationships to other people too. Having compassion for yourself allows you to be more open and supportive with others, which they tend to appreciate.

More feelings of compassion also lead to more positive feelings in general. Several studies have been conducted on the Buddhist practice of loving-kindness meditation, which is specifically intended to increase compassion. The studies have all found that loving-kindness meditation increases feelings of compassion, and also increases feelings of joy, love, contentment, gratitude, hope, social connection, and sense of purpose. Another significant benefit—perhaps for many people the most significant benefit—is that it also reduces feelings of depression.

According to religious historian, Karen Armstrong, the word for Compassion in Semitic languages (rahamanut in Hebrew and Rahman in Arabic) is related to the word for “womb,” evoking the mother’s love for her child, as an archetypal expression of our compassion. At its Latin roots, compassion means “to suffer with.” Compassion is a sense of concern that arises when we are confronted with another’s suffering, understand and feel their pain, and feel motivated to see that suffering relieved.

- **AWARENESS** and **RECOGNITION** of suffering. We see, realize someone or some community is suffering, is in distress, struggling in pain.
- **A FEELING** of concern or connection to the one or community that is suffering. We understand, care, and feel connected in some way.
- **A DESIRE** to relieve the suffering. We see the pain, feel it, care and want the person to suffer less, to relieve some of the pain and struggle. Now there is a **MOTIVATION** behind our feeling.
- Self-compassion involves treating ourselves kindly, like we would a close friend we cared about.
- Rather than making global evaluations of ourselves as “good” or “bad,” self-compassion involves being mindful of our pain, generating kindness toward ourselves as imperfect humans, and remembering the common humanity of suffering.
- It motivates us to make needed changes in our lives not because we’re worthless or inadequate, but because we care about ourselves and want to lessen our suffering.





Adoration of the Mystic Lamb

by Fred H.
Calix Member

One of the things that drew me to Calix as I was looking for Catholics to fellowship with in recovery was the emphasis on the Blessed Sacrament. I mean, it's right in the subtitle and slogan... 'Substituting the cup that sanctifies for the cup

that stupefies'.

What drew me into the Catholic faith in the first place was the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and how his real presence in me (if I should partake in the sacrament in faith) might displace and replace my longing for my drugs of choice. That being the case one might see why I was so drawn to Calix where Jesus is adored in the Eucharist regularly.

Since this issue will come out around Holy Week when we remember the institution of the Holy Eucharist in the Last Supper and Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, I thought now would be a good time to explore some artwork that has helped thousands of devout Catholics meditate on these themes.

One of the most beautiful works of art that draws me into the mystery of the Holy Eucharist is found in Europe and I hope to visit it in person someday. It is found in a Cathedral there in Ghent, Belgium.



Adoration of the Mystic Lamb

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the Body and the Blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own Self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

Image is a detail of the Ghent Altarpiece by Jan Van Eyck. Hymn paraphrased from the Liturgy of St. James. This card is freely given and never for sale. More info can be found in the QR code to the right. Grown on Photon Farms 9/19/23.



The funny thing is, I'd never even heard of the Ghent Altarpiece until I was in my 50s. This [Visio Divina card](#) gives you a tiny portion of that great work of art by Jan Van Eyck which was installed in St. Bavo's Cathedral around 1430. [Learn more about the entire work by clicking here.](#)

I must admit, the first time I saw the full version of the image it took my breath away. I was new to the faith at the time and the implications of the real presence of Christ in the

Eucharist was still mind blowing to me. It is no less amazing now. The very idea that God gives himself to us as food and that we are encouraged to consume him daily if we can... well, I still struggle for words to express my gratitude and wonder.



I stand in awe in front of a reproduction of this image in my prayer room most every morning and kiss it and [recite the Agnus Dei](#). The humility of God who graciously gives himself to us to eat and drink at every Divine Liturgy or Mass is beyond my limited comprehension.

I'd been looking for a way to make this image into a Visio Divina Card and couldn't come up with anything adequate to put on the back, *until...* I discovered a version of the song many of us know as "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" by Aly Aleigha.

I don't believe in coincidences. This was meant to be.

Powerful. Mystical. Appropriately full of awe and wonder. All of these are good ways to describe the words to to this ancient hymn and this modern recording.



The melody is called 'Picardy' and is a traditional French tune. The words are excerpted from the Liturgy of St. James. The version you see on the card above and [the YouTube video](#) were translated and paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie.

Some combinations of visual art and music just move me too much to be able to adequately express it in words. I'll let it go at that. If it blesses even one of you, it is worth sharing.



Here is the entire work you would see if you went to the St. Bavo Cathedral in Ghent. [You can take a deep dive by clicking here.](#)





Calix Society, Sydney Unit – Autumn 2026

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

Welcome to 2016! We are in hot, muggy conditions. As I write this, the Lord is on the verge of sending relieving rain.

We are into our Saturday 11am meetings, as opposed to Tuesday 8pm that went for the best part of 5 years. Teething problems, time and technology. All is well...

Saturday Mass and About Calix talks

- March 14 Billy's Formal Induction to the Calix Society
- May 9 A City Parish [TBC]



The President's Pen



My short holiday to the Philippines was memorable for the visit to the Divine Mercy shrine in El Salvador. There were only about one hundred people this time—unlike the Sunday after Easter where there's thousands and one can barely move. And Divine Mercy is what our recovery is all about.

It was the Lord who intervened and removed the craving for good on 5 October 1983. AA was the finishing school, but Calix came late in my recovery to show me the 11th step through the sacraments, retreats and zoom meetings. Calix is exactly what I needed to see myself as a child of God, and not just an alcoholic... Paul K. from "The Gong" (Wollongong).

'... The Calix motto / Thirst is very appropriate. What we need to do in Lent is look to the Cross' – Saturday, February 14.

Help in doing Lent

Many of us have heard the 'St Michael the Archangel Prayer', sometimes recited after Mass or Prayer Group meetings. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to St Michael as he leads the army of God against the army of Satan.

While St Michael worked incredible miracles and fought supernatural battles, the most important battle that he fights is the everyday war between good and evil, between my heart and that of others.

During Lent let us ask for St Michael's help to help us grow in virtue. Lucy M.



Lighten up ...

A mother went into her son's bedroom and said, 'Robert, you'll be late for school.'

'No mum I don't want to go, the children will make fun of me.'

A bit later she came in again and said, 'Robert you'll be late for school.'

'No mum, the canteen ladies will make fun of me.'

'Robert, you'll be late for school.'

'The teachers will make fun of me, mum.'

'But Robert, you have to go, You're the Principal.'



Tim P. (As heard from a talk at a wedding)

Prayer warriors

Photos from the “Breaking Ground Ceremony”, 10 January 2026. See here: <https://www.elijah.org.au/news>

Does your unit have the support of Prayer Warriors?

Billy’s Spiritual Adventure (The Seminary)

Seminary open day was a good experience. At first when Billy walked in, he felt very underdressed, like he should have worn a suit. Anyway, Billy told unit members that he enjoyed the morning prayer sung and Mass in Gregorian chant.

He spoke with seminarians and heard a discernment talk by the vocational director—Billy tells us that he has a meeting planned with a seminarian placed at parish near to his home. We are all praying for Billy. Especailly, I pray for Billy to enjoy the journey.



Statue of Saint Patrick at the seminary with pray for us inscribed (Ora Pro Nobis) →

[Foundation of our Church - <https://australiancatholichistoricalicalsociety.com.au/history-resources/irish-catholic-australians/>]

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.



Image: Matt Talbot, via Wikimedia

Venerable Matt Talbot, *pray for us.*

By the way, an older sober member who attended our February 14 Mass and Fellowship made the comment, ‘He must have had *some* defects.’ I’d been talking about Matt Talbot as I pointed to the statue with his foot on a bottle, telling how he was a long time sober and worked what was effectively the steps before 12-step programs came on the scene.

Another Calix member chimed in, ‘He went back to pay back a bloke whose fiddle he stole.’ I mentioned that he went to pubs to help people, but didn’t stay at the around too much—you know the saying about getting a haircut if you sit in the barber’s chair?

Anyway, I mentioned that Matt had a piece of timber for a pillow and was up early to pray every day, worked in a timber yard. And when he passed it was on the way to Mass. Of course he would have had defects, most probably scruples—like a lot many Catholics who are serious about the faith. At least, that’s what I understand to be the case. Thank God for Venerable Matt Talbot, thank Matt for God’s grace.

... Now, back to the weather, and seasonal change. Still a bit sultry here on the East Coast of Australia, still trusting in the Lord, still praying for total abstinence, spiritual development, and a type of sainthood.

We are in the season of Lent. Father Kim led the Lenten program at St Joseph, Enfield last night; which was gracious given that Mondays are traditionally a priest’s day off. The Transfiguration is a wonderful Gospel event, and it makes me think of a 12-step idiom—‘nothing changes if nothing changes.’

Kevin S. for Calix Sydney Unit



We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

Save the Date for Retreat - Nominees Needed! *By Susan H.*

2026 CALIX ANNUAL RETREAT

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

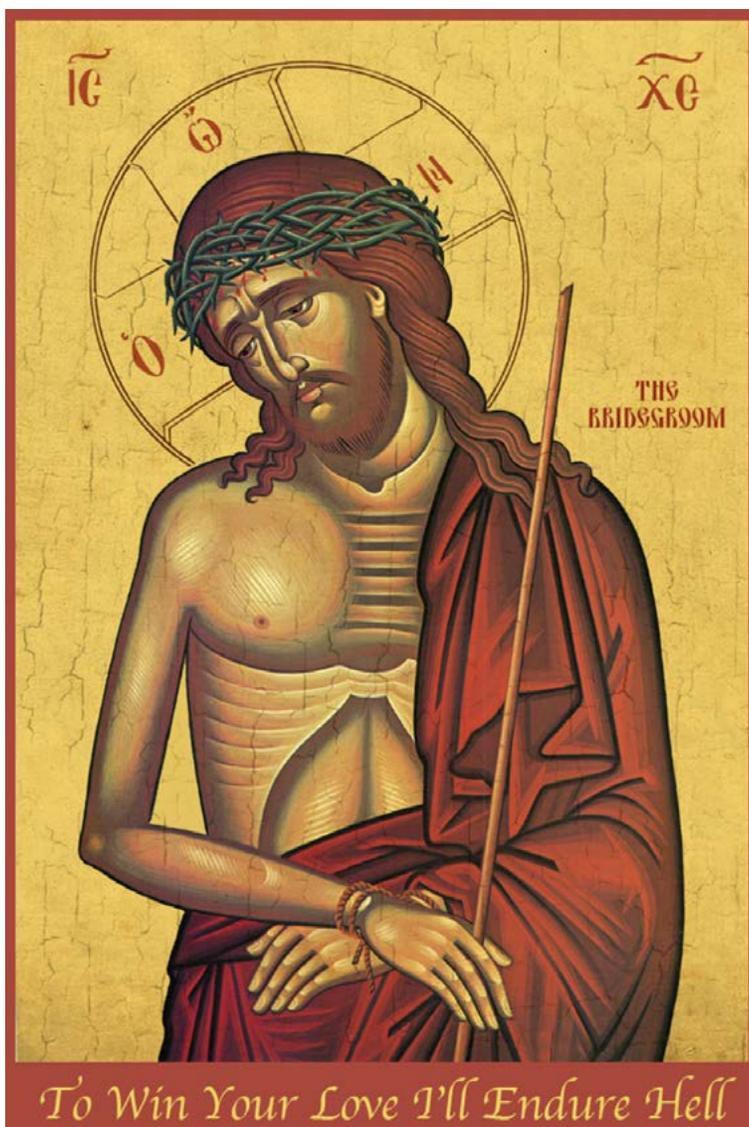
BOARD NOMINEES NEEDED

Calix Board Officers elections will be held during the retreat. If you would like to stand for a position or nominate someone, please contact Mike G. at mrjg1945@gmail.com or Susan H. at 630 750-5486.

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/>

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



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 collecting Chalice 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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