

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program-March-2020
When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him...
Final Judgement, (Mt. 25, 31)**

Opening Prayer

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

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

Brothers, the past two months we have reflected on the value and importance of the “Faith in Action” program that is the flagship, the mission and the mandate of our councils within the order. Faith in Action seeks to balance the priorities of the Knights of Columbus Order with the priorities of the Knights of Columbus who are within our Order. Stated purpose; “Our goal is for men to lead their family in service, not leave their family for service.” Brothers, we noted that in each of the four pillars, **Faith, Family, Community, Life**, there are eight potential areas of focus. Of further note, in order to receive the **Columbian Award** (which in my estimation, is the baseline target for all our jurisdiction Councils), we need to implement and document four of the eight programs that are proposed in each of the four pillars. What I propose to you is that 16 events in the Columbian year might seem like a lot, but 1.25 activities per month is not and they are the same thing, simply said differently. My goal in the months of March and April is to walk you through the basics from a priestly perspective, in order for you to accomplish your goal of receiving the Columbian award, and more. More importantly, serving your parish effectively.

So why and what is Father Jim going to tell us how to go about accomplishing our programs within the Faith in Action Categories? Brothers, this is far simpler to accomplish than we may allow ourselves to acknowledge. Don’t think about sixteen-twenty Knights of Columbus activities in a year. Think about a couple of activities this month. Trust me, if I did not believe this was straight forward, I would not be writing about it. I must say, as I was reading the Faith in Action manual, the language and the directions seemed easy enough to comprehend, even for this old pastor. My goal is to speak pragmatically about these activities in a way, that I as a pastor would appreciate being approached about them. If this pastor buys in (me), there is a reasonable chance your pastor may, as well.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

One of the toughest elements of implementing any program or process, in my experience, particularly when you are dealing with volunteers, is getting someone to take on the leadership role. Hence, you as a Grand Knight or Program Director, need to have a sense of the project and an idea how to accomplish it, in order to remove the fear factor and sell it to one or two of your brothers to take the lead on. Perhaps the second most challenging, at least in some situations is getting a buy in from your pastor on what the council wants to accomplish. Brothers, our hearts are good, but action speaks louder than words. If as a council you can show me (rather than tell me) that you have the best interests of the parish, the faithful of God at heart, things will go well for you. I have had many good positive experiences with my brother Knights. As a pastor it has often been when the Knights have done an event that in my estimation has furthered the mission of the Church, has been a form of evangelization, has built community, or has been a catechetical tool that has assisted the faithful to grow in their faith. When these things occur, it gives a sense of collaboration and common mission, which of course is the name of the game. It is inspiring when we see **Faith in Action**.

When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him... (Mt. 25, 31)

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