

PRAYER WARRIORS WITH HEART



Our Goal

Our hope is that the Prayer Warriors' hearts of silent prayer will join with the Sacred Heart of Jesus in His love for those who suffer. Let us bombard God with our sincere concerns for our loved ones who are addicted or incarcerated. It is with softened and renewed hearts that we offer our petitions to God. We ask for His guidance and His strength to help those who struggle daily.

“If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.”
~ Romans 6:8

We want to pray for you and your loved ones. Please send us a quick email with your prayer (for example, Please pray for my son, first name optional, as he struggles with _____) at HopeNotOpioids@ccda.net. We will add your prayer request to our list, and everyone who reads it will pray for you! Please know that you are not alone. Together, as Prayer Warriors, we will storm Heaven with our prayers and God will hear us!

We invite you to forward this email to friends and family, and have them [sign up](#) to join our Prayer Warrior Team.



Catholic Charities Response to the Opioid Addiction Crisis

Catholic Charities works closely with parishes to address the opioid crisis throughout the 21 counties and seven cities within the Diocese of Arlington. Click [here](#) to watch and listen to a message from Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. May we join in prayer for those who are suffering from addiction or substance abuse, as well as for their friends and family.

Addiction Statistics:

- A record high of over 88,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in the 12 months ending August 2020, which is almost 19,000 more deaths (27%) than the prior 12-month period, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- With a 10-day prescription of opioid painkillers, 1 in 5 people develop an increased risk of opioid addiction.
- Roughly 21 to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.
- About 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.

Catholic Charities is Here to Help:

- We will schedule your appointment with a Family Service counselor, who will provide counseling sessions and referrals by secure teleconferencing.
 - South Region (Fredericksburg area and south), call 703-859-3147
 - North Region (Springfield area and north), call 703-447-9402
 - View our [Response to the Opioid Crisis](#) page, including treatment and counseling options, for families and individuals grappling with addiction.

Reflection

“Therefore do not go on passing judgement before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

~ 1 Corinthians 4:5



Are there times when you hear rumors about a person and then, without really knowing or seeing the whole picture, you make judgments? It is very easy to see a homeless person begging on the street and assume that he should be able to obtain a job or that he’s begging on the street for money for his next fix or drink. Perhaps you pass him by without a backward glance as you consume your \$5.00 cup of specialty coffee. I guess that’s human nature! However, our God sees the whole picture. God created and loves everyone, every human being He has brought into this world. He desires for all human beings to obtain eternal life with him forever.

I would like to share with you my reflections about Saul who, after he saw the light of God, became Saint Paul. We can draw a correlation between his life and the life of an addict who becomes sober. Saul was a murderer who was persecuting believers in Jesus. He had murderous intent to hurt all the disciples of Jesus. It didn’t matter if they were men or women. He was a young Pharisee consumed by zeal, and he wanted to destroy Jesus and the Christian community, all the time truly believing he was working for the greater good. He worked diligently to destroy any trace of Jesus or His disciples.

“He went about breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.” ~ Acts 9:1

In response to his relentless persecution, Jesus appeared to Saul and caused him to lose his sight. After three days, Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision, and told him to go to Saul. Ananias could not understand why God asked him to help Saul, who had a horrible reputation for persecuting those who believed in Jesus, but when he saw Saul, he addressed him as “my brother” and restored his sight by laying his hands upon him.

Finally, Saul saw the truth in the light and realized God was calling him to a greater purpose. After his conversion, he became a totally different person. He ceased persecuting early Christians and became a follower of Jesus. He was filled with a burning zeal to follow God’s calling, repent, and preach God’s gospel to all people! And later, he became Saint Paul. How miraculous!

Similarly, when you are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, you are like Saul, hell-bent on getting your drug. However, the great news is that you, too, can be struck with the light. You can be empowered to seek help for yourself and make dynamic, lifelong changes that will not only affect you, but your loved ones. In other words, you can become like Saint Paul.

Today, let’s follow Ananias’ example and look at our brothers, who are suffering from alcoholism or drug addiction. Maybe we can cast a different light on their circumstances and, instead of condemning them, offer them hope. Maybe we can take a chance on them and offer them a job. If you have a concern for your loved one who is struggling with drugs, gently suggest that they seek help for their addiction. Offer them a smile, a friendly conversation, and words of encouragement. Sometimes the addict has destroyed so many of their relationships that they feel hopeless and have lost faith in themselves. They feel that no one will really believe that they can change. So they give up and the cycle continues. But, as you can see with God, He doesn’t ever give up on us! We can be the catalyst for change. We can allow God to work through us as He did with Ananias. Our love and support can be the shining light that makes a difference in someone’s life. You never know how God will use you to change someone's destiny!



Covid-19 Support via the Calix Society

Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program.

While Covid-19 is having an unprecedented impact on all of us due to social distancing, financial stress, emotional strain and fears for physical safety, the impact is especially dangerous for those who suffer from addiction. With that in mind, the Calix Society is making available the following excellent resources to offer help and support to those battling addiction and suffering during this challenging time.

Attend a Healing Reflection Online during July:

Father Paul Richardson, the Calix Chaplain for the Diocese of Arlington, will be live-streaming 4 Reflections on each Monday during July at 3:00pm, starting July 5th, in honor of Freedom, Community and the Feast Days of Mary

Magdalene and St. Ignatius of Loyola. Click [here](#) for the details. Also, Father Paul is available to talk with anyone confidentially if you'd like to speak with a priest during this difficult period. Father Paul can be reached at (804) 253-5735.

The In-Person Calix Meeting has returned to St. Timothy in Chantilly:

After being absent for more than a year due to the pandemic, the in-person Calix meeting has returned to St. Timothy in Chantilly. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00am following the 9:00am Mass, held in Meeting Room 1 in the Parish Center. All from the community are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Mike at: mfm2u2@gmail.com or cell (703) 362-3534.

Attend a Calix Meeting Online:

While social distancing has made in-person Calix and 12-step meetings difficult, we invite you to join us for an online Calix meeting using Zoom. We offer local and national meetings, including a Beginner's Meeting. There are 3 Calix meetings via Zoom in the Diocese of Arlington. Please click [here](#) for details.

Prayer Booklet:

We encourage you to click [here](#) to download a copy of the Calix Society prayer booklet, Prayers, Scriptures and Meditations. We hope and pray these words bring you comfort at this difficult time.

Attend other Local Meetings Online:

Find an AA, NA 12-Step Program or Al-Anon Meeting in the Northern VA area online using Zoom, below:

- Online Meetings in the Loudoun District that covers Loudoun and parts of Fairfax County: <https://www.alanondistrict10.org/zoom-meetings>
- The Friday Night Lights Al-Anon meeting at 7pm at St. John Neumann. Zoom link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5163881311> If needed, the ID is: 5163881311 and Password: 31243
- National Al-Anon Recovery Meetings via Zoom: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Ctqsr1w0awTupA3ERRLxp6OD5MWt1aWF7D9kqtXrJ0/edit#gid=1993227784>
- National AA, NA 12-Step Recovery Meetings via Zoom: <https://nvintergroup.org/virtual-meetings/>
- If you have a teenager that is being impacted by someone's drinking, there is a confidential Alateen Meeting held each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. For Zoom link details, or any questions on Alateen, please email Mike at mfm2u2@gmail.com or call (703) 362-3534.

Free Helpline: (970) 898-2670

Separate from the Calix and other 12 Step program meetings, a Helpline has been established that is manned by a group with extensive experience in recovery from addiction and/or incarceration and for those affected by someone's addiction. Please don't hesitate to call.



Constant Prayer Requests

- Our brothers and sisters living in the confines of jail or prison.
- Prison guards, medical professionals, or others who work with the addicted and incarcerated.
- Those suffering from drug or alcohol addictions.
- Those experiencing success with recovery.
- Our returning citizens who have recently been released from prison.
- The families of those who are struggling with addiction or are incarcerated.

Monthly Prayer Requests ~ Submitted by our Readers

- Please pray for the women of my Oxford House, that we continue to humbly recover, with God's mercy and guidance. Special prayers are needed for Crystal as she readjusts to the outside world, sober. God please stand watch over our children and please continue healing Karla from her mental health and addiction.
- Please pray for my husband. He is struggling hard with alcohol abuse and depression. It is putting a huge strain on our marriage and young children. Please, pray that the counselor he sees on Friday can reach him and that the Lord softens his heart to treatment and renewal of faith. Please pray for our marriage.
- Please pray for Abby who is recovering from a suicide attempt and suffering from addiction.
- Please pray for my daughter D that she may choose recovery and return to her family.
- Please pray for my niece Elizabeth who is an addict, and her parents Carl & Julia. God Bless all of You
- Please pray for my daughter Stephanie that God will heal her of any addictions or mental health issues.
- Please say a prayer for the women & men recovering from alcohol & drug addiction at Oxford Houses around the nation. We give many thanks to a loving God that blesses us with his love and care on our recovery journey. We ask that you pray for the gift of another 24 hours clean and sober.
- Please pray for my dear friend Victor who is an alcoholic.
- Please pray for Theresa's adult brother and sister in their efforts to remain clean & sober.
- Would you please continue to pray for Charlotte S. and her daughter, Nina.
- Please pray for Damianus A. and myself.
- Prayers for Mary Ann's son, Michael, who is struggling with many issues.

- Prayers for Larry that he remains sober.
- Pray for Theresa's brother-in-law Allen. Pray that he realizes he needs help.
- Pray for Billy and all other children who have died of an accidental overdose
- Pray for Dan.
- Please pray for Nick that he will get help for himself.
- Please pray for Travis, Nicholas, Jon, Dan, and Adekola.
- Please keep in your prayers the volunteer mentors who are working in the Re-Entry Program.
- Pray for our clients who have relapsed and are on the road to rebuilding their sobriety and recovery, especially during this Pandemic.
- Pray for our priests who must bear the emotional and spiritual burden of burying their parishioners to this horrible disease.
- Please pray for a friend who has just started recovery after relapse.
- Pray for Thom, Ricky, and Doug who are incarcerated. May they find peace.
- Pray for Nate.
- Please pray for Pauline's son, Andrew who has relapsed.
- Please pray for the men of the Oxford Houses that God will give them strength during this pandemic.
- Please pray a special intention for a young man who is struggling with heroin.
- Pray for Mahad's recovery from alcohol and drugs.
- Pray for Amanda and her recovery from alcoholism.
- Pray for Ricky's serenity in prison, staying faithful to the Lord.
- Pray for Skyler W.
- Please pray for Claire, she is an addict.
- Please pray for my family members who suffer from alcoholism.
- Pray for John who is struggling with heroin.

Thoughts for the Month

"God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength."

~ 1 Corinthians 10:13

After hearing the story about Saul who later became Saint Paul, did it cross your mind that we all have tendencies to be like him at various times in our lives?

Sometimes we are bound and determined to follow through on a particular mission, and nothing is going to get in our way. Other times, we see God's plan in our lives clearly, and are able to follow His call.

How many times in your life have you felt like you were either Saul or Saint Paul? When you were in the belly of addiction and your life was filled with constant struggles and failures--definitely on the road to destruction--you could relate to Saul. But suddenly the light explodes in front of you, and you are ready to reconstruct your life and become a better version of yourself. This is possible for you as it was for Saint Paul.

Christ is in each one of us, and when people see your light shining, it shows



them that Jesus lives within you. At times, our darkness is revealed, but then we see the light of Christ, and we can be transformed. Jesus Christ chose you, and He wants to see your light shine! Make it your intention for this month to allow your light to shine brightly and be a beacon to those who need hope.

Entwined with the Sacred Heart,
Judy Wetzel
Volunteer for the Monthly Newsletters

St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of the hopeless, Pray for Us!

[Donate or Volunteer](#)