



the Chalice

Volume 44

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Issue No. 1



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Bruce G.

Dear Calix Family,

Please allow me to start this President's Column with a 10th Step Amends. We did not get the Nov-Dec 2016 issue published at the end of the year. I apologize. Publishing The Chalice is an important responsibility that we take seriously, and we will strive to publish in a timely fashion. We who serve on your Board and as officers of the Calix Society will, with God's help, do our best to serve you in the upcoming months.

There has been a great deal of activity with the Board and within the Calix Society over the past couple of months. Let me start filling you in by expressing my gratitude to Jim B from St. Paul, MN for the exemplary service he has provided this organization for the past many years. Jim has been serving as both the Treasurer and Secretary of the Calix Society for many, many years. Last fall, Jim gave us notice that he wanted to retire from both jobs. He graciously continued to serve while we looked for volunteers to fill these positions. These positions have now been filled, and so I want to thank Jim B, on behalf of all Calix members, for his selfless service in keeping the Calix Society functioning so smoothly. Jim B will

continue to contribute as a Board member for the foreseeable future.

Ken J of the Gray's Ferry, (Philadelphia) unit, is now serving in the position of Treasurer. Ken is a past President, and has been serving on the Board. He also runs the Calix web site store, so all order fulfillment is done by him. We welcome Ken to his new role and look forward to publishing a report from him in a future edition of The Chalice.

Christina (Chris) B is a new Board member coming to us from the Leesburg, VA (NoVA) unit. Chris is now serving as Secretary. We welcome her to this role and thank her for her willingness to serve. Look for a biography from Chris in the next edition.

Father Douglas McKay has agreed to become our new Calix Society Chaplain, and we are deeply blessed honored to have him providing us with spiritual direction. You will read his biography and thoughts on Why Calix later in this edition. Welcome Fr. McKay!

The search is still on for a new Editor for The Chalice. Perhaps one of you readers would like to take un this challenge? Michael S, our most recent editor, is no longer able to devote the time required due to work and family commitments. We thank Mike for editing many fine issues of this newsletter for the past two years, and we wish him the best.

President's Column, (cont. from pg. 1)

And as a final bit of news, on March 25, 2017 the Solemnity of the Annunciation, we will be renewing the Consecration of the entire Calix Society to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary. There will be a Mass celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 9:30 am in Washington, D.C. All Calix members and friends are welcome to attend. For those unable to join us, be ask that you join us in praying the Consecration Renewal prayer published in this newsletter.

Pax Tecum,
-BG

President's Christmas Message

It is the last Sunday of Advent, and I am full of anticipation for the birth of our Lord on Christmas Day! This Advent season has been a great time of anticipation and preparation. Last week, as part of my preparation, I had an opportunity to attend an Advent Day of Reflection. The priest giving the reflection started his talk with a passage from Genesis:

“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.” [Gn 3:15]

To be frank, this scripture passage did not make me think of Christmas. But the good father explained that we do not usually think of women as having “seeds,” so this statement implies a virgin birth. And the one born of the Virgin is Jesus, through whom the serpent is crushed. As I learned, this passage is known as the “Protoevangelium,” and it demonstrates God’s great love for us in that from the beginning of the world, He planned for our redemption.

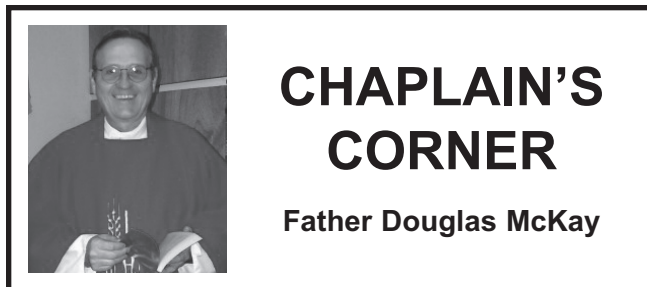
Why mention this story here? Well, in the last edition of The Chalice I invited you to reflect on the place Mary plays in your own recovery, and to consider how she might play a greater role in our Calix Society as a whole. We are about to commemorate Our Lady bringing her seed, Jesus, into the world to crush the head of the serpent. During this Christmas season, should not we be asking our Blessed Mother to bring Jesus into our lives to crush alcoholism, drug addiction and co-dependence in our lives?

As for our Calix Society, if we want to see as many souls as possible maintain sobriety, grow spiritually and strive for sanctification of the whole personality, the time seems right to renew our trust in the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary through a formal act of consecration of the society to her Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. The Preamble to Calix Society Bylaws states that we are “established under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” To entrust our society to her Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart will demonstrate our faith in her intercession for ourselves and for those “still out there.” Our Lady’s aid, as Mediatrix of All Graces and Mother of Mercy, seems essential to putting the 12th Step into action as Catholics.

March 25, 2017 the Solemnity of the Annunciation seems to me to be the perfect day for this act of consecration. The Annunciation marks the start of the redemption of man through Our Lord’s Incarnation, and it is through our Eucharistic Lord that we maintain our sobriety and grow in Christ’s peace.

Merry Christmas - I cannot wait!

Pax Tecum,
-BG



OUR NEW CHAPLAIN

Father Douglas McKay, O.F.S., was ordained in 1982 for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As a secular priest, he has ministered in parishes, hospitals, prisons, schools, playgrounds, bars, and on the streets. For 21 years, he has been the Chaplain of Holy Family Home serving the aged with the Little Sisters of the Poor. In 2011, he authored *Heaven's Homecoming*, a book describing his experiences with the elderly, especially in their hour of death. Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York wrote the foreword. Father McKay is also the Founder and Chaplain of Our House Ministries, Inc., an addiction center, established in 1997 in the Grays Ferry section of the city. He is, as well, a Secular Franciscan and a Pioneer of the Sacred Heart. Last, but not least, he is also the Chaplain of the Calix Society, Philadelphia Unit. Father resides in Grays Ferry above his mission Chapel of Saint Michael's in his home parish of Saint Gabriel's.

THE WHY OF CALIX FOR US

*Father Douglas McKay, O.F.S.
Grays Ferry, Philadelphia*

On my knees, I knelt before His Real Presence in thanksgiving for the honor of becoming the New Chaplain of the Calix Society. Humbly, before the Eucharistic Lord, I pleaded for His grace to help me keep 'the Cup that Sanctifies' to be the Heart of our society, not just part of our society. So help me God!

As a seminarian, I began my life-long work in my home parish, Saint Gabriel's, helping addicted persons by bringing food to them, finding shelter for them, and praying over them. Also, on the streets, I handed out reading materials on the life of Venerable Matt Talbot, a recovering alcoholic, who could and would inspire other addicts to sobriety, sanity, and especially sanctity.

During my long years of priesthood, I stayed close to my home parish community. In the neighborhood, I visited the bars to distribute sacramentals—like rosaries, scapulars, and medals, especially Miraculous Medals—to all the smokers, drinkers, and addicts. Also, as their priest, I could bless them, anoint them, and hear their confessions.

In 1997, on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our House Ministries began with the Opening of our first recovery house where I ministered the sacraments and counseled the doubtful. Also, once a week in our chapel house, I offered Mass for the community members who suffered with alcohol and drug abuse. Soon, we added more houses to become recovery homes, and we added another weekly night to teach the

The Why of Calix for Us, (cont. from pg. 3)

members of Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotic Anonymous about the graceful tools to conquer addiction, emphasizing the spiritual treasures of our Catholic faith.

After growing in numbers, Father Michael Lee, O.Praem, the Pastor of Saint Gabriel's Church, at that time, offered our ministry an abandoned school complex to rehab which we named Saint Raphael's ARC: Addiction Recovery Center. It was also at that time, during one of our Board meetings, that we first heard about the Calix Society from Joe C, one of our ministry members. After he explained the 'Why of Calix' to us, I said to the group, "Well, we're already doing the *Why of Calix*, so let's just keep doing it."

Then, we dismissed Calix from our meeting and our minds.

However, that same week, Father Lee gave Kathy D. an informational packet to give to me about the Calix Society. The packet was put together by Ken J., Amy N. and the Glenside unit and then sent to all the pastors in the archdiocese.

"Hmm," I thought, "Is it odd, or is it God?"

Immediately, believing that it was truly God behind it all, I took the phone number from the heavenly sent packet and called Jim B, Secretary of the Calix Society. As he inspired me about 'the best kept secret' in the Church, I realized that the ministry of Calix and the ministry of Our House were just like 'two peas in the same pod'. What I thought about founding was already founded.

In my excitement, Jim gave me the phone number of Ken J. of the Glenside Unit. That same day I called and invited him to come and speak to us about the society. The following Tuesday, he came to our spiritual recovery meeting and inspired us all. Then, we began Calix in our Grays Ferry Community.

This man, Ken, sent by God, never left our recovery ministry. In fact, he became and remains the third President of Our House Ministries. On June 30, 2014, Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. reassigned me from part-time Chaplain to full-time Chaplain of Our House Ministries.

Indeed, 'we substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies'. At Our House, we continue to promote the Good News of our Calix Society for the Honor and Glory of God, for the Salvation of Souls, and for Our Own Sanctification. And, that is, *The Why of Calix for us*.

**Blessed Virgin Mary
Consecration Renewal
March 25, 2017**

March 25, 2017 the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the perfect day for the Calix Society's Act of Consecration to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Annunciation marks the start of the redemption of man through Our Lord's Incarnation, and it is through our Eucharistic Lord that we maintain our sobriety and grow in Christ's peace.

This date also marks the anniversary of Our Lady's words to St. Bernadette at Lourdes: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Mary was created Immaculate to be the Mother of God, and of all of us. It is her Immaculate Heart that purifies all of our prayers, and supplications as she presents our needs to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The waters of Lourdes symbolize this purification process and remind us of the forgiveness available to us for our past harms. Finally, March 25th marks the anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's Act of Entrustment of the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God in fulfillment of a request Our Lady first mentioned at Fatima. Fatima reminds us of Mary's Sorrows, and her call to pray and do penance in reparation for sin. Whether we are making amends, or carrying the message to others, the Blessed Virgin Mary's help is most certainly needed.

Therefore, we will renew to the Blessed Virgin Mary the testimony of our devotion, and to demonstrate our trust and confidence

in her patronage, we, as members of the Calix Society, join together in professing an Act of Consecration to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, 2017. The prayer for this Act of Consecration is provide on next page.

Blessed Virgin Mary, (cont. from pg. 5)

Immaculate Virgin!

We your children gather once again to honor you, and to renew the consecration of ourselves and our Calix Society to your most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, trusting that in your Motherly love for us, you will take pity on us and implore Mercy for us from the Sacred Heart of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Immaculate Virgin!

Your spotless spiritual beauty is for us a living source of confidence and hope.

To have you as Mother, Holy Virgin, reassures us on the path of life as a pledge of eternal salvation.

Because of this, O Mary, we have recourse to you with confidence.

Help us to build a world where human life is always cherished and defended, every form of violence banished, the peace of all tenaciously

sought.

Immaculate Virgin!

Grant that we may celebrate and adore with renewed faith and ardent love the holy mystery of the Body and Blood of Christ.

At your school, O Woman of the Eucharist, teach us to remember the marvels that God never ceases to work in human hearts.

With motherly tenderness, Virgin Mary, guide our steps always on the path of good.

Amen!

Adapted from Pope St. John Paul II's tribute on Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Wednesday, 8 December 2004, the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

From the Calix Archives

Outgoing Security Jim B of St. Paul, MN has been maintaining the archives of the Calix Society for many years. As we prepare for the 60th Annual Calix Society Retreat in St. Paul (August 4 -6th), Jim has been going through these archives, looking for interesting material to share. Recently he found a newspaper clipping with the obituary of the founding leader of the society, Will J. Montroy. This obituary is transcribed below.

After you read some of the details of Calix's founding in Montroy's obituary, try recalling a bit of the Gospel According to Mark:

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." [Mk 2 :3-5]

See if you see any parallels between the two stories. If you do, think about to what length you are personally willing to go to help someone else in recovery.

William J. Montroy

Memorial services were held in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Dec. 16 for William Montroy, retired executive of Our Own Hardware and founder of the Calix Society. Montroy, 76, died Dec. 13 in a Scottsdale hospital following a long illness.

A native of Minneapolis, Montroy started working for Our Own Hardware when he was 24, according to his wife, Janet, of Scottsdale. He worked for the company 46 years and was executive vice president when he retired in 1970, she said.

Montroy founded the Calix Society, which helps provide spiritual help for recovering alcoholics, in 1947 when he himself was a recovering alcoholic, according to Raymond "Bud" Dickinson, the society's executive director.

"The society started at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Minneapolis with Bill and four other recovering alcoholics. Bill was the leader," Dickinson said.

He said the men held weekly meetings, and went to Mass every morning in an effort to help a priest who had a drinking problem. "Sometimes the priest would attend, sometimes not. But they worked with him in and out of church and eventually he recovered," Dickinson said.

The Calix (Latin for Chalice) Society, is now an international organization with 70 chapters most of them in the United States, Dickinson said. He said that while the society is a Catholic organization "it excludes no one, and anyone who wants to attend its meetings can."

Montroy was the last surviving member of the five men who started the meetings, Dickinson said.

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THE CALIX SOCIETY

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The expiration date will always be at the end of the year.

Consider joining the Gratitude Club.