

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program- May 2022
*I love the fifty days of the Easter season.***

Opening Prayer

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

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

My dear Brothers in the Lord, if you want to be totally proud to be Catholic, (that is if you are not already, tee hee) follow the daily readings during the Easter Season. Particularly, the First Reading, which invariably is New Testament and very often from the Acts of the Apostles. These scripture passages paint a beautiful picture of the trials and tribulations, the successes and the failures of the Holy Catholic Church *becoming* the Holy Catholic Church. Not unlike a child growing up, complete with missteps and mistakes, but coming to adulthood because of the loving, nurturing care of the parents, who love the child more than they love themselves. Our Church is not obviously full grown and we are certainly still capable of making mistakes. The same may be said of our Councils. The key for us as Knights is that we continue to move forward. Surely, those early days after the resurrection would have been quite a time to be part of. Men and women were so absolutely convicted, that Jesus was indeed the Messiah that they suffered great persecution and often traumatic death, rather than recant their belief in the Risen Lord. I would say the same applies to our Councils and indeed our families. We encounter challenge and even push back but we know what we are doing is the right thing to be doing, so we push forward.

I find the **Acts of the Apostles** to be as engaging as any John Grisham or Harry Potter novel. (I know, holy understatement batman). There is life, there is death, and there is goodness ultimately prevailing over evil. All the ingredients of a real page turner, because my friends, it absolutely is! I am not even remotely comparing Grisham or Rowling to Holy Scripture on any kind of level playing field. Only, that those novels caught our attention because of their content and the way they were written. The New Testament, Acts of the Apostles is very much a number one best seller. It has all the ingredients: good guys, bad guys, life, death and a story line that leads to eternal life. The difference is that the Acts of the Apostles is in the non-fiction section.

I get excited reflecting on the different events that transpired time after time in Acts. People caring for one another and willing, literally, to die for that which was important to them. That is the Holy Catholic Church. My Brothers, this is the story of our Church, your Church, my Church. It helps remind me of why I am proud to be Catholic. Men and women far more inspired than me gave everything they had, including their lives, for the sake of the Kingdom. Wow. The good news Brother Knights, is that you and I, by the grace of God, have inherited what the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, have bequeathed us.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

I am very grateful when I reflect on what I have been blessed with in my life: God’s love and particularly God’s mercy. It is these days of the Easter season where in the daily scripture time after time, day after day, I am able to reflect on the wondrous events within the early Church. These reflections of course, finally bring me back to ground zero. The death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. **“For God so loved the world that he sent His only Son, so that all who believe in Him many not perish but may have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).** Profound.

Yes, I am grateful, certainly not as grateful as I should be. I do know that. So, this week Covid finally caught up with me after a two-year leave of absence. I was praying that it was just a bug and that I would not have to isolate as is legally required when one tests positive for Covid. Well, I have tested positive three days in a row, so I guess I get a hundred percent. (First time for everything I suppose). Actually, I received some time to reflect on how blessed and protected I have been over the past two years. Not even a runny nose in that time. Thank you, dear Jesus. Two years, when I needed to be on deck for our faithful. Even now, this week, I have missed some things that were important in my ministry for sure, but . . . The Lord let me get through the last days of many confessions in Lent and a busy, busy (praise the Lord) Holy Week. Even to the point of fulfilling my responsibilities at our Knights of Columbus State Convention in Calgary last weekend, followed by the funeral of a long-time parishioner in Ponoka on Monday. Tuesday morning, I woke up and thought *oh boy*, hoping against hope - as our father in faith Abraham modeled - only for me it was not to be.

I have much to be grateful for, through our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. How about you Brothers? Treat yourself and ponder upon it, as you reflect on the Acts of the Apostles this joyful Easter season. Blessings to all.

“And every day the Lord added to their number, those who were being saved, (Acts 2, 47)”

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