

The Beacon

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

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Br. Joel Thomson



Membership fees are due. See the Financial Secretary – Tony Csilies

Charities Appeal Ticket Sale

Early Bird draw is February 19. Please bring in your ticket stubs.

Pizza! Pizza! Splash! Splash!

Takes place on Sunday, March 26th. Swimming from 4-6PM and Pizza and refreshments from 6-7PM. The event is free but donations will be accepted for charity. All are welcome!

Youth Ski Trip - February 8-11 (14+)

This is a terrific weekend in Canmore with fellowship, food, fun and faith for all. The Executive approved a motion to donate \$500 to the St. Albert Parish Youth Ministry to help offset some of the associated costs.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

January

- 18 - General Meeting 7 PM
- 21 - Chili Chili - Bang Bang

February

- 5 - Pancake Breakfast
- 6 - Executive Meeting 7 PM
- 15 - General Meeting 7 PM
- 25 - Winter Wing Ding



January 2017 Meeting

Dignity of Life, from Conception until Natural Death

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 concluded that although a legal distinction is made between euthanasia and assisted suicide, there is no ethical difference. We as Catholics believe life is a gift of God’s love for us and we are stewards, not owners of our lives. Therefore the time and circumstances of our birth are not ours to choose, they are the Lords. This month we ask the question; what are the consequences that would result from allowing euthanasia and as we know, the already legal assisted suicide?

First and foremost the elderly, the poor, the marginalized, those who lack a voice of their own could end up at the mercy of third parties. Third parties whether family, medical or others could create a pressure on them that they may seek an earlier death as an option. This could stem from limited resources of their own, inadequate health insurance and even the desire not to be a burden on their families etc. If doctors were to become part of these conversations, perception of health care, the Hippocratic Oath and even the concept of palliative care would be dramatically compromised. “If assisted suicide or euthanasia were permitted for the sick, whether terminally ill or not, because they request it on the basis of their unmanaged suffering, their autonomy or their individual self-determination over life itself, how could it be denied to others?” What is the next step my friends? If we permit assisted suicide for someone to manage seemingly unmanageable suffering, how could we deny assisted suicide to those who are depressed, disabled, or otherwise frail in mental or physical health? It is indeed a slippery slope once you open the door. Killing is not a treatment, it is an irreversible action or response, which is final and eliminates any future for the patient. Never mind the collateral damage it does to a loving family and friends.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

So the question that arises out of this medical, ethical, moral quagmire. 1. What are our obligations to the dying person? What are we to do? How can we know what is appropriate and proper. This is perhaps one of

our biggest concerns. Am I doing the right thing and am I doing enough or too much for my loved one? In “Life Matters” our point of reference published by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, (COLF) we are offered the following guidelines for walking with our loved ones who are preparing to meet the Lord. “Persons who are dying should be provided with care, compassion and comfort, including:

- Appropriate medical care capable of providing comfort;
- Pain and symptom management;
- Social, emotional, spiritual and religious support;
- Full information about their condition;
- The opportunity to freely discuss their desires with health care personnel
- Full disclosure to any family member or any person authorized by the dying person to receive information; and
- A degree of privacy that ensures death with dignity and peace.”

We only want the best for our loved ones. Brothers, these are good moral and ethical guidelines to assist us in walking with our loved ones through the inevitable and necessary doors of death to the eternal life made possible for us through the death and resurrection of our Lord. Next month, obligations for seeking and providing treatment. Euthanasia and the difference between withdrawing and withholding treatment.

“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)”

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.

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.

Pancake Breakfast

Reminder - Our pancake breakfast is the first Sunday of each month.

Event Manager

Beginning in May, we need someone to take over managing the pancake breakfast. Ideally if two people share the responsibility, they could take turns, organizing the event every second month.

Grocery Cards.

Please help us to continue with our great projects by purchasing some grocery cards. To buy cards, call: Gerry 780-459-7384 or Frank 780-459-7941.

“Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Winner” - 14 year old Olivia Wiwchar is the Grand Prize winner of a \$50 David’s Tea card from our Council. In addition to being an artist, Olivia is also an altar server.



“Message from our Chaplain”.

God is searching for you

On the feast of the Epiphany we find the three kings or wise men searching for the new born king, often we like the kings search for God, but seldom, if ever hear of God’s search for us - or at least we do not think we do. But, the truth is that God first seeks us out, so that we might seek Him. He thirsts for us, so that we might thirst for Him.

How do we miss this, one of the most amazing of truths, particularly when we have just recently spent all of Advent and now this Christmastide hearing about Christ’s coming to us? St. John of the Cross tells us that when we think of God, that is not our doing at all—God has placed that thought in our minds and hearts as He passes nearby to us. Is that not exciting? It surely is!

So, that’s the starting point for us now. God has come into the world to find you... to rescue you... to save you... to lead you back home to Him. He loves you so much that He became one of us, born into a human family. Pray the Holy Spirit to allow this truth to soak into your very core... to refresh and renew your heart.

And then, get to it. Begin seeking God and His will for your life in earnest. There is no time to waste!

In our first reading on this Feast of the Epiphany, we hear, “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you” (Isaiah 60:1). Jesus is that light and He now shines upon each of us.

Good of the Order

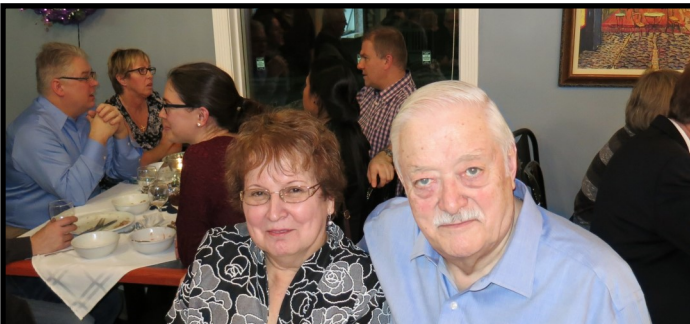
Please include in your prayers the following Brothers who are ill:

William Oshanyk; Ernest Sokolan; Rev. Louis Gendre; Gerry Hartel and 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.

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

ADVENT MASS & DINNER BANQUET - JANUARY 7TH.
Thank you Br. Terry for organizing this great event.
Fantastic time was had by all as you can see below.



Delicious Food : Great Prizes & Fellowship
We are planning the June BBQ at the Star of the North. Pencil in June 17th into your calendars.