

KSC 2019 FORMATION PROGRAMME

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR TIME

Session Five: Theme: A Century of Service

This year the Knights of the Southern Cross in NSW is celebrating the first century of its formation in 1919. It is impossible for us not to rejoice in this milestone. But it would be remiss of us not to reflect upon the ongoing response the Knights make to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in every age.



Step 1: Opening prayer: from the Order's Prayers

Step 2: READINGS ON THE THEME

"Catholic Men are called, by joining the Order, to enter into a deeper reality of *being* Church rather than just *being at* Church! This will require them to be willing to resolve that they are for Christ and wish to be part of a fraternity that will assist them in finding their place in the Church and the wider society as bearers of and with Christ." (*Basil Toohey, Introduction, 'Reach for the Stars', Cliff Baxter, Connor Court, Melbourne, 2009*)

At the time of the celebration of the first 50 years of the Order, Cardinal Gilroy then Archbishop of Sydney said: "The Knights of the Southern Cross in 1969 can look back on a half-century of achievements. Established in a spirit of loyalty to the Church and devotion to Australia, the spirit of the Order has been one of service. Ever ready to cooperate in any good work undertaken by the Church, always seeking new avenues of exercising their influence for the good of the community, the Knights of the Southern Cross today may be grateful that they have preserved intact the motives of the founders of the Order." (*'Reach for the Stars', Cliff Baxter, Connor Court, Melbourne 2009*)

"In 2009 with a serious shortage of priests, a decline in church attendance by young people, a shrinking job market, a loss of healthy sociability, and sex becoming a commodity, the questions facing the Knight are: Where are you going? What are you doing?

In 1919 the issues were different. We, in our world, have changed. If warmongers of old could urge young men to get into khaki and perish in France, what are we in 2009 telling our young Catholic Australians? Will we encourage them to rise up to defence their Church?" (*Prologue, 'Reach for the Stars', Cliff Baxter, Connor Court, Melbourne, 2009*)

Similar records from the Knights in other States will give testimony to this Century of Service in their respective areas. These tracts are taken from the NSW history in recognition of the NSW significant anniversary this year.

Step 3: *Allow a few moments reflective silence.*

Step 4: SCRIPTURE READING

"But someone may say: So you have faith and I have good deeds? Show me this faith of yours without deeds, then! It is by my deeds that I will show you my faith. You believe in the one God – that is creditable enough, but even the demons have the same belief, and they tremble with fear. Fool! Would you not like to know that faith without deeds is useless." (*James 2:18-20*)

Step 5: REFLECTION (5 Mins)

Step 6: SHARING (10 Mins)

Reflect upon the history of the Knights in your own particular area.

Note projects undertaken and identify what motivated those projects to be chosen.

Identify what might be described as the promptings of the Holy Spirit in those projects.

Discuss what might be the prompting the Holy Spirit is giving about the future in your own area.

Step 7: CONCLUSION

We pray together:

Be present with us, O Holy Spirit, for it is in your name that we are specially gathered together. Come to help us in our affairs, and be pleased to enter into our deliberations. Instruct us in what we should do. Let it be You, first of all, who inspire our suggestions. May You who love justice, let us not offend against justice or charity. Grant also that we may act intelligently.

Keep us by the gift of your grace in harmony with your will, so that we may act as one with You, who with the Father and the Son live and reign, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Step 8: *The meeting proceeds*

Step 9: CLOSING PRAYERS – FROM THE ORDER’S PRAYERS