

# *The Beacon*

A Publication of the St. Albert Knights of Columbus Council # 4742

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780-459-5479

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Br. Joel Thomson

## **Grand Knight's Report**

We are entering another busy season in the church year. Budgeting our time is always difficult because we must keep track of our priorities.

Although the Knights events have been good, the support from the general membership is lower than usual. This is disappointing because many members are missing having fun and enjoying the company of their fellow Knights. Because the Knights no longer have income from the Casino we must be innovative in fundraising. Our priority is to have fun, but we would also like to make money to support our charities. Please remember the old saying "Knights support Knights' events".

You must be a Knight to attend meetings, but you can invite someone to help at an event who is not a member. This is another opportunity to have someone learn more about the fellowship and the members.

A good resource to get information on club events is from the website listed at the top of the front page of the Beacon. You may request information using the email address displayed.

Although snow is on the ground the Annual Meeting and club elections will be coming as the snow leaves. Now is a good time to ask yourself "what can I do?".

Vivat Jesus,

*Br. Brian Wolbert*

# February 2018 Meeting

## Created in the Image and Likeness of God (Gen. 1, 26-27)

### Opening Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:

"Our Father..."

### The Reading

*(To be read by the Leader)*

**"God created humanity in His image and likeness, in His divine image He created him; male and female He created them....God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good, (Gen. 1, 27, 31)"**

Brothers, last month we spoke about the complementarity of males and females and how our sexuality is part of God's natural law designed to draw us into procreative and unitive relationships, through the bond of marriage. It was noted that any sexual act taking place outside the bond of marriage does not fulfill God's purpose for human sexuality, as it does not fulfill the natural law mandate that it be unitive and procreative. This month why homosexuality does not fit within the criteria of God's divine natural law.

"While the Church teaches that homosexual acts are immoral, she does distinguish between engaging in homosexual acts and homosexual inclination, (USCCB, 2006)." The reality is that the homosexual tendency or inclination may not be the result of one's free will, making one not morally culpable, (responsible). In the same way that something, (lust for example), is not a sin when it enters our mind, (because we did not invite the thought into our mind), it becomes sinful when we entertain and continue to reflect on that thought. That said, "The homosexual inclination is objectively disordered. Why? Because it is an inclination that predisposes one toward what is truly not good for the human person, (USCCB, 2006, CCC 2358)." Heterosexual persons, not uncommonly have disordered sexual inclinations as well. "It is not enough for a sexual inclination to be heterosexual for it to be properly ordered." The gift of our sexuality must fulfill its God-given mandate, that it be procreative and unitive in its function. The U.S. Bishops have stated; "Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from procreative and unitive purposes. (USCCB 2006)" This statement would be accurate regardless of the gender or sexual disposition of the individual.

### The Reflection

*(To be read by the Leader)*

**"It is crucially important to understand that saying a person has a particular inclination that is disordered is not to say that the person as a whole, is disordered. Nor does it mean that one has been rejected by God or the Church, (USCCB 2006)." It is a misunderstanding and a misrepresentation of Church teaching to believe that because an individual has a disordered inclination that they as a person are disordered. "As if everything about them were disordered or rendered morally defective by this inclination. Nevertheless, while the inclination to homosexual acts is disordered, the person retains his or her intrinsic human dignity and value, (USCCB 2006)." For clarity Brothers, it is not only sexual sins that are considered disordered, (not falling within the realm and the purpose of natural law). Other inclinations such as those that lead to envy, malice or**

greed are to be considered disordered. "We are all damaged by the effects of sin, which causes desires to become disordered. Simply possessing such inclinations does not constitute a sin, at least to the extent that they are beyond, one's control. Acting on such inclinations, however is always wrong, (USCCB 2006)." Perhaps a simpler summary; it is not a sin to be homosexual or to have the inclination toward members of the same sex. It is a sin however to engage in sexual intimacy with a member of the same gender as this goes against natural law and the gift that our sexuality and male/female complementarity is such an integral part of. It bears noting once again, that sexual intimacy between a man and woman outside the sacrament of marriage is also considered a serious sin, as this act is also contrary to the natural law that we are bound by as Catholic men and women. Natural law applies equally to homosexual and heterosexual children of God, despite the tendency on our part to think one sin is worse than the other. We are all children of God and we all fall short of the goodness that we have been created, in His image and likeness.

Brothers, in today's society, even some of our own Catholics do not understand that Catholic moral teaching has an objective basis. One of the challenges we encounter is that some see Catholic moral teaching as nothing more than a guideline for how to behave as an individual and as a society. (Note, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, not the ten guidelines). "Catholic tradition, however, holds that the basis of morality is found in the natural order established by the Creator, an order that is not destroyed but rather elevated by the transforming grace that comes to us through Jesus Christ, (USCCB 2006)." The Church has always said that immoral actions, actions not in accord with the natural order or moral law, can never bring true happiness, because they degrade and undermine the human dignity given us by God. Brothers, we are speaking of those men and women who are experiencing same sex attraction, but the rules of morality and natural law which are fundamental to the teaching of Christ and the Church have a definitive impact on each of us regarding how we live out our Catholic faith.

**Created in the Image and Likeness of God (Gen. 1, 26-27)**

### 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. Am

*Please bring a copy of this reading to the next regular meeting so that you can more fully participate in the readings, meditation and prayers. If you are unable to attend please reflect on the readings in your own way.*

Br. Bernie Hryciw will become an Oblate Associate in February

Oblate Associates are men and women who recognize a Spirit-initiated call to live their baptism enlightened and formed by the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod and the Oblates. Animated by a family spirit, they share among themselves and with Oblates the same spirituality and missionary outlook.

Like Eugene de Mazenod, Associates love the Church, the Body of Christ, the People of God – sign and instrument of Jesus Christ in today's world and its new calls. They wish to build as Church, to answer to the challenges of today's world and to new calls.

Oblate Associates can be found working in diocesan offices, schools, retreat centres and prisons. They might be catechists, social workers, business people, or care givers. They visit the sick and the elderly, help with their local food bank or St. Vincent de Paul and offer prayer ministry and support. Wherever they go, they take the Oblate charism with them.

The process of becoming an Oblate Associate occurs over period of time. It begins with an Inquiry and is followed by a time of Formation leading towards a Commitment. The final stage in becoming an Associate is the Oblate Discernment.

This celebration will be held on February 16 at our parish church at 6pm. There are 8 individuals professing their Discernment as an Oblate Associate



### **Next Pancake Breakfast is March 4th.**

We need help at the pancake breakfasts, You do not need to commit to helping at every breakfast.

Please advise either Ken Gallagher or Kevin McClean when and what times you are available so they can better plan the functions and provide some relief to those who are there every month.

Several Knights will be away for various durations during the winter months and we will need fill-ins.

Please advise Ken or Kevin at the following:  
Ken (587) 341-5711  
[kennethgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:kennethgallagher@gmail.com)  
Kevin (780) 418-5676  
[kmcclean@telus.net](mailto:kmcclean@telus.net)

***"In service to One. In service to All.***

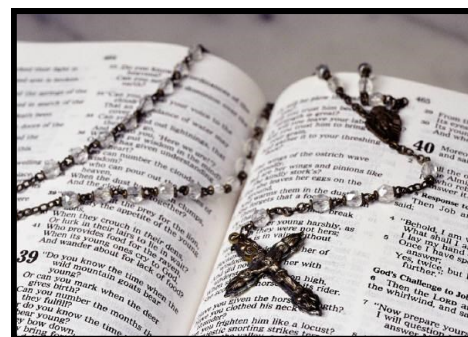
## **Fish Fryday**

February 23 and March 23  
\$12/one piece meal ticket  
\$14/two piece meal ticket  
Battered cod, fries & coleslaw  
Supper served in the Parish Hall  
at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets **NOT** available at the door. Please purchase after Mass at the table in the foyer of the church or from the office.

### **A fundraising Lenten event hosted by SAPY and KofC.**

Stations of the Cross prayer service in the Main Church at 7 p.m. following supper.  
Contact: Br. Ken Gallagher  
587-341-5711



## **Good of the Order**

Please include in your prayers the following Brothers who are deceased:

### **His Grace Joseph N MacNeil**

Please include in your prayers the following Brothers who are ill:

**William Oshanyk  
Ernest Sokolan  
Rev. Louis Gendre  
Leon Richard**

We will visit our fellow Brothers who are ill and in continuing care. Some members of our council will visit them, preferably in the mornings. If you are able to participate please contact Br. Brian Wolbert at 780-460-8294 or Br. Tony Csilics 780-458-0065 e-mail:  
[kofc@stalbertcouncil4742.ca](mailto:kofc@stalbertcouncil4742.ca).

If you are aware of a Knight who is ill or who has passed away please call Br. Tony Csilics.

## **The following notification was received from Fr. Jim Corrigan...**

My dear Brother Knights:

It is always a difficult moment in time when we experience through their death, the loss of a family member, a loved one, a friend, a colleague. Today, we as a fraternal organization, a Church and a community mourn the loss of a friend, a leader, and a true and long serving disciple of Jesus Christ in our midst. Archbishop Joseph MacNeil was a priest for nearly seventy years, with forty-eight of those priestly years serving in the episcopal role of Bishop and Archbishop. Archbishop MacNeil was the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Edmonton for twenty-six years. It is true to say that Archbishop MacNeil devoted his life to the service of the Lord and His faithful. So many Knights know the Archbishop through his faithful support and love for the Knights of Columbus over many years, or perhaps he confirmed you or your children. His Grace Joseph N MacNeil made an indelible mark in his love, his service and his witness in the Canadian Catholic Church. Brother Knights, please join in praying for the repose of a faithful servant's soul in whatever way you are able. "Dearest Jesus, we thank you for giving the Knights and the Archdiocese of Edmonton a leader, a witness and a true disciple of the Lord in our beloved Archbishop Joseph MacNeil." "Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace, Amen. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace, Amen.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2018**

#### **February**

21 - Wednesday - General Meeting 7:00PM Grandin Room  
23 - Friday - FRYday - SAPY & K of C fundraiser in the Parish hall

#### **March**

4 - Sunday - Pancake Breakfast following the 9AM and 11AM Masses.  
5 - Monday - Executive Meeting 7:00PM Grandin Room  
18 - Sunday - Pizza Pizza Splash Splash at Fountain Park

### **Grocery Cards**

Your Knights of Columbus Council 4742 is encouraging you to consider the purchase of Grocery Cards. You can use the cards to purchase your own groceries.

Please help us to continue assisting with these great projects by purchasing some grocery cards.

To buy cards, call Gerry (780-459-7384) or Frank (780-459-7941).

Cards will be available at each Pancake Breakfast.



### **PIZZA! PIZZA! SPLASH! SPLASH!**

Sunday, March 18  
At Fountain Park Pool  
Swimming from 4-6 PM — Pizza from 6-7 PM



January 30, 2018

Grant Knight  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 4742

Dear Brother Knights,

Here is experience of a family visit of their father in a North American jail.

*We spent time with him in dead spaces, spaces meant to intimidate  
cow and beat down; spaces that repel and resist children, laughter,  
loving and family; spaces meant to communicate a clear message of  
who is in charge; spaces with stupid rules about how and when and for  
long to touch and hold; spaces where you talk into phone and look  
through glass.....*

*Our dad never seemed touched by the prison, even in those awful  
spaces, he was free. When we visited those places with love, with  
family, with stories and laughter he was free. He showed us that  
freedom has nothing to do with where your body is and who holds the  
keys and who makes the rules. It has everything do with where your  
heart is and being fearless and full of hope.*

This dad is strong. Not everyone can stand tall and feel free in prison. Although freedom wells up from inside yet like this dad everyone needs family, friends and a community.

The Christmas bag tells people in jail they can be free and are loved. The gentle profound messages on the children's Christmas bags, generous gift of pens, calendars, chocolate bars and phone books encourage people to face the Christmas holidays and the days beyond without fear and with an attitude of hope.

Family visits are important because with the presence of the family everything changes with stories, warmth, singing and laughter. Even though the dad in the story above considered himself a free man visits were important. Families are unable to come to the Edmonton Remand Centre. Children who create the bags, Christian churches and community service organizations, Knights of Columbus that fill the bags with gifts bring joy and laughter so needed at this special time of the year. Everyone sings as a group lead and encouraged by the carolers who help give out the gifts. The famous Jingle Bells song is 'belted out' with laughter and with hearts filled with joy. This is the only time in the year when the unit where they live sings with one voice.

When the singing stops, bags are opened, chocolate bars are eaten and prisoners know for a brief special moment they are loved and not forgotten. They can remember with a light heart their loved

ones and if abandoned by their community the volunteers who sing, touch, welcome and smile at them are a welcome substitute. They at least for that brief moment have hope that the dead spaces of the prison do not have to define them. They are free to move forward as hopeful people who are able to make a difference.

Please thank if you have opportunity Edmonton Remand staff for promoting the Christmas bag program. And thank you for making the Edmonton Remand Centre a human, gentle happy place.

The space Jesus was born in was not inviting yet He and his family freely with love changes the world. What an awesome job you have accomplished reminding prisoners they are special and where there body is does not imprison them - they are free!

Thank you

Jerry Moran  
Roman Catholic Chaplain

CC:  
Ian Lalonde, Director of Programs

Chaplains  
H

We have on 3B  
thank you for all you  
do throughout the year and  
this Christmas card isn't enough  
to even express our gratitude but  
it's All we got. So thank you and  
Merry Christmas.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



The men on unit 1C, of the Edmonton Remand Centre,  
would like to thank you for your beautiful and thought ful  
gifts. For most of us, that was the closes we will ever get to  
a Merry Christmas. So thank you so much and may God bless  
each and everyone of you.

