

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program- February 2022**

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am present there among them (Mt. 18, 20)

Opening Prayer

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

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

My dear Brother Knights. Somehow, I missed a month of Formation, (January) and now I am extremely late with February. I pray that you and yours were blessed, with a healthy, happy, and holy Christmas season and a hopeful start to 2022. In December, the focus of my formation reflections centered around the importance of relationships in our lives, and the reality that God created us to be people of relationship. We spoke about those things that can have a negative effect on our ability to be in relationship. We also recognized that divide and conquer is a real thing and it is not just a technique your teenagers used with you and your wife, back in the days when they were trying to get their way, one way or another. We know that the evil one is only too happy when people who God created to be in relationship with one another, families, K of C Councils, parish communities etc. have discord sowed among them.

We spoke about the reality of Covid and all the restrictions that came into play in order to deal with this virus. This has had a very detrimental effect on our ability to be in, and cultivate important relationships. You can name the restrictions, to vaccinate or not, to mask or not, funeral and wedding limitations, how many folks can attend Mass on Sunday morning. These are all areas that we have taken for granted all our lives and now we deal with limitations. All this to say is that there are two things at play here. One; in many instances we have not had the ability to physically sit in the same room with one another for a social event or perhaps a Council meeting. So, we have the physical separation that robs us of our ability and created need to be in proximity and special relationship with one another. Two; The other challenge with this is that because we are not in the regular social situations that we are used to, we do not have the necessary plethora of opportunities to compare notes, vent to one another, or simply share our opinions. Instead, what can occur, is that we may spend more time in front of the television or on the computer. We can tend to inhale a whole lot more quasi-information about the same subject than is particularly good for us. Especially without the ability to off-load or share our thoughts about things. Our spouses are wonderful, but after a while I am sure they tire of hearing your opinion about the same old same old.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

Again, my point my dear Brothers is that the lack of sociability and relational opportunities can have a cumulative effect on our own well-being. To the point where we are not even aware that we are missing those relationships that we have taken for granted all our lives. Brothers we need to maintain an awareness and intentionally strive to work at those relationships in our lives. Covid has caused division in many families never mind among parishioners and Council Brothers. Where there is division among good God-fearing people, I am sure the evil one claps his hands with glee.

Brothers, we are all looking forward with anticipation to what the beginning March will bring. There is a good chance that many of our existing restrictions, masks, music, singing, pancake breakfasts will no longer be in effect. What we need to be cognisant of, in the interest of maintaining and cultivating those all-important relationships is this; the government, Alberta Health Services and the Church may tell us we do not need to wear masks any longer. This does not mean that your Brother Knight or possibly your spouse, will automatically be at ease, and somehow be comfortable without a mask. My point: we are all at different points on the Covid journey and we are all carrying some Covid propaganda with us that has accumulated over a two-year journey. We need to support one another moving forward. We are potentially entering a time of renewing union and communion. But we need to be respectful that we may all be at various places on that spectrum. We do not want to let our union, communion opportunity, be another opportunity to create division among us. We need to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of our Brother Knights, our families, and our parishioners. Brothers, next month, I hope to explore the concept of freedom, from a theological perspective. Lots of talk about freedom lately but is it really freedom?

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am present there among them (Mt. 18, 20)

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.