

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program-December-2021
Communion, Communion, Communion**

Opening Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:
“Our Father...”

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

Brothers, about six weeks ago we celebrated Thanksgiving weekend, hopefully with family and those we love. Certainly, we were prone to a more rigid protocol once again, regarding gatherings in general. We are now in the process of preparing to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. This experience and a recent Gospel got me thinking about the reality of how God made us, and who He made us to be. It also allowed me to reflect on how this time of Covid has had such a negative/divisive effect upon our ability to live our lives as God made us, in relationship with one another. The Gospel I am referring to is (Luke 11, 15-26). In this Scripture Jesus had cast out a demon from an individual, and He was immediately accused of casting the demon out by Beelzebul, “the ruler of the demons.” Jesus rebuts their accusations by noting that “Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house” Jesus says, if Satan is divided how will his kingdom stand?

That statement and the commentary by Bishop Baron got me thinking about how the evil one goes about his daily business here in the world, and how Covid has provided a wonderful opening for the evil one to flourish in his activities. One of the many detrimental effects that Covid has imposed on our society, and the Knights are a case in point, is the concept and reality of isolation. We, in so many ways have been restricted in our natural God-given desire to be in relationship with one another. This is how God made us. “It is not good that humanity should be alone (Gen. 2, 18).” We need one another in order to give life meaning and value. I know that you are all aware of this basic human principal and Thanksgiving/Christmas with or without your loved ones and extended family, certainly reinforces this reality.

My point this day, is that the way the devil succeeds is when he can divide us, have us work against one another. Divide and conquer is a real thing my Brothers. “The demonic power is always one of scattering. It breaks up communion. But Jesus, as always, is the voice of communion, of one bringing things back together, (Barron).” Covid has provided a very apt tool for isolating and scattering us, even from our own families. We are very blessed in our parish community’s for many many reasons. First and foremost, we for the most part, have been able to remain a Church of communion.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

There is no question that there are varying opinions within our community/councils, about steps taken and not taken. About things like masks, vaccinations, social distancing, grouping sizes, limitations on worship like funerals and weddings. There is no end to the variety of topical issues. Clergy abuse, residential schools, Covid protocols. What do they all have in common? They all have the potential to divide us. First, in our opinions, and then literally physically from one another. Did you ever think you would see the day when you worshipped your God in your Church, and that

you would become uncomfortable if someone sat closer to you than six feet away? Yikes. We come together as family, as friends, and as a community of faith, to give thanks to God for the many blessings that are part of our daily lives. Yet...

My Brother Knights, we are diverse in our opinions and our perspectives about many things, and rightly so. **There is one thing we cannot be diverse in. That is the importance of our relationships with one another. These relationships are integral to the communion that our Lord created us to joyfully live our lives in. Communion with our Lord, with one another and with ourselves.** Brothers, diverse as our opinions might be, about things going on around us, **we absolutely must remain as people of communion.** When we allow the wedge of differing opinions to push its way between us, and to separate us from one another, I am sure the evil one smiles. I am not saying we cannot differ in our views about things. What I am saying is this. **We cannot let our own agendas/opinions separate us from communion with one another, and with our loving God, who made us to value, respect and love one another.** When we push ourselves away from our community of faith, from our families, from our friends, from our Councils, the devil smiles and says my work here is done. This divisiveness I have created between them, will complete what I started.

My dear Brothers in the Lord, be diverse, be different, but above all else be in communion, with God, with one another, with ourselves. I cannot say I love God, if I have separated myself from loving my neighbor, my Brother Knight, particularly a family member or that person sitting six feet away from me in the pew. Worthy Brothers, our God created each of us uniquely, but our commonality is that we are all children of God created to be in relationship with God, with each other and with ourselves. We, as **those men called Knights** need to lead the charge on communion within our councils, our parishes and most importantly our families. May the good Lord bless your Christmas festivities and gatherings as communities of faith and families. May 2022 be a year of union and communion.

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Meditation Period

(The Leader now invites the members to spend a few moments in silent reflection, as the above text is not meant to be a ready-made answer but a starter for personal reflection on the theme.)

Fraternal Sharing

(The leader now invites the members to share with their Brother Knights any relevant thoughts that came to them during the meditation period.)

Closing Prayer

(Recited by all)

Let us pray:

“Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.