

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program- June 2022
“For everything there is a season, (Ecc. 3, 1)”**

Opening Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:

“Our Father...”

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

My dear Brother Knights, indeed, there is a time for every season, and a time for every matter under heaven. I am incredibly grateful for the insight within this statement of God’s wisdom. It allows us to trust in faith that indeed there is a time for all things. Though at times we may feel our time is not synchronized with His time, we trust in faith that all things work for the good. My dear Brothers, I have been privileged to serve as your State Chaplain for nine years. I have ministered with five State Deputies and State Executive Boards, who served our jurisdiction with distinction, and humble service. I have had the opportunity to travel to several Supreme Conventions, during these years and seen cities I would not have visited otherwise.

The Knights Formation program obligated me to write monthly formation articles on topics ranging from commandments to virtues, to deadly sins, to papal visits. In truth, I can say I found this exercise somewhat onerous at times, and I am sure the Lord laughed. I believe the Formation program was preparing me for the period of covid. During the past two years I have written weekly articles for our parish bulletin, and come to rather enjoy it. The State Affairs articles that Shauna had to constantly hound me for, as well as the Chaplains report for the State Convention, were all avenues for me to grow in my mediocre at best literary skills. This K of C Formation program commitment, helped me to see the value of the written word, as a valuable communications tool. For that I am very grateful.

One of the blessings of my State Chaplain appointment with the Knights, is that I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with many many Brother Knights over the years. From Council level to Supreme, I am constantly humbled by the commitment and service that some of my Brother Knights have freely given for the good of the Order. I have seen Brothers really grow in their time as Knights at all levels of the Jurisdiction, Council, District and State Executive. I am truly gratified by the long serving selfless giving of some of those men they call Knights. These Brothers have been a beautiful example and inspiration to me as a priest, demonstrating what the principal of charity means when translated into action. Thank you to my Brothers who have constantly said yes and then backed your yes with action. Charity, Fraternity and Unity abound among the members of this jurisdiction. What I will treasure is the example of those Knights who constantly have given of themselves, simply for the good of the Order. As stated earlier, an inspiration to me for sure.

I was appointed to this role at a time when the Knights had committed to removing themselves from the casino revenue stream. This was challenging for many, including me, because it called for some difficult conversations. I had those conversations and I have continued to offer my counsel in numerous other areas of the Order over the years. I know and understand that this has not been appreciated by some of the Brothers. I have always spoken the truth of the Gospel and I have peace with what I have said and to whom I have stated it. Upon reflection, I would not change my actions or my counsel over the past nine years. True love, (charity), means speaking the truth, even when some may not wish to hear it. This of course is what got our dear Lord in trouble on numerous occasions. Jesus always spoke the truth without fear of repercussion or reprisal.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

A particular group of Knights I am indebted to, are the many District Deputies whom I have crossed paths with over the years. I have witnessed your struggles and I have seen you become better more confident Knights because of the challenges you have encountered and overcome. You have become more competent, complete, confident Catholic gentlemen because of your roles as DDs. You have served your Order and your Brothers well with your patience and your perseverance. Thank you for this Brothers. The most profound gift the Knights have Columbus have given me personally is the fraternity. It has allowed me to interact with like-minded Catholic gentlemen at ground zero for the common good. Men do need the companionship of men. It is a good thing for men to build relationships with one another working for the good of the Order. It makes us better Catholic gentlemen, and the principals of fraternity and unity, should never be underestimated.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the sun (Ecc. 3, 1)” My dear Brother Knights, the time has come for me to say thank you for my time as State Chaplain of the Alberta/NWT jurisdiction. This is a role I have held proudly and with gratitude. I now see it is time for me to move into other areas of pastoral ministry. My experience has always been that if a priest is open to the opportunities, he will never run short of things to do, or people to serve. I am grateful, and I thank the Lord for my time with the Knights of Columbus at the State level. My time as State Chaplain has been a cherished part of my priesthood. Thank you Brothers, for your love, your support, and your service. It is not for me to say, but I am very familiar with and very fond of our incoming State Chaplain. He is a very fine, very accomplished, and very gifted Brother Clergy and Brother Knight. I pray that you will treat him with the same respect and dignity you have always accorded me. **For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the sun.** Thank you dear Brothers, for your love of God and your response to His call. For your service, and for allowing me to serve you. Fraternal love and prayers. Vivat Jesus!

“For everything there is a season, (Ecc. 3, 1)”

Healing and Reconciliation

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