

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories  
Formation Program-December-2020  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself, (Mt. 22, 39)**

***Opening Prayer***

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

***The Reading***

*(To be read by the Leader)*

My dear Brothers. In general, I would say that we have a grateful disposition most days. I would say that faith-based gratitude is what gives us the grace and energy to do what we do. So, here we are at the beginning of Advent, a time when it is appropriate to consider, reflect and remember the many blessings that are part of our lives, and that we should be giving thanks for. The reality is that after eight months of living the reality of a pandemic our inclination may be to have a slightly more jaded view on things.

Perhaps even more reason that we should consciously and intentionally reflect on what we have, and what we need to be grateful for. A few thoughts that may assist us in looking at the bright side of things. We are grateful that we live in a free country where state of the art medical and health care systems are part of our everyday lives. No, the system is not perfect, but I always enjoy the comment; “what a first world problem we have here.” We are still in the midst of a pandemic, yet we reside in a country that does a very good job of providing for the health of Canadians across the board.

We have been celebrating the Holy Mass since the beginning of June and have yet to reach our numbers limit of physical distance seating. Why am I grateful that our Churches are not yet full? I am grateful because we have moved forward in a consistent, steady format, at a manageable pace that allowed us to implement protocols and train individuals to assist the facilitation of these protocols, in an efficient and effective manner. I can tell you that with the way we adhere to protocols in my parish, I feel more secure than I do at the supermarket. More of the faithful are coming to Mass each weekend. At one point we will need to be very firm on folks being registered ahead of time because the faithful are gradually feeling comfortable to be present here in the parish. In the meantime, I can say I am profoundly grateful to our parishioners for their continued financial stewardship and support of our parish community, whether they are joining us from home or from their pew. Brothers I do hope and pray that you are doing what you are able to do to support your parish, whether you are joining Mass in the pews or in your

living room. The Holy Mass is a gift to us. I am grateful that almost without exception, those attending our many celebrations take the protocols seriously and adhere to them, even though there is a degree of discomfort involved. This cooperation with the protocols is indeed a community-based effort and by its very communal nature is building up and engaging our parish once again.

***The Reflection***

*(To be read by the Leader)*

This First Sunday in Advent, I am grateful more than ever for the ability to continue to celebrate the Holy Mass publicly. I am guessing many of you, my Brother Knights were thinking the same thing as I, this past week, when Dr. Hinshaw and our Premier, Mr. Kenny introduced new restrictions in Alberta. I was very concerned that all our good progress might come to a grinding halt, but it did not. It may still come to a stop but till then, full steam, faithfully ahead. I am grateful that our government sees the value of communal worship, as very important to people, amid the challenges we continue to face in so many areas of our society.

Brothers, as we enter the season of Advent, it is indeed a time to get ready, to stay awake and to be alert. It is also a time to focus on the many blessings that are part of our lives despite the challenges we face with covid-19 and all that comes with it. The good Lord is looking after things and we need to trust in His good graces and then cooperate with them to the best of our human ability. Happy Advent my dear Brothers and Merry Christmas to you and your beloved families.

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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