

Development Plan
for
The Fellowship
of the
Inexhaustible Cup

PERSONAL OVERVIEW

The inspiration for this rule of prayer of the Akathist to the Mother of God “The Inexhaustible Cup” came at a time when we were suffering because one of our family members was abusing alcohol. Little by little, we saw that not only were our prayers being answered, but any personal sacrifice that we were making to remain faithful to these prayers was being blessed and bearing fruit.

In only three months, the blessing of Our Lady’s intercession and the reversal of the destructive influence on the individual family member for whom we had been praying was very obvious. What began as a personal need for help was transformed into the concept of The Fellowship of the Inexhaustible Cup, which was as if it were born out of the Holy Mystery of our Marriage. As a result, we feel blessed to share our blessings with others.

Our marriage has gone through an enormous amount of personal and collective inner healing since we began. Over the decades, we have experienced many trials, resultant from the both of us having been born into addicted/dysfunctional households. Some of our friends who know us well consider our marriage to be nothing short of miraculous, given the personal challenges that we each had to overcome, and the self-sacrifice we each had to make in order to preserve our bond. We are grateful to God for the preservation of our marriage. **We have both experienced Our Lady’s promises** which are located in the Akathist prayers to the Mother of God, known as “The Inexhaustible Cup”:

*The grace — of the One born of me, and of mine own — will always
be with this Icon.* KONTAKION 8

and

*No one departs empty handed from the ‘Inexhaustible Cup’ of divine gifts, O all-
good One.* KONTAKION 12

MISSION STATEMENT

The caring members of the ministry of The Fellowship of the Inexhaustible Cup have the primary purpose of honoring Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos, as The Fellowship's Champion Leader, in seeking to acquire quality sobriety and purity as a way of life. Members are committed to praying all or a part of the Akathist to the Mother of God, known as the "Inexhaustible Cup" on a daily basis, as well as making a monthly financial commitment to help sustain the work of The Fellowship. Members are devoted to praying for and reaching out to those suffering from all manner of addictions, helping the afflicted at their point of need, and bringing them the message of hope and healing, as offered by Our Lady herself, through her miraculous and Holy Icon of the 'Inexhaustible Cup'.

Our Fellowship is a simple ministry of intercession relying on the power of praying personally and collectively as one unified Body of Christ for its members and the Church at large. This collective whole includes the Holy Orthodox Saints, principalities, dominions, powers, and the entire Angelic Host, Archangels, angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim and our personal Angel Guardian along with the Holy Theotokos, Mother of God, miraculously known as "the Inexhaustible Cup.

BOARD MEMBERS

1. **CEO/Executive Director/President:** Fr. Christophe Lepoutre, M.S.
Pastoral Counseling.
2. **Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer:** Matushka Cynthia Lepoutre,
A.S. Secretarial Studies.
3. **Officer:** Archpriest Alban Waggener, pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox
Church in Lynchburg, Virginia.

FUNDING

The Fellowship's financial well-being is founded on the Biblical precept of faithful tithing. Thus, in addition to The Fellowship soliciting funds for its own existence, a portion of contributions received by The Fellowship will be consistently given to help support causes that are actively involved in helping people to secure and maintain sobriety, and to gain meaning and purpose to their lives in so doing. Specific first causes to be aided include Orthodox monasteries, churches with outreach programs, and missions.

All Fellowship members will be taught and encouraged to embrace the necessary principles of tithing as part of their spiritual growth. Additional funding sources include but are not limited to the following:

Active members

Active membership requires a willingness to pray the Akathist to the Mother of God, known as "The Inexhaustible Cup" as well as a monthly financial contribution according to one's means.

Friends of The Fellowship

These are donors and benefactors at all levels of giving, who may be involved as semi-active members, or who may have no attachment at all but are simply philanthropists.

HEALING THE FAMILY TREE WITH PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED

The foundation prayers of the Holy Orthodox Church while preserving its Traditions for centuries recognize the need and value of praying for the departed souls beyond the grave. In every monastery of the world and canonical Orthodox parish a variety of Moleben prayers during Hours, Matins, Vespers, Vigils, etc. including at every Divine Liturgy celebrate prayers for the departed. This love offering celebrates and confirms our firm belief that souls beyond the grave must be remembered. The Body of Christ joins Christ Himself in our steadfast belief that He has overcome death by death by His suffering and death on the cross, third day burial, and His Holy Pascha Resurrection. Praise be the Eternal King of Glory Who is glorified in Trinity, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit — to Whom is due honor and worship unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Fellowship of the Inexhaustible Cup will address the full scope of needs within the afflicted person. This involves healing not just for those in the present, but for healing of the bond that exists between the afflicted person and those who have departed this life.

Clinical pastoral counseling case studies provide evidence, also found in the experience of the 12-step program, which points to the fact that addictions, and the destructive and negative effects of this disease upon marriages and families, are passed down from one generation to another. The roots of addiction, such as resentment and bitterness, are repeated by the children of addicts due to a lack of forgiveness, and can even be passed down to the children of these children.

According to the *Big Book of ACA* (Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families), children of addicted parents become ‘para-alcoholics’. They learn and adopt self-destructive tendencies from an addicted parent, without necessarily becoming alcoholics themselves. These patterns, therefore, often remain unbroken.

The Orthodox Christian response to breaking these chains of addictive personalities is prayer. It targets the source of addictions within one’s family tree, and it has the capacity given to us, by the grace of God, to reverse and heal these addictions. Prayer permits the members to receive the healing balm of forgiveness.

The use of intercessory prayer is at the heart of The Fellowship of the Inexhaustible Cup. The commitment made to daily prayer by members of The Fellowship represents the single greatest method of healing given to us by God.

This prayer is not bound by time or space. The Fellowship will make available the Akathist to Jesus Christ For a Loved One who has Fallen Asleep, believing that the members who pray this Akathist will find healing in their generational bond of addiction with those who have departed this life before them.