the Chalice

CALIX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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President's Column

by Susan H.

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Greetings Calix members,

I am honored and humbled to step into the role of President of the Board of Directors for the Calix Society. As Vice-President the last three years, I am deeply inspired by the commitment of our board members, the dedication of our members, and the willingness of everyone to make this life-giving society work. The accomplishments over the past three years enhanced our ability to continue our purposes as outlined in the Calix Credo (listed on landing page of our website), which are:

- Interest Catholics with these problems in the virtue of total abstinence
- Promote the spiritual development of our membership
- Strive for the sanctification of the whole personality of each member

The Board of Directors facilitates outreach and activities to encourage those purposes according to our bylaws. Since the August election, we have four board members opt out of the next term as a director. Butch, Garnett, Gaylen, and Steve get a huge shout out for all your heartfelt and meaningful service. They will continue to pursue Calix activities already established and share their lightbulb moments.

All Calix members are involved in service, and if the Holy Spirit is calling you to be a committee member or a board member, please contact us.

At this time, the board is reviewing the board member applications process and committee organization. We aim to be efficient and optimize our time, yet still pray about and

take the time to plan for the direction of our organization. Communication and outreach and service to the current membership remain at the top of our priorities.

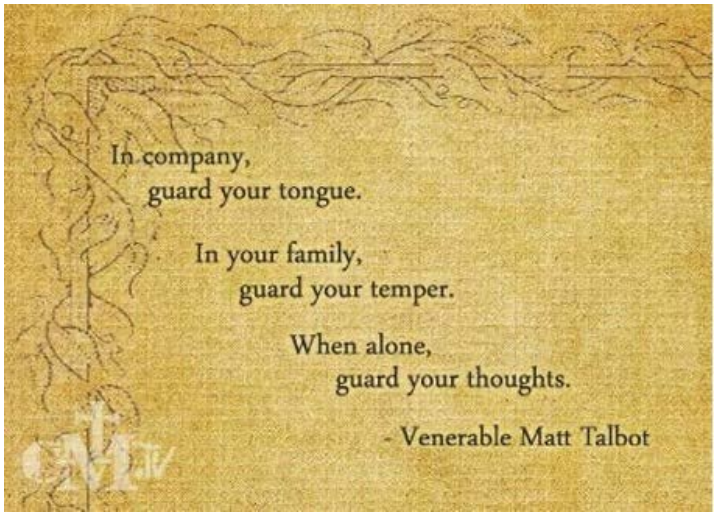
God led me to AA (2011) and AA led me back to God (2017).

Our founder said it best – *"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

In Love and Service,

Susan



Calix Retreat, August 7-9

Gina M.

My Sponsor Susan had been telling me about the Calix Retreat for over a year, and I was really looking forward to it. The day finally came, and there were many bumps in the road that tried to prevent me from coming. A friend of mine-named Rose, used to tell me that there is always a Spiritual Battle going on, and when something good is going to happen, that the devil gets in there and will try to discourage us from achieving it by placing hardships in the way. This seemed to be the case in my coming to the retreat. However, knowing this and pushing on-God opened a door wide so that at the end I was able to come. Thanks be to God. Fortitude...perseverance!



As I write this a few days later, I am still letting all the thoughts of the retreat settle in my mind. There are so many things I could tell you about the experience. I will try to give a little summary. The retreat location was at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien, IL. It is a large campus which has a National Shrine as well. We were able to pray the rosary inside the Shrine on the last day. Every

seat was filled. Overall, this was a very peaceful place, and you can sense the spiritual energy everywhere you go on the campus. It is a good feeling.

Susan H. welcomed us when we arrived, along with her big smile. Thank you, Susan! She helped us feel comfortable and assured us with what we needed to settle in and adapt to the schedule ahead.
The retreat theme was "**Seek the Lord While he may be Found, Run to Him while He is Still Here" Isaiah 55.6.**

Opening Liturgy Mass of the Holy Spirit
Celebrant: Fr. Roland Lajoie, Calix Chaplain
Homily: Who do I seek? What do I seek? What do I hope for?

The 4 speakers and presentations included
- Mike G, Calix President - **Seeking** Jesus through the 12 Steps
- Scott W. President CIR – **Meeting** Jesus through the 12 Steps
- Tricia W. Elmhurst Visitation - IL Unit – **Listening** to Jesus through the 12 Steps
- John S. Berwyn, IL Unit – **Sharing** Jesus through the 12 Steps

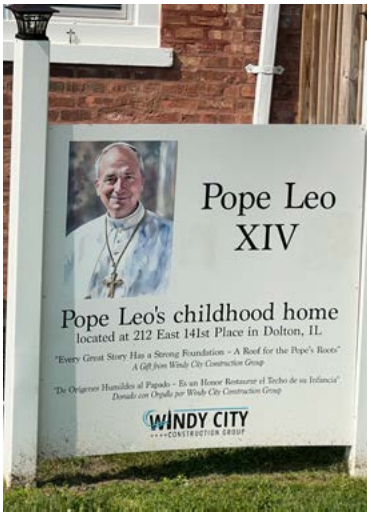
Each day had speakers to listen and learn from. Scott S. gave a talk on the origins of CIR-Catholics in Recovery, and its mission. There was some discussion of a future association together, and what that may look like. Tricia W. shared her amazing story with us to hear in the evening. Mike G. Calix President gave us good background about Calix and future plans, and John S. filled us in with his insights.

We watched the Matt Talbot movie, which was filmed in parts of Ireland and the USA. Matt Talbot is our patron, and because he is one of us, he went through a lot of the same struggles we have. He was able to die a sober man. This film is a must watch, and I encourage you to see it as soon as possible. Thank you to the film makers! (Joyful Films, Bill Rose, Founder) We enjoyed it and learned from it.



There were elections, and Susan H. was elected our President. Thank you again Susan! The goal will be to increase our membership and help Calix continue to be a thriving apostolate.

We had a Chicago field trip which was a highlight to our current Pope Leo XIV's childhood home, and also to his childhood parish which was St. Mary's Church. We were able to walk around the outside of both. I was able to have a



good discussion with the other pilgrims on the trip in Pope Leo's backyard! Neighbors were friendly and talked to us. In fact, one neighbor had purchased a "Porta Potty" for pilgrims to use if needed. Wasn't that nice! They let us know they were friendly Catholics by placing a large Crucifix on the side of their home, well in view.

We were also able to go to the magnificent roman style church of St. Anthony of Pauda parish for a tour. The pastor of 21 years had spent extra time with us, and filled us in on a lot of the history along with our tour guide which was pre-arranged. We learned that the founders of the church -built in 1902, were from Italy, and that there were 13 trips made to Italy to bring back the marble used. This had to be by boat. If you could see the size and magnificence of the marble, you would be impressed by this. It was a church made originally for the Italian immigrants. There were four side alters in this church. Descriptions inscribed were written in Italian. One side alter was of St. Alessandro-a Sicilian Saint, whom the Pastor explained was given honor, because the "Sicilians had the money." Therefore, one of their patron Saints was given an honorable side alter inside the church. The pillars and columns were named after the four main Virtues of the Church, along with the Apostles and some of the Saints. It was an unforgettable experience, and we were all grateful and thankful to have come. Overall, there was a nice upkeep presentation to the closed locations, and to St. Anthony's.



https://www.catholicchurchtours.com/upcoming-tours

Back on the retreat, a highlight was the daily mass, and Father Roland was our Celebrant. Thank you to Fr. Roland! Father is our spiritual chaplain for the Calix Society, and he was also our Spiritual Director for the retreat. He talked to us often and provided good guidance. We also had Fr. Charlie Becker be our Celebrant on Sunday. Thank you to Fr. Charlie as well!

Many of us commented on how much we enjoyed this particular retreat. We are looking forward to next year, which will be on Zoom! Calix had decided that we would alternate Zoom and IN person for the first week in August annually. Members may of course hold mini retreats locally. Looking very much forward to the next time we gather together! God bless!

Spiritual Nuggets from the Retreat

Christine K.

Hello!

Oh, my goodness, the fire of love for our Catholic faith and the significant role it plays in recovery was very apparent in our meeting last night.

Before I go into detail about our meeting, I first need to share a reflection we had at the end of our meeting last night.

A journey that started over 5 years ago, that was led by the Holy Spirit and a "yes" from my great mentor, Jim, came full circle last night. I was a wife in need of someone to talk to regarding how alcohol was impacting the lives of my loved one(s), and he answered his phone. It then led to a breakfast at a hometown diner, and the rest, well, last night is where we are. Last night I counted 18 participants gathering to talk about their Catholic faith and their recovery. Testament to all the goodness of God and the "yes" from my mentor. Please take a minute to pause and give thanks for these words.

Oh my, how good is this!

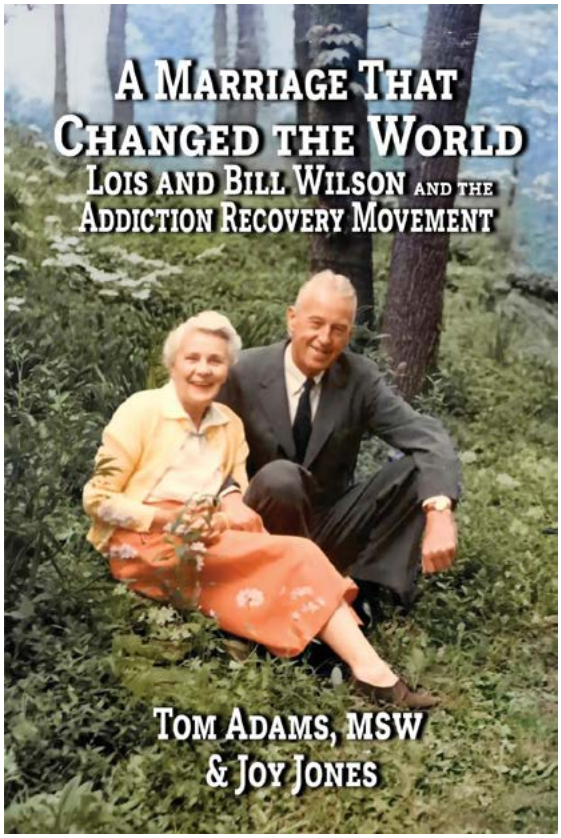
I would like to share some highlights from our conversation last night: Spiritual Nuggets from the Calix Retreat held Aug. 7-9. I'll share the takeaways in more bullet-point form:

* Last night we had 18 participants from all over: Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Tennessee
* All met to share in the goodness of their Catholic Faith and Recovery
* Gratitude expressed for this group, fellowship, Catholic faith, and recovery
* Joy expressed for meeting nice people
* Retreat was well organized.
* Welcome Susan Haibeck as the new Calix President
* Retreat members felt supported and loved
* Faith and hope were received along with the support of others
* Never underestimate your ability to help other alcoholics
* A phone call is important
* "Jesus loved sinners. He doesn't require perfection"
* "I had to let God love me as I am"
* "Keep Going....Keep hopeful"
* "Jesus loves us as we are but too much to keep us that way."
* "Left the retreat with a Spiritual High"
* The Rosary - The Addiction Rosary was said together

* We are all saints in the making.
* Meet others and join in the faith
* Ask God and God provides the help
* Participant(s) left feeling open to their Catholic faith and felt less shame
* Comfort found in the acceptance of sinners
* God accepts us as we are
* Feast of St. Dominic was Sept 8 (St. Dominic listened deeply for God's Word spoken in the heart of each person, especially those whose lives were marked by suffering and great need.)
* The Catholic faith and AA https://www.aa.org/ are very much so blended
* Bill W had a spiritual director
* Commonalities of Ignatian prayer and the 12 steps
* The honor it was to hear all the speakers who shared their testimonies.
* It is important to have a spiritual director/confessor
* It is important to have a sponsor in recovery
* It was nice to see collaboration with Catholics in Recovery https://catholicinrecovery.com/ and Calix https://www.calixsociety.org/, and it was beautiful to see how they complement each other.
* It was nice to see Scott Weeman from Catholic in Recovery at our retreat and the great impact and presence that he had on other participants in the retreat.
* AA is good for the Body; Calix is good for the soul
* Calix tends to have a deeper dive into the Catholic faith
* Calix is blessed by the Pope
* Calix is all-volunteer
* Calix tends to take a deeper dive into the Catholic faith when compared to Catholics in recovery.
* The movie Matt Talbot, the Urban Mystic was very touching and informative https://youtu.be/a0x6YNgcSnY?si=y2idjxJiGzsG1TOP
* The Spiritual Director of Calix is Father Roland. He was present with the group the entire weekend. He offered the following: Adoration, Mass, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, private and community prayer, the rosary, community meal blessings, fellowship, prayer, and so much more for the entire group. His presence was a true blessing and gift from God.
* Become a member of Calix https://www.calixsociety.org/membership/
* Together, those in AA and Al-Anon can help each other heal. https://al-anon.org/
* Father Charlie Becker came and offered Mass and a beautiful homily.

Reading resources:
* A Marriage that Changed the World: by Tom Adams MSW and Joy Jones (Lois and Bill Wilson and Addiction Recovery Movement)
* Father Ed: by Dawn Eden Goldstein (The Story of Bill W,'s Spiritual Sponsor)
* The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments: by Scott Weeman
* The Recovery Rosary: A Catholic in Recovery Book

* The Catholic in Recovery Workbook: A Catholic in Recovery Book



I am certain I missed some information; please know it wasn't intentional. Please share this goodness with those close to your heart and in need of healing. I firmly believe sharing the goodness of Calix may be an answered prayer for someone. Just like when Jim answered his phone when I called. My life and my family's life are different because of his "yes." Please know God will provide the graces that you need when you say "yes" too.

You all remain in my prayers.

Peace and love,
Christine K.

Twice Gifted — *Jim R.*

I was born in a small Wisconsin town and alcohol was woven into the fabric of everyday life.

Every life event or gathering involved drinking - Baptism, First Communions, Birthdays, Funerals.

Bar stops after work, beer at softball, Bloody Marys on neighbors decks after morning chores.

Each meal required an alcohol beverage option. That included post dinner drinks, and late night booze soaked cards or game nights

I started at 14, honing my drinking skills for eventual " graduation" to college and intense "over imbibing "

I graduated from college and then attended law school, gaining my law degree. I practiced for several years.

During my work as a corporate attorney, I was given an opportunity to join the business

world and accepted it. The job involved marketing and socializing with clients. And an expense account that encouraged consuming large quantities of alcohol with them.

The disease is progressive and its hold on me deepened.

I spiraled downward and eventually led to bottoming out at age 59. After failed attempt in my early 50s, I found sobriety and am now 7 years sober.

I was a box checking Catholic. A lector, parish council member and volunteer at church, I was by all appearances devout and dedicated. In truth, my spirituality was empty and my alcoholism ruled life choices. It resulted in numerous dubious behavior actions.

I was fortunate to have a sponsor that led me to Catholic based faith groups. Gradually my spirituality grew and deepened. It remains a key component of my recovery program.

Shortly after celebrating my 5 years sobriety date I was diagnosed with early stage liver disease. I managed it with medicine and it worsened. My liver was failing and mortality was in question. The medical team advised I needed a liver transplant or I would die. Debilitating sickness invaded and I was desperate. It is a challenge to get on the eligible list and when on it, no guarantee a liver would become available before it was too late.

I recall being alone in my hospital bed and asking God " Why me?". I was adrift spiritually.

In the middle of the night on one occasion, in pain and mental anguish, I angrily advised my nurses I was gonna leave the hospital announcing " if I was gonna die, I'm gonna do it home". I was giving up.

The next morning as I readied myself to leave, a Catholic ministry volunteer came into my room. Seeing my despair he sensed my reluctance to engage him. He was gentle, offering to simply sit or pray with me. I was not interested. He then reached in his pocket and told me he could give me the blessed host, the body of Christ.

I accepted it. I didn't leave the hospital and in the ensuing days a revelation occurred to me. For me that man was Jesus Christ in human form. The message was clear. " Don't give up. I have you in the palm of my hand".

After an arduous medical odyssey, I was given a liver transplant July 30, 2025. My recovery has been phenomenal and am now in excellent medical condition.

My sustained sobriety had allowed me to be eligible. I was grateful for the tools of re-

covery program. Acceptance, gratitude, patience, and reliance on a higher power.

At times it was challenging to pick up the tools. My recovery family was there to carry them for me and build me up.

During those dark days, my AA and faith based recovery groups gave me a collective hug and didn't let go. There were countless prayers , cards, calls, texts, and visits to my bedside. Aid and help given to for my wife and family. Priests gave me the annointing of the sick and prayed with me. People took me to recovery meetings and had them at my house.

Working my recovery program and armed with spirituality and faith, I persevered.

I have been Twice Gifted :

• Sustained sobriety

• New life with my transplanted liver.

Gratitude swells in me each day.

Body Prayer

These bodies you gave us, God...
please help us be a little more patient when they disappoint us,
and a little more respectful when they need something from us,
and a little more grateful when they take such good care of us.
Because we are just down here doing our best with what we've been given.
Amen

Judith's Journey

Judith A.

[Reprinted with permission from Catholic Charities, South Jersey - Addictions Healing & Recovery Newsletter, Volume 6, Issue 9, September 1, 2026 Issue]



"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven." - Luke 6:37

Right before I start to write my reflection each month, I pray and I listen to some of my favorite worship songs and sing along. I ask God to help me write a message of hope that will help someone suffering in silence. I can't help but feel not just myself, but all the encouragement and love from loved ones I have lost along the way. Some to drugs, some to suicide ,some to cancer or stroke. I feel their love in me. So that when I write, I am telling our testimony, instead of just my testimony. It is all of us together through God's plan. I feel inside that they push me forward and give me strength and safety through God. In some way I feel that God is giving them a voice through me. All I know is it gives me a warm, safe feeling and that is such a comfort to me.

I used drugs and alcohol for many years I struggled and struggled for so long. That life changed me little by little into someone I didn't recognize anymore. I felt hopeless through so many failures and full of shame. I was walking shame and walking grief and I was totally paralyzed in this horror. I know now that I was crippled and silenced by drug addiction so that God could get me to stop and listen to Him. I felt so empty and sad that I had no words left. My spirit was dead and didn't want to live anymore. I didn't know it then but God had given me the greatest gift. He had given me the gift of desperation. I went as far as I could doing my way. Now I knew for sure that I did not have any more bright ideas. I had to be taught a new way of life and now I was willing to try. I still doubted anything would work but I went on blind faith and hung on for my life and

for my precious son *who I wanted so badly to make proud of me.*

I knew I had a hard road ahead of me but I figured that I had been walking straight through hell for years and I thought let me just follow some direction from other recovering people. Let me just stay willing to keep trying every day. One day at a time slowly but surely I started getting better. It brings tears to my eyes when I think of coming through unimaginable pain; to now , I have a peaceful heart and a life that is not only worth living but it is my honor to live. I know that I am now holding on to a hope that won't fade. I have a faith that warms me up and I want to share this fire with anyone who wants it.

I want as many people as possible to warm up to the love of Jesus in addiction recovery. Feeling the presence of God in my life lets me know that I am standing on solid ground. I can't say I have felt this steady, warm comforting feeling ever in my life. I always had fear that everything could get taken from me if I didn't follow the rules or dare to be different. Dare to have different interests or different ideas than the norm. Today I don't have to debate anyone about what is right or wrong. Because it doesn't matter what I am right about. It matters only how I live. It matters that I know I am trying to make a difference no matter how small. I try (not perfectly) to live as an example the best I can because I know without a doubt that it makes God happy. I am on the right path (not a painless path), but a sacred path that is trying to stay lit up so that anyone suffering in silence can come to God and warm up. He has walked beside me in the dark. He called on me to sing his praise! I got up out of my bed of shame and set my eyes on Jesus.



"Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." - Colossians 3:13

Obituary for Lloyd P.

Galzerano Funeral Home



Lloyd J. Patton passed away on June 12, 2026. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, mentor, and man of faith whose impact will be felt for generations.

Lloyd was the beloved husband of 54 years to his wife Patricia A. Patton, and together they built a life centered on faith, family, and service to others. He was a proud father to Kevin L. Patton (Stacey) and Colleen Patton O'Brien, and a devoted grandfather to Sean Patton O'Brien. Loving brother to Stephen Patton (Charlotte), Marianne Patton, and Barbara Patton (Don).

Lloyd dedicated 27 years of his life to serving his community as a Middletown Township police officer. During his law enforcement career, he founded and operated his own accident reconstruction business for nearly 20 years, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike through his professionalism, expertise, and integrity.

His commitment to helping others extended beyond his career. Lloyd was a Coast Guard veteran. He was an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police and devoted countless hours to supporting first responders struggling with addiction through Bottles and Badges. He also served as a board member of the Calix Society, helping Catholic men and women in recovery strengthen their sobriety through faith and fellowship.

A deeply faithful man, Lloyd was a dedicated member of Our Lady of Grace Parish for more than 50 years. His faith guided every aspect of his life and inspired his service to others, his commitment to family, and his compassion for those in need.

Above all else, Lloyd loved his family. He treasured time spent with his children and especially his grandson, Sean. The bond they shared was truly special and brought Lloyd immeasurable joy. Through stories, laughter, guidance, and simple presence, he cherished every moment with Sean.

Lloyd will be remembered for his public service, wisdom, unwavering faith, and willingness to help anyone in need. He touched countless lives through his service, friendship, and generosity. He was loved by many and leaves behind a legacy of faith, compassion, and devotion to family.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, where Lloyd enjoyed serving as a before-school program aide and occasional substitute teacher. Supporting the school would be a meaningful way to honor his commitment to faith, education, and the children of the parish community. Please follow this link to send gifts or leave a message for the family.

Though his presence will be deeply missed, the lessons he taught, the lives he touched, and the love he shared will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

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 fourth 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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