

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program-October-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)

October greetings my Worthy Brothers. During this time of covid, I have been writing articles, relevant ones I hope for our parish. I presume that some of the subject matter will be of interest to my Brother Knights as well. A question. **“What part of NO do you not understand?”** The **NO** I refer to is the **famous four NO’s** I hear often, as people walk up to me prior to me asking them any screening questions, before they enter the Church. Trust me, I do understand this. I get as tired of asking the questions as you do of answering them. All we want to do is go to Church, not receive the third degree, right? Yes, it is a bit painful but please consider it a wee sacrifice that you can offer up on behalf of your loved ones. The grace of course is that by enduring these minor afflictions, we have the privilege of receiving the Lord and finally worshipping in a community of like-minded Catholic Christians. Yes, I had to be interviewed to get in the doors, I was requested to sanitize my hands, make sure my mask was on and I did not even get to sing. **However, I did get to receive Jesus, in very beautiful, sacramental moment, with just Him and I.** Thank you dear Lord, we went without receiving you for three months so I am very grateful to receive you, despite some minor inconveniences.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

Why do I have to wear this mask? It makes me uncomfortable! Perhaps it would be helpful to consider that you are not wearing a mask for your own benefit but for the benefit of your loved ones and those folks you encounter in non-socially distant ways. The truth is that we will not force you to wear a mask, except if you wish to receive communion. Wearing a mask protects others from any respiratory droplets that may come from you when you speak or cough or sneeze. In other words, we wear a mask for the well-being of our neighbor. Remember the two rules of Jesus that summed up all other laws. **Love God and love one another.** The side benefit is that it may prevent you from any unwelcome airborne

droplets, covid or otherwise from your neighbor. Most of us are aware that if there is an outbreak of covid that is traced back to our parish or any other parish, there is a real chance that we may get shut down or cut back on numbers attending Mass. This, just when finally, after months on end, we are moving in a positive direction. Not nearly fast enough of course, but we are moving forward. So, we must continue to do it right, because there is little room for error with this virus. Florida, Texas, and Arizona are graphic examples of what happens when covid is taken for granted and things are moved ahead to quickly. I have grudgingly accepted that I will not be golfing in Phoenix this year, as is my tradition, because they moved too quickly there, and it is just not worth the risk. Finally, my friends, once the usher has guided you to your seat, please know that you will be for sure properly socially distanced. If your mask makes you uncomfortable, lower it. Please do make sure you have it on when you come up to receive Holy Communion and when you leave the Church. It is then that proper distancing cannot be guaranteed and that your mask will protect others and you. A word to the wise; just because you both have a mask on, does not excuse you from proper social distancing protocols. These two protocols work together, to keep us, in my view, very safe from covid. One of the disguised blessings of covid, is that it has allowed me to greet my brothers and my sisters prior to Mass beginning. You know, whether it is a council meeting or a Sunday Mass we all want to be welcomed and feel welcome. God’s blessings.

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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