



# the Chalice

Volume 49

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Issue No. 1



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Gaylen E.

First things first - Happy New Year to all our Calix friends and members! Welcome to the Roaring Twenties 2.0! Say goodbye to the past year and the last decade.

What miracles await us in this coming year and decade? **One thing we know with certainty, we have cause for hope.** A hope born in Fellowship and recovery, through God's grace and His Church.

A hope born in an Eternal God, 'in whom mercy is endless, and whose treasury of compassion is inexhaustible'. A hope that has become a reality because of our faith in Christ.

What miracles of change have occurred in our lives this past ten years? For many of us, a spiritual awakening took place, the awareness of God's presence in our daily lives. And the miracle of sobriety and recovery, which opens our minds and hearts to this reality.

The miracle of life itself! We are still here! So many have died from this disease that we share. Many of us have experienced the miraculous gift of new life. Sons and daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews have been born.

Many have also experienced the loss of loved ones. Wives and husbands. Fathers and Mothers, brothers and sisters, friends and family. But we hold tight in faith to God's promise of the miracle of eternal life in His presence. *With certainty, we all have cause for Hope!*

Welcome also to a new year of the Calix Chalice, and thank you to Fr Doug, all our contributors, and our skilled editor Chris B. There are some amazing articles in this edition of the Chalice, whose theme is the sacrament of Baptism.

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**President's Column, by Gaylen E. (Continued)**

I am particularly struck by Fr McKay's reflection on his first-grade lesson on the 'Paschal Indelible Mark' of Baptism. God writes his name on our souls to show that we are His own children.

My family threw a birthday party for my oldest brother Gary yesterday as he turned seventy, and I am reminded of this truth. My parents had all five of us children baptized and put us through parochial grade and high school, no small feat for a hard-working blue-collar family. We were raised in the Church. Yet for various reasons, we all found ourselves walking away, as had many others, ignoring the 'mark' that had been given us. Throughout the years, my brother Gary, an intellectual with an adventurous and curious soul had at one point become particularly opposed to all organized religion, as had I.

But about that indelible mark of God on our souls...

On the recent Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Bishop Robert Barron wrote this: "We are—all of us—born into a deeply dysfunctional world, a world conditioned by millennia of selfishness, cruelty, injustice, stupidity, and fear.... That's why Baptism involves being born again, lifted up, enlightened, transformed, saved. **Jesus said, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you."** (Mathew 3:13-17). Baptism is the sacramental ratification of that choice."

All of us kids in my family had been washed free of sins through Baptism. But God gave us free will. And as humans we are all prone to concupiscence: sin, that 'darkening of the mind and weakening of the will, the inability to know right from wrong and the lack of strength to resist temptation'. Not that we thought of it that way. As children of the times, some of us freely demanded the right to do whatever we felt like, whenever we felt like it. Some of us, by our decisions through the years, found ourselves still restless, still seeking more. And for some of us like me, by demanding this unlimited freedom, we wrapped ourselves in the chains of alcoholism and addiction.

*"Some of us freely demanded the right to do whatever we felt like, whenever we felt like it."*

Eventually, both Gary and I found the answers to our questions in the Church. He is now very active in the parish of our youth, and takes great pleasure in being a Eucharistic minister, where he brings Christ's message of Love and Hope to the local nursing homes. His passion in retirement is his creation of a website called 'Hymns and Chants'. [Hymnsandchants.com](http://Hymnsandchants.com)

Clearly, God had chosen Gary and has 'marked' his soul, and he has come to believe and accept this fact. As have I, thank God!

**President’s Column, by Gaylen E. (Continued)**

**Cause for Hope** - As the US Catholic Catechism for Adults states, “The effects of Original Sin need not harm us so long as we seek strength to resist them through the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Eucharist, prayer, a deepening spirituality, growth in virtue, and a wholehearted dependence on God.”

And for those of us suffering from alcoholism and addiction, we know that the Sacraments applied to our 12 Step programs have so profoundly enhanced our ability to maintain abstinence, grow spiritually, and strive towards holiness and sanctification. A new life in a new decade, and the promise of an eternal life with Christ in the next.

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You may remember in the last edition of the Chalice, we outlined the Calix Committee structures that has been put in place to more effectively carry our message of hope and recovery through our faith. And we explained the need and desire for our unit members to volunteer to join with us in these efforts. Thank you to those that have volunteered. But we still need more.

**A Call to Holiness**

Remember, the Catechism teaches us that Baptism is a call to holiness. “Baptism is the door to life and the Kingdom of God. The baptized are called to transform the world with the light and power of the Gospel.”

*“...we tried to carry this message ...”*

So too, in our 12<sup>th</sup> Step, we have a call to action: “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message...”.

Please help us with your prayers and, if possible, with your willingness to see how you might be able to help our committees carry the Calix message of hope in recovery through Christ, His Church, and His Sacraments.

We ask our Calix members to review these opportunities and ask yourself how you might be able to help. Where might your skills or interests best be applied? Our efforts can only bear fruit through your participation. Weather you have a little or a lot of time to offer, I assure you that your efforts will make a difference.

***Please contact Volunteer@calixsociety.org if you are interested in participating in any capacity – even if you’re not sure how you can help.***

With God’s help, let’s make this new year and this new decade a better one for all of us and especially those in need whom we can serve.

**Announcements**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



- The 2020 Annual Calix Retreat will be held on August 28-30, 2020 in Stillwater, MN. Flights should be arranged to the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport, and transportation to the retreat center will be provided from the airport.



- The 2021 Annual Calix Retreat will be in the Washington, D.C. / Northern Virginia area. More information to follow!
- Where will the 2022 Annual Calix Retreat be? What about hosting it in your city? 😊

**Web Designer Sought!**

Do you have Web design experience? Are you looking for a way to serve?

We are looking for help with our national Web site, [www.calixsociety.org](http://www.calixsociety.org)

If you're interested, please contact [Volunteer@calixsociety.org](mailto:Volunteer@calixsociety.org). **Thanks!!!**

**New Online Meeting Added**

Due to the popularity of the existing online meeting and the availability of its members, an additional online meeting has been added. Here are the details:

- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month – 8:00 p.m. ET \*\*\*NEW\*\*\*
- 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month – 8:00 p.m. ET



You do not need to be a Calix member to join the meeting. All you need to do is contact our fearless president, Gaylen E., at [gaylenemond@gmail.com](mailto:gaylenemond@gmail.com), and he will send you the login information.

Have you been to an online Calix meeting? They are awesome for people who cannot physically attend a local meeting due to proximity, health, childcare, etc. They are awesome for people who already attend local meetings but want to try a new meeting. Also, you can join via internet or phone. Give it a try!

**That Paschal Indelible Mark, by Fr. Doug McKay**

In the first grade, Sister Patrick Maureen told our class that at Baptism, we received an *indelible* mark on our souls. To explain that big word, she erased the board, saying, “Not indelible!” Then, in her blue habit with her rosary swinging at her side, she stood up on her chair, reached high, and tried to erase the colorful printed ‘ABC’ cards. “Indelible!” she proclaimed. “No erasing!”

Jumping down and smacking the chalk dust off her hands, she asked, “How many of you got your name on your things?” Remembering that my mother wrote my name inside my Catechism book, and my father wrote my name with a black marker on my baseball bat, I raised my hand along with my classmates. “You see, children, you got your name on your things to show that they are yours. Right?” We nodded. “In the same way, God writes your name in His Book of Life and signs His *indelible* mark on your souls to show that you are His special children belonging to Him.”

As a priest, later on in life, I would often wonder about that indelible mark. The baptismal rite made me ponder it. By the waters of Baptism, original sin is erased and we are Christened—rooted and grafted in Christ—*like a branch on the vine*. The anointing with the Chrism symbolizes our sharing with Christ as priest, prophet, and king. The white garment symbolizes our new creation by being clothed in Christ. And our baptismal candle, lit from the Paschal candle, symbolizes our incorporation into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to be His brothers and sisters. The baptismal ceremony tells and shows and proclaims that we are God’s very own children, indelibly marked by Him.

Also, at the end of earthly life, the funeral rite—which I like to call the graduation ceremony—proclaims the same baptismal truth. When our remains are carried into Church, the casket or urn may stop near the baptismal font. Usually the font will be octagon, emphasizing the *Eighth Day*: from my last temporal days into His Eternal Day.

*“By the waters of  
Baptism ... We  
[become] like a branch  
on the vine.”*

Here, at the font, symbolizing the baptismal waters of the deceased person, the priest sprinkles the casket with holy water, saying, “*In the waters of Baptism, N. died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May he/she now share with Him eternal glory.*” After the priestly prayer, the casket is covered with the white Pall, symbolizing the white garment of Baptism when the deceased person was clothed into Jesus Christ. Between the altar and the casket or urn, the priest incenses the Paschal candle symbolizing the incorporation of the baptized person into the death, resurrection, and eternal life of Jesus Christ—indelibly marked for it.

*Continued on next page*

## That Paschal Indelible Mark, by Fr. Doug McKay (Continued)

Still today, I wonder about that incredible indelible mark? What exactly is it? Does the Holy Trinity actually sign His name on our foreheads—**GOD**—to show the world, the flesh, and the devil that we belong to Him? Or is it something even more personal?

After celebrating many baptisms and funerals, through my priesthood, I was struck with an epiphany. Knowing that the Sacrament of Baptism incorporated me into Christ, rooted and grafted me into Him, and made me one with Him, I suddenly realized that the Paschal Mystery—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—*is* the Indelible Mark!

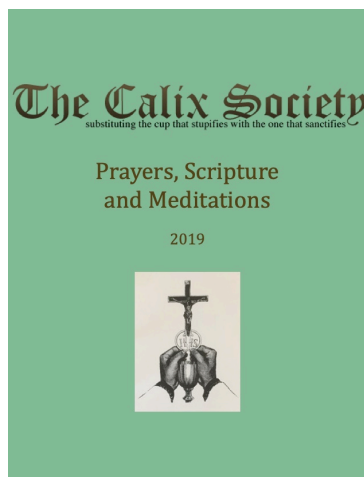
We can see *It* in the lives of the saints, especially in the stigmatic saints, like Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio, who showed forth through their mortal bodies their own Paschal Indelible Mark.

Therefore, I believe, through Baptism, we too received the character mark of the five glory wounds of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ who already claimed us into His Own Triune Divinity. Through the baptismal waters, along with Saint Paul, each one of us can proclaim, “*I no longer live I, but Christ lives in me.*” Indeed, I can conquer all things in Him—even the grave!

Truly, we the baptized—thanks be to Jesus Christ, our life and our death and our resurrection—are indeed God’s very own and eternal children, signed and sealed with *That Paschal Indelible Mark*.

Father Douglas McKay O.F.S.  
Calix Chaplain

## Calix Prayers, Scripture and Meditations Book – Free!



Contact editor Chris B. at  
[christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com](mailto:christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com)  
with your address for a copy.

**Baptism Article, by Jim R.**

Baptism is a holy Sacrament that christens our life into the Church. The waters of rebirth wash over us.

Water is life. Water is essential for a plant to grow and bear fruit; and without water, a plant will wilt and die. The waters of Baptism impart the life of Christ and enable Christians to grow spiritually and bear an abundant yield of good deeds in the vineyard of life.

Another liquid contains water and can be poison – alcohol. It is the opposite of the baptismal waters. It pulls us away from God and the promise of Baptism. Shortly after birth and into our young years, we had hopefully developed habits of goodness. While we had this promise of God being with us and giving us strength after Baptism, for alcoholics we headed down a path that pulled us away.

When one is accustomed to drinking in a society that not only fosters, but encourages every social event to be with alcohol, it becomes a habit. A hometown culture. It was “ok” for kids to drink in their teens. It was the norm. A habit. It continued in college and adulthood. Acceptable and even encouraged.

In an alcoholic mind, it can be handled. One can work and function. One would even regularly go to church, and drink after. One has their kids baptized, and post-celebration parties ensue with an Irish fervor. Each event religious and secular, came with it plenty of doses of alcohol. It is after all what “we did”. Sure there were times when one was better at controlling the urges, but alcoholism was always nearby waiting to pounce like the devil. Slowly, the baptismal water dried up and was replaced by other dangerous fluids. Our self will made us think we could handle it. We started failing to notice Jesus walking next to us. He never left us. We wandered from him. Failing to reach for his hand. His “will” no longer being done.

*“We started failing to notice Jesus walking next to us.”*

Eventually when faced with life consequences – death or injury to those around us or on the roads, loss of family and friends, gainful work loss, abandoning the gift of “true” giving, and ultimate death to our soul and to our body through failed health or by accident – we sought treatment. This was only the beginning. We had to begin to get closer to God and let those baptismal waters cleanse us. We worked the 12 Steps, and quickly realized it is a spiritual program. We saw that in steps two and three, we needed to believe again in a power greater than us and that we had to turn our will over to God. We needed a rebirth.

For many treatment was at first a “fixing” mechanism. Fix it and it shall be over and done with. About halfway through, we realized that this will probably be with us for life. A fellow said come to AA. What? Really?



**Baptism Article, by Jim R. (Continued)**

So after resistance, we looked it up and did some research. Maybe this thing works. Still fighting it, we went by the AA meeting place a few times and didn't venture in. But then a God moment got us back there. We can look at AA and Calix meetings by using the rule of "threes". If it is important enough of a topic, have three things to say about it. If it's less than two, probably not that important to you. If it is more than three, the message is diluted.

So we could easily craft a plan – why AA and Calix? Threes---

**Prayerful Time** - Isn't it a good thing to spend time scheduling and going to and from a meeting focusing on your alcoholism? Thinking about the God steps in two and three? That prayerful introspective time is key. It reflects a decision to go to any length as the Big Book tells us.

**Among Fellow Children of God** – Being there with similarly situated with people, sharing your struggles and confronting the disease. Being among others even for an hour, even if you don't talk or share. Isn't that a good thing? There is spirituality in the rooms. Feel it flow. It is an important elixir. See: you've already made progress and had success just doing these 2 items. It didn't really take that much effort! A "win win" if you will.

**Learn** - Of course, there is MORE IF YOU SEIZE IT. As you listen to others who bring all their experiences to the table, all of their counselors' advice, fellow alcoholics' knowledge and explanations; you gather tools to help you. Then at some point, you begin to share and offer. You deepen your understanding of all the steps and see how others "live" the steps of two and three.

In the end, we want to "live" the steps. And be reborn and saved. The baptismal water now begins to flow again, cleaning us from the alcohol. It pours over our soul - just like it did when we were baptized.





**Holiness by Way of God's Graces, by Chris B.**

Fr. Larry Richards asks in his book, Surrender:

"Is holiness one of your goals in your life? It sure should be. We read in Hebrews 12:14 that we are to 'strive for that holiness, without which you will not see the Lord.' Ouch. Read that again. Let it sink in. This is what God says you must do to see Him - strive for holiness."

Yes, I am a recovering alcoholic and addict. And, thanks be to God, I am also part of a group that participates in a lifelong process to strive for holiness. Many might not describe the sobriety journey and the 12 Steps as a path to holiness, but for many of us in recovery, it absolutely is. One day at a time, every day. Realizing that it is human to fail, but now having a better understanding how to get up, and right our wrongs. This is striving for holiness.

When I consider my path to holiness, I am drawn directly to the graces God has given me along the way.

My journey to sobriety began at St. Martin's Ashley, a Catholic rehab facility in Maryland. The priests offered daily Mass, and I went every morning. It had been a long time since I really listened to the words of the Mass, and I was especially struck when the priest lays his hands over the chalice and says: "... Send down Your Spirit like the dewfall".

It was summer when I was at Ashley, and the property was on the edge of a lake which meant morning dew. Throughout my month at Ashley, as I walked across the wet grass ... I meditated on that concept of the Spirit descending like dewfall. I thought about how the dew almost magically appears on those hot summer mornings when it hasn't even rained the previous night. I thought about the plants and animals benefiting from that condensation to sustain them through the hot day to come. What a grace for those creatures. And what a profound concept for us to meditate on during the Mass: how the Holy Spirit comes to us creatures in need and, through the Eucharist, provides us what we need for another day.

Now, seven plus years later, when this Eucharistic Prayer is recited at Mass, I return to those days looking out over the lake during Mass and the many moments that helped to start my new sober life. It's like there's this line in my brain that is brought immediately back to early sobriety and the graces God gave me again and again. Not one Mass goes by that those precious words, "Send Your Spirit down like the dewfall" doesn't help me in small ways or large on my path to holiness.

God brought another extraordinary grace in my life to help me on the path to holiness. When I left for rehab, my mom did an amazing thing. She asked if it was alright if she emailed her friends (mostly from church) to ask for their prayers. I went to rehab when I was

**Holiness by Way of God’s Graces, by Chris B. (continued)**

36 years old, so I was no spring chicken, and I didn't know most of her friends. I said yes and thought at the time what a brave thing for my mom to "come out" with my alcoholism and addiction to her social network.

And then something unusual happened while I was rehab. Almost every day, I received letters and cards from her friends, people I didn’t know, with messages of encouragement and strength. I didn't understand the significance at the time.

But when I came home and decided that the “safest” places for me to stay sober were AA meetings and church, God gave me this remarkable grace. When I was at church, these ladies – friends of my mom whom I didn’t know – would see me, and quietly hug me or squeeze my hand. It made me feel so warmly welcomed and loved there, and not at all like I was wearing some neon sign that said “early recovering alcoholic here!!!”

And what graces were brought to me through these angelic gestures. The women praying for me; strengthening me in cards and letters; connecting with me when I came home to affirm I was not an outcast. They were conduits of God sending down His Spirit like the dewfall, sustaining me with more and more graces. Graces I needed (1) to stay sober and (2) to strive for the holiness that God wants me to attain. Thanks be to God for the graces – large and small – that help me on my path to holiness.

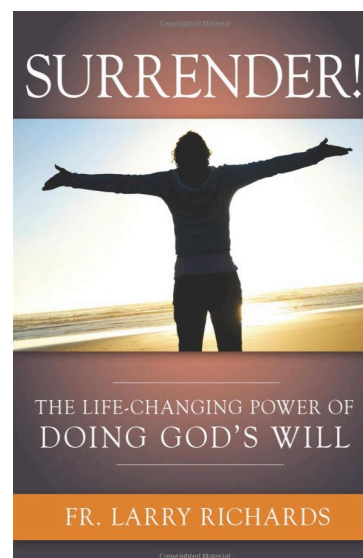
**Our Third Stated Objective: Be a Source of Inspiration and Encouragement**

In 2020, The Chalice is printing reflections from the book, Surrender, particularly how this book relates to our recovery within the 12 Steps and our Catholic faith. (see above article)

Please – if you received this book at the 2019 Calix retreat, consider either submitting a reflection (ie short article), or do a Q&A with Chris B. (editor) so that we can get your thoughts. Don’t forget ... what you say matters and can help someone else!

*“Our association together should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to each other, geared to our growth toward spiritual maturity.”*

- *Second Purpose of The Calix Society, as stated in the Calix Credo*



**Article from the *Catholic Voice* in Omaha, Nebraska****“Calix offers cup of salvation to recovering addicts”**

November 16, 2019 by Susan Szalewski



“Calix,” a word that comes from Latin, means chalice. But for people recovering from addictions, and for others who have suffered their consequences, it means so much more.

For Vern, a recovering alcoholic, Calix brings to mind an uplifting, reassuring, void-filling sense of God’s peace and forgiveness. Kathy, who was married to an alcoholic, says that calix is the cup that holds “the wine of salvation ... of recovery, wellness and wholeness before God.”

The calix Kathy and Vern know is not only the eucharistic chalice but the Calix Society, an international organization with an Omaha chapter that helps those recovering from addictions resist temptation and grow spiritually.

Calix’s approach is Catholic – offering Mass and the sacraments and promoting personal prayer and holiness – but is open also to non-Catholics who want to deepen their spirituality.

“Substituting the cup that stupefies with the one that sanctifies” is the Calix motto.

The Omaha area chapter meets on the last Saturday of each month at New Cassel Retirement Center in Omaha, where participants attend Mass, listen to speakers and enjoy fellowship.

At Calix people aren’t questioned about their addictions and are not pressured in any way, organizers said. Anonymity is ensured.

**IN NEED OF GOD’S HELP**

Kathy and Vern, who belong to Omaha parishes and have been part of Calix for decades, asked not to be fully identified for this article.

They stress that Calix is not a 12-step program like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Rather, it’s geared for those who’ve completed 12-step programs and want to continue their recovery, leaning on God for support.

Recovering addicts learn to turn their lives over to the care of the Lord, surrendering to his will, said Benedictine Father Eugene McReynolds of Mount Michael Abbey near Elkhorn. “That’s where our Catholic faith triumphs.”

Prayer, meditation and “the beauty of the sacraments” have an effect, giving those who struggle the grace needed to live one day at a time.

“We never cease needing God’s help,” said Father McReynolds, Calix’s chaplain.

Vern, 89, has been going to Calix meetings since 1965, shortly after he began his sobriety. And he still needs the support, he said.

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Article from the *Catholic Voice* in Omaha, Nebraska (continued)

“Calix offers cup of salvation to recovering addicts”



November 16, 2019 by Susan Szalewski

Kathy has been going since 1969, after she was forced to separate from her alcoholic husband and raise their three young children without him.

“I haven’t missed very many meetings over the past 50 years,” she said.

**HIGHER POWER**

Leaving her husband “was one of the most difficult choices I’ve ever made,” said the now 79-year-old grandmother, great-grandmother and retired counselor. But she didn’t want to harm her children, who were 3, 2 and 1 at the time.

She joined a 12-step program for support. Father James Schwertley, a longtime Calix chaplain, encouraged her to try Calix, too.

“I had to have a higher power to help me through some of those struggles,” Kathy said. She wasn’t angry with her husband, she said. “He had a terrible disease and made choices he didn’t like.”

“I was disappointed and sad. But I also know I had a responsibility to the children.”

Kathy said she learned her separated husband later tried AA but he wasn’t able to overcome his addiction. He has since died but was able to reconcile with his grown children before his death, she said. At Calix, Kathy said, she found a network that was supportive of families and offered companionship and a “spiritual cohesiveness.”



The chalice symbolizes holy Communion and the blood Jesus shed on the cross. Thus it connotes suffering, redemption and holiness (see especially Mt 20:22-23 and 26:27) – fitting for the name of the Calix Society.

The stained glass image shown is from St. Patrick Church in Elkhorn.

SUSAN SZALEWSKI/STAFF

**Article from the *Catholic Voice* in Omaha, Nebraska (continued)****“Calix offers cup of salvation to recovering addicts”**

November 16, 2019 by Susan Szalewski

**‘A NEED IN EVERY PERSON’**

Vern followed his late wife’s example and turned to AA, which helped both of them become sober. But they each needed something more, Vern said.

When people become sober, they often feel proud and happy, he said. But “after a time they start feeling that there’s more, that they need more.”

“Calix can offer a place to come, be welcomed,” with no pressure, “just to associate with people with the same needs and to draw closer to God.”

“I think there’s a need in every person to have a relationship with God,” Vern said. Calix aims to help those who are overcoming addictions attain a stronger Christian life.

“In any addiction, you hurt yourself and you hurt others,” he said. “You need peace of mind and self-forgiveness.”

**VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS**

The Omaha Calix meetings typically offer Mass, a social hour, dinner and a speaker on spirituality, health or other topics.

The meetings draw anywhere from 50 to 90 people, who come from a variety of age groups and backgrounds. Most are recovering alcoholics and most are Catholic, Father McReynolds said. Some are fresh into recovery, while others, like Vern, have been recovering for years.

Vern became sober 54 years ago, when he was in his mid-30s. His journey into addiction had begun early. He said he developed a taste for beer when he was still in grade school.

He had lied about his age and started working at a neighborhood grocery store, where the owner sometimes brought out beer for the employees after work.

“And I enjoyed it,” Vern said.

His drinking picked up in high school. A summer job at the stockyards turned into a full-time job after graduation. And having a couple drinks after work was just “part of life.”

“I enjoyed drinking,” Vern said. “I enjoyed the laughs and so forth. Until I went too far.” “I didn’t recognize there was a problem for years,” he said. “There was dancing and partying and all the social activities that went with it.”

But there came a point “when you have to have it,” he said. Depression followed, but he continued to drink and “hated every bit of it.”

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Article from the *Catholic Voice* in Omaha, Nebraska (continued)

**“Calix offers cup of salvation to recovering addicts”**

November 16, 2019 by Susan Szalewski



**‘DAY BY DAY’**

His wife started going to AA about six months before he did. Vern gives her credit for her example, support and prayers for his recovery.

“Without a doubt it was her love and prayers that pulled me through,” he said. They were married 67 years. “We had a few rough years there,” he said, “but we had some magnificent years.”

During his long recovery, Calix has lifted him up and fortified him, Vern said.

Father McReynolds said that addiction is a disease that requires continuous care.

“You never outgrow the need for recovery,” he said. Daily spiritual practices help, he said, “turning your will and life over to God day by day.” For some that may include daily Mass.

The sacraments, he said, are essential. At Calix, “we revisit the power of our Catholic faith.”

Reprinted with permission from *Catholic Voice*



**2020 Theme for the Chalice**

Welcome to the new decade! This year, The Chalice focuses on the Sacraments. This issue was Baptism; next issue will be Penance.

Please! Consider submitting an article about how the sacraments have been instrumental in your recovery. After all, the reception of the Sacraments is part of the third stated objective of our Credo:

*Our participation in all other spiritual activities of Calix, such as the frequent celebration of the Liturgy, **reception of the Sacraments**, personal prayer and meditation, Holy Hours, Days of Recollection and retreats, aids us in our third objective, namely, **to strive for the sanctification of the whole personality of each member.***

Contact editor Chris B. at [christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com](mailto:christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com) with questions or to submit an article. Since writing is not everyone’s favorite thing to do, if you’d like help, writing assistance is available. 😊

Edition	Topic	Deadline for Submission
March/April	Penance	<b>March 1</b>
May / June	Holy Communion	April 15 (tax day – yee haw!)
July / August	Confirmation	June 15
September / October	Marriage / Holy Orders	August 15
November / December	Anointing of the Sick	October 15

## Prayer Requests

Heidi M: My partner is struggling with drug addiction, and I have exhausted all avenues to help him. I am now placing this challenge in God's hands, and I am personally turning to God for my own support. My intention is to please pray for him to come to the realization that he also needs help, and to turn to God for this. Also, please pray for me to do the right thing and stop being an enabler and negotiating with wrong decisions.

Donna S: Please pray for my daughter, Sarah, who at 22 is an alcoholic. Pray for my entire family who are suffering with her.

*Lord, hear our prayer!*

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