

**Knights of Columbus
Council 459
Spiritual Training
Lecture Outline**

July: Salvation History

- Course lead-off. Places all other lessons in perspective.
- Include a brief introduction of the lecture series as a whole.

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Introduction to Spiritual Training Series

- As Catholics, and especially as Knights, we are called to “be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize.” <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/>
- This means that we must understand the Gospel message and teachings of our faith in order to be prepared when we encounter others as representatives of Christ.
- In other words, we must be trained as Knights in the knowledge and understanding of our faith, so that we can come to accept it and proclaim it with joy.
- All of us are at different points in our faith journey. Some of us are cradle Catholics who have not had any formal faith training since high school. Some of us are recent converts, gaining knowledge through an RCIA program. Still others of us have deepened our knowledge of the faith through prayer, reading, media, and discussions.
- Wherever you are, we hope these short sessions each month will lead you to a deeper relationship with our Blessed Lord and help you live out your faith as you go into the world.
- Each business meeting we will offer a short talk on a particular subject. We are handing out a schedule for the fraternal year. We also will have a handout with key points from the talk as well as resources for further reading.
- This is something new we are trying, so we appreciate your feedback as we go through the year so we can make this time meaningful for you.

Salvation History

- Our first topic is salvation history. Essentially, why did Jesus need to come into the world to save us.

Creation and the Fall

- Why did we need to be saved? Adam and Eve, the first humans created by God, rejected God by eating from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- By their original sin, they lost sanctifying grace, which is the free gift of God that allows us to inherit eternal life.
- God also drove Adam and Eve from the garden and, as a result, they became subject to suffering, sin, and death.
- Thus, there was a gap between humans and God that needed to be closed. And God had a plan to bring us back to himself.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

- God gave the promise of hope of redemption and thus began a long journey to our salvation.
- First, God selected Abraham to be the father of the Israelites, God's chosen people.
- Abraham had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son, Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons; the twelve tribes of Israel were named after Jacob's sons.

Moses and the Covenant

- God chose Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, from slavery, into the promised land.
- God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinani and established a covenant with his people.
 - Essentially, a covenant is a contract or agreement between God and his people. God promised his love for us, but asked us to obey his law.
- Brief review of Ten Commandments?
- God continued to send prophets to remind the people of the Covenant with God, even when people strayed away from God. The prophets continued to bring a message of salvation for the Messiah who was still yet to come.

Jesus and the New Covenant

- So, as we know, the Messiah is Jesus.
- In John 3:16, we read "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- Jesus is "The New Adam"
 - His opportunity to be born in perfect union with the Father, and face temptation, gave him the means to redeem the human race from the original sin of Adam

- Jesus faced temptation, especially during his time in the desert and at Gethsemane before his death. On both occasions, he chose to follow the Father's plan despite his own suffering and the glamorous but empty promises of Satan
- Where the Old "Adam" failed, the "New Adam" succeeded
- Jesus offered the ultimate sacrifice to cement our redemption when he offered himself: "He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day...he did that once for all when he offered himself" (Hebrews 7:26-27).
- Thus, a new covenant has been formed--not of laws but of Christ's blood shed for us all.

The Good News of Salvation

- With Jesus risen from the dead, we now have a way back to a right relationship with the Father through Jesus.
- This truly is good news, and we, as Catholics and Knights, should radiate the joy of salvation to all who we encounter.
- So, let us give thanks to God the father for send us his Son to redeem us, and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Closing Prayer

St. Michael Prayer and Hail Mary

Resources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, Ch 2., ¶¶ 54-73
- Outlines of the Catholic Faith, Section II (pages 3-4)