



**KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS  
FORMATION PROGRAM  
2023**

**READ REFLECT AND REVIEW**

**THE GOSPEL  
ENCYCLICALS  
AND  
LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

# KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

## FORMATION PROGRAM 2023

### INTRODUCTION

2023 IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. LAST YEAR WE RESPONDED TO THE INVITATION OF POPE FRANCIS TO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND PARTICIPATION IN A SYNODAL PROCESS, AND SO OUR FORMATION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING AN OVERVIEW AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORTHCOMING SYNOD.

FOLLOWING ON , OUR THEME FOR 2023 IS *READ, REFLECT AND REVIEW*. USING THESE THREE COMPONENTS WILL ENABLE US TO SHARPEN OUR FOCUS ON RELEVANT PASSAGES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT, TAKE UP INSIGHTS FROM RECENT ENCYCLICALS AND REFRESH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO US IN OUR WORLD OF TODAY. THEN IN OUR FINAL SESSION WE WILL RE-VISIT THE SYNODAL PROCESS WHICH HAS A DEEPLY MISSIONARY DIMENSION TO IT. YOU WILL RECALL FROM 2022, THAT THE SYNODAL PROCESS IS INTENDED TO ENABLE THE CHURCH TO BETTER WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL. HOPEFULLY EVERY KNIGHT WILL OFFER THEIR THOUGHTS ON HOW WE , AS KNIGHTS MOVE FORWARD TO 'JOURNEY TOGETHER' ON THE PATHWAY WHICH CONTINUES TO SHAPE FORMATION FOR OUR MISSION AS KNIGHTS IN A FUTURE SYNODAL CHURCH.

AS KNIGHTS, UNDERTAKING A TARGETED FORMATION PROGRAM OFFERS INDIVIDUALS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE IMAGINATION, RAISE AWARENESS, TO UPDATE KNOWLEDGE, LEARN SKILLS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO DISCUSS OUR COMMON VALUES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL MATURITY, AND GAIN A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST AND GUIDE US AS WE WORK TOWARDS HELPING THE WORLD TO BECOME A BETTER PLACE.

A RECENT READING AT MASS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME MADE ME REFLECT ON WHAT PAUL WAS SAYING. YOU MAY REMEMBER, HE WAS WRITING TO THE CORINTHIANS – BUT HE COULD WELL HAVE BEEN WRITING TO MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, SALE, OR ANY OTHER PLACE WHERE THERE ARE GATHERINGS OF CHRISTIANS- AND WHERE THERE ARE KNIGHTS. LET US REMIND OURSELVES WITH THE EXTRACT FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE 1CORINTHIANS 1:1-2

*I PAUL, CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE OF CHRIST JESUS BY THE WILL OF GOD, AND OUR BROTHER SOSTHENES, TO THE CHURCH OF GOD THAT IS IN CORINTH, TO THOSE WHO ARE SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST JESUS, CALLED TO BE SAINTS, TOGETHER WITH ALL THOSE WHO IN EVERY PLACE CALL ON THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BOTH THEIR LORD\* AND OURS: GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.*

IN HIS FIRST FEW WORDS, PAUL LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE : THE CORINTHIAN CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BE SAINTS, BUT THIS ISN'T EXCLUSIVE TO THEM. THEY ARE SAINTS TOGETHER WITH ALL WHO IN EVERY PLACE CALL ON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. JESUS IS BOTH THEIR LORD AND OUR LORD, AND BECAUSE THEY SHARE A COMMON LORD, THEY SHARE AN ESSENTIAL UNITY.

WE ARE TOLD THAT GOD LOVES US – NOT BECAUSE WE ARE GOOD, BUT BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE – AND THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE

A SENSE OF THIS IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES. PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AGES HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THIS NOTION, BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO STAND OUT AS PEOPLE WHO REALLY ‘GOT THE MESSAGE’ . THEY ARE CALLED SAINTS!

THE TERM ‘ORDINARY TIME’ IN THE CHURCH CONFOUNDS US A BIT TOO – AND I REFLECTED FURTHER: HOW ABOUT THE SAINTS. WERE THERE ORDINARY TIMES, OR WAS EVERY DAY AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME BECAUSE THEY WERE SHARING EVERY MOMENT WITH GOD WHOSE LOVE THEY NEVER DOUBTED, EVEN WHEN TIMES WERE DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING? TIME TO CHECK UP ON THE LIVES OF OUR SAINTS!

AT THE TIME OF PAUL’S LETTER, WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE IN CORINTH WERE CERTAINLY NOT ALL SAINTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND THE TERM. IF SOMEONE BEGAN CALLING ANY OF US A SAINT, I THINK WE WOULD BE A BIT UNEASY, TO SAY THE LEAST, AS WE KNOW WE WOULD FALL SHORT OF THAT DESCRIPTION. YET, HERE IN OUR OWN PLACE AND TIME, WE TOO ARE CALLED TO BE SPIRITUALLY ATTUNED TO RECOGNISE JESUS IN THE ORDINARY EVENTS OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

AND SO, THROUGHOUT 2023, WE WILL PEEK AT SOME OTHER MORE RECENT LETTERS TO CHRISTIANS – SOME BRIEF PASSAGES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT, ENCYCLICALS FROM OUR TWO MOST RECENT POPES, AND ALSO A BRIEF UPDATE AND RECALL OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE LIVES OF SOME OF THE SAINTS , ESPECIALLY THOSE MENTIONED IN THESE RECENT ENCYCLICALS. THESE ARE OF COURSE THE LETTERS TO US TODAY FROM CHRIST’S REPRESENTATIVE ON EARTH. THE ENCYCLICALS WE REFER TO ARE LISTED BELOW.

#### **ENCYCLICALS WRITTEN BY POPE BENEDICT**

- **DEUS CARITAS EST (GOD IS LOVE) (DECEMBER 25, 2005)**
- **SPE SALVI (IN HOPE WE WERE SAVED) (NOVEMBER 30, 2007)**
- **CARITAS IN VERITATE (CHARITY IN TRUTH) (JUNE 29, 2009)**

#### **ENCYCLICAL WRITTEN JOINTLY BY POPE BENEDICT AND POPE FRANCIS**

- **LUMEN FIDEI ( THE LIGHT OF FAITH) (JUNE 29, 2013)**

#### **ENCYCLICALS WRITTEN BY POPE FRANCIS**

- **LAUDATE SI ( PRAISE BE TO YOU MY LORD)**  
**(SUBTITLE: CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME) (JUNE 18, 2015)**
- **FRATELLI TUTTI ( BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL)**  
**(SUBTITLE: ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP)**  
**( OCT 5, 2020) ON THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEFLY REFRESH OUR MEMORIES OF THE LIVES OF SOME OF THE SAINTS IS ALSO INCLUDED AS WE MOVE THROUGH THE 2023 FORMATION PROGRAM**

**THIS YEAR EACH KNIGHT IS INVITED TO BEGIN THE DAY,  
WITH THE PEACE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS,  
OUR SESSION PRAYER WHICH WE WILL PRAY TOGETHER**

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE.

WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;

WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O, DIVINE MASTER,

GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK

TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;

TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND;

TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE;

FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE;

IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED;

IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.



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**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, FRANCESCO DI PIETRO DI BERNARDONE, 1181-1226**

**CANONIZED JULY 16, 1228; FEAST DAY OCTOBER 4**

**FOUNDER OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDERS OF THE FRIARS MINOR: THE WOMEN'S ORDER OF ST. CLARE (THE POOR CLARES), AND THE LAY THIRD ORDER**

**LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT OF EVANGELICAL POVERTY IN THE EARLY 13TH CENTURY.**

**HIS EVANGELICAL ZEAL, CONSECRATION TO POVERTY, CHARITY, AND PERSONAL CHARISMA DREW THOUSANDS OF FOLLOWERS.**

**FRANCIS'S DEVOTION TO THE HUMAN JESUS AND HIS DESIRE TO FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE REFLECTED AND REINFORCED IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDIEVAL SPIRITUALITY. THE POVERELLO ("POOR LITTLE MAN") IS ONE OF THE MOST VENERATED RELIGIOUS FIGURES IN ROMAN CATHOLIC HISTORY, AND HE AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ARE THE PATRON SAINTS OF ITALY.**

- *IN 1979 POPE JOHN PAUL II RECOGNIZED ST FRANCIS AS THE PATRON SAINT OF ECOLOGY*

# KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

## FORMATION PROGRAM 2023

### SESSION FORMAT

(20-25 MINUTE)

- STEP 1**                      **OPENING PRAYER**  
FROM ORDER OF PRAYERS FOR MEETINGS OF THE ORDER
- STEP 2**                      **READING OF THE FOCUS THEME**  
TAKEN FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT, PAPAL ENCYCLICALS,  
OR LIVES OF THE SAINTS OR OTHER IDENTIFIED SOURCES  
KNIGHTS ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE BY READING THE  
FOCUS THEME READING BEFORE THE MEETING, WHERE IT  
COULD BE READ ALOUD BY ONE / OR MORE KNIGHTS.
- STEP 3**                      **REFLECTION**  
A FEW MOMENTS SILENT REFLECTION ON THE READINGS
- STEP 4**                      **REVIEW**  
A FEW MINUTES SILENT REFLECTION NOW ON YOUR  
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE TO THE REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS.  
KNIGHTS MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO UNDERLINE OR MAKE  
NOTES DURING THIS TIME.
- STEP 5**                      **SHARING**  
KNIGHTS ARE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AND  
REFLECTION FOR 10 MINUTES WITH EACH OTHER
- STEP 6**                      **SESSION PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS**
- STEP 7**                      **MEETING**  
BUSINESS CONTINUES
- STEP 8**                      **CLOSING PRAYERS**  
FROM THE ORDER OF PRAYERS FOR MEETINGS

### GENERAL POINTS

- A FORMATION LEADER FOR THE YEAR SHOULD BE SELECTED, SO THAT SOMEONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACILITATION OF EACH SESSION. THIS MEANS THAT SOMEONE WILL DO THE HOMEWORK BEFOREHAND: ALLOCATE READERS AND KEEP AN EYE ON TIME DURING EACH SESSION.
- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EACH MEMBER HAS HIS OWN SHEET FOR THE SESSION SO HE CAN MAKE NOTES , UNDERLINE THINGS ETC.