



Knights of Columbus - Patriotic Degree  
1st Ontario District  
Archbishop James V. Cleary Assembly  
#0857, Kingston, ON  
1922 ~ 2018



John MacIntyre, representing Our Assembly is presented with the Civic award at the Master's meeting In Ottawa recently.





The membership of Assembly 857 currently stands at 186 members. This is comprised of 41 Honorary Life; 4 Honorary; & 3 Disabled members. We have 21 Priests & 3 Deacons.

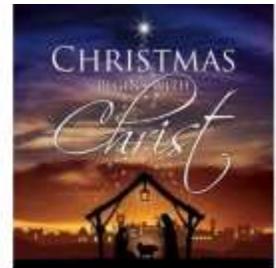
Remember...our Assembly operates with the dues collected from those members of billing status. Please keep yourself in "Good Standing" with both your 3rd degree council & your 4th degree Assembly 0857. Membership Dues for 2019 as of Jan.1/19. Billing notices will be sent out Dec.15. Dues are : Reg - \$35. Hon - \$10. Hon Life or Dis - \$0. Payable : by chq-"K of C Assembly 857". Cash or "E transfer" to FComp's email.(on back of current member card.

Also, keep me informed of any changes in your personal "Contact Info", so our records can be kept current. The use of email & the internet, if used wisely, is an excellent way of moving information to our members. Those without email; will be informed by regular mail & hopefully members in your council, will keep you updated on upcoming events & news. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me.

"Knightsgear Attire" I do have some attire in stock for purchase at affordable prices; polo shirts, caps & T-shirts. I also have various lapel pins & other K of C items. Visit our website for details; [www.jvcleary857.com](http://www.jvcleary857.com) . Checkout the website; [www.knightsgear.com](http://www.knightsgear.com) as well, and check out what is available. I will order 4th degree & 3rd degree attire for any council, on request. **\*\*NOTE\*\*** The cost of new attire ordered is now subject to \$US exchange rate. Ordering for many, cuts down on shipping costs. So browse the Knightsgear website, and order with me today!! Shortly....there will be a Canadian distributor of this merchandise soon. Updates to follow.

Let us be ever aware of those around us, who require assistance, and support to carry on. Our mission as Knights, empowers us to be there, for those in need. " FEED the HUNGRY & CLOTHE the NAKED".

Enjoy the upcoming winter months; but don't lose touch with Jesus; make him the "Centre of your Life", and spread this joy, to those around you, as we prepare for Christmas.



**SK Dale & Lady Lyne Tuepah - FComp 857** Merry Christmas & Joyful New Year !!!  
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Editorial:



Dear Brother Knights,

I have been struggling with another Faith issue of late. Why can I not be the person I know I should be? I know about Jesus and his saving grace. I have accepted him as my Lord and Saviour. Yet, I do not act like I have Jesus as a friend. I too often behave in ways I know will hurt either me or someone else. I have hurt my children, my wife, my friends, my fellow knights and my co-workers with my sinful behaviour over the years. How am I to cope?

I think St. Paul had some of these similar issues. “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells nothing good... For the good that I wish, I do not do, but the bad that I do not wish is what I practice” (Romans 7:18-19). We cannot do it by ourselves. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to overcome our sinful ways.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:12-13)

This past year, I started going to reconciliation again after having shied away from the sacrament sort of on purpose over the past few years. “I don’t need to confess my sins to a priest! I can do it myself!” I lied to myself. I was clearly failing to improve and worst of all, I felt more and more of my own self accusations. I had started to not like the imposter I had become. Holy and good on the outside but rotten to the core inside, full of envy and greed and lustful thoughts. I was not the man people thought I was (or so I felt).

This past year, I began feeling the need to return to The Lord’s Graces in the sacrament of Reconciliation again. At first it was hard. I wasn’t even sure I remembered how to do it (I did). I went last winter and simply spoke to the priest, talking about my failures, my ‘crimes’ and how un-Christian I was. Fully expecting at least a tiny look of disgust to flash across his eyes, I saw only loving and acceptance from the priest. When he pronounced the words, “Your Sins are Forgiven!” I felt a weight lift off my chest like a bolder being removed. I could breath again. I could feel love again and I truly felt like I could forgive and be forgiven again. I have returned again to reconciliation since then, most recently, yesterday evening when our parish held a drop-in Reconciliation session in the Church. It was a joyous event and I was even able to suggest successfully that a friend also attend. I did note how scant the croud was and I wondered how many of my fellow parishioners partake in this wonderful opportunity to experience God’s forgiveness in such a real, tangible way. Have you been to Reconciliation this season? It’s so easy! Just to to the priest and say “Hello Father, I haven’t been here for a while. Can you help me through this please?” He will and you will never regret it.

Michael, GK Council 9652, Editor: Assembly 0857 Bulletin



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by email at [stephen.henderson@kofc.org](mailto:stephen.henderson@kofc.org)

# The Christmas Story: Does It Still Matter?



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What does Christmas mean to you? Times with family and friends? Perhaps carols, cards, television specials. Maybe hectic shopping, parties, and eating too much.

All these and more are part of North American Christmas. But what about the first Christmas? Why is the original story—the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels—important, if at all?

May I invite you to consider eight reasons why the original Christmas story matters, even to you? You may not agree with all of them, but perhaps they will stimulate your thinking and maybe even kindle some feelings that resonate with that famous story.

First, the Christmas story is important because it is. . .

## A Story that Has *Endured*

For two millennia, people have told of the child in a Bethlehem manger; of angels who announced his birth to shepherds; of learned men who traveled a great distance to view him.<sup>{1}</sup>

That a story persists for many years does not prove its truthfulness. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy survive in the popular imagination. But a twenty-century tenure at least merits our consideration. What deep human longings does the Christmas story portray? Why has it connected so profoundly with millions of people? Is the story factual? Curiosity prompts further investigation.

Second, the Christmas story is also . . .

## A Story of *Hope and Survival*

Jesus' society knew great pain and oppression. Rome ruled. Corrupt tax collectors burdened the people. Some religious leaders even sanctioned physical beating of Jewish citizens participating in compulsory religious duties.<sup>{2}</sup>

Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary traveled a long distance to Bethlehem to register for a census but could not obtain proper lodging. Mary bore her baby and laid him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Eventually, King Herod sought to kill the baby. Warned of impending risk, Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt, then returned home after Herod's death.

Imagine how Mary felt. Traveling while pregnant would be challenging. Fleeing to another nation lest some king slay your son would not be pleasant. Yet she, Joseph, and Jesus survived the ordeal.

In the midst of social and cultural challenges, the Christmas story offers hope and encouragement toward survival, hope of new life linked to something—someone—greater than oneself. One of Jesus' followers said Jesus' "name . . . [would] be the hope of all the world."<sup>{3}</sup>

So, the Christmas story is important because it has endured and because it speaks of hope and survival.

Reason number three: the Christmas story is . . .

## A Story of *Peace* and *Goodwill*

Christmas carolers sing of "peace on earth." Greeting cards extol peace, families desire it, and the news reminds us of its fleeting nature.

I encountered ten-year-old Matt from Nebraska in a southern California restaurant men's room one afternoon. Alone and forlorn looking, he stood outside the lone stall.

"Could I ask a favor?" inquired the sandy haired youth. "The door to this stall has no lock. Would you watch and be sure that no one comes in on me?" "Sure," I replied, happy to guard his privacy. Matt noted, "In a lot of nice restaurants the stall doors don't have locks." "I know," I agreed. "You'd think they would."

After a pause, his high-pitched voice said, "You know what I wish? I wish there could be peace in all the earth and no more arguments or fighting so no one would have to die except by heart attacks." "That would be great," I agreed. "How do you think that could happen?" Matt didn't know.

"It seems that the Prince of Peace could help," I suggested. "Do you know who that is?" He didn't. "Well, at Christmas, we talk a lot about Jesus as the Prince of Peace," I explained.

"Oh, I see," conceded Matt. "I don't know about those things because I don't go to church. Do you know what it's like to be the only boy in your town who doesn't go to church? I do."

"Well, I'm a church member," I replied, "but really the most important thing is knowing Jesus Christ as your personal friend. When I was eighteen, some friends explained to me that He died and rose again for me and that I could begin a relationship with Him. It made a big difference and gave me a real peace inside. He can also bring peace between people."

By now, Matt was out washing his hands as his father stuck his head in the door to hurry him along. I gave him a small booklet that explained more. "Thanks," smiled Matt as he walked out to join his family for lunch.

Psychologist Daniel Goleman in his bestselling book *Emotional Intelligence* tells of boarding a New York City bus to find a driver whose friendly greeting and positive disposition spread contagious warmth among the initially cold and indifferent passengers. Goleman envisioned a "virus of good feeling" spreading through the city from

this “urban peacemaker” whose good will had softened hearts.{4}

The Christmas angel announced to some shepherds, “Don’t be afraid! . . . I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!”{5} A crowd of angels then appeared praising God and proclaiming peace among people of good will.{6}

The Christmas story brings a message of peace that can soothe anxious hearts and calm interpersonal strife.

Reason number four: the Christmas story is . . .

## A Story of *Family*

Christmas is a time for family gatherings. This interaction can bring great joy or great stress. Estrangement or ill will from past conflicts can explode.

Joseph and Mary had their share of family challenges. Consider their circumstances. The historical accounts indicate that Joseph’s fiancée became pregnant though she was a virgin. Mary believed an angel told her she was pregnant by God. Now, how would you feel if your fiancé/fiancée exhibited apparent evidence of sexual activity with someone else during your engagement? Suppose your intended said that God had sanctioned the whole thing. Would your trust and self-esteem take a nosedive? Would you cancel the wedding?

Joseph, described as “a just man, decided to break the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace . . . [Mary] publicly.”{7} But an angel appeared to him in a dream, explaining that the child was conceived in her by God, and told him to “name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”{8} Joseph followed instructions and cared for his family. His continuing commitment to Mary and Jesus played a significant part in the boy’s birth and early childhood. With God’s help, the family overcame major obstacles. And so can your family.

Fifth, the story is Christmas is also . . .

## A story of *Humility*

When kings, presidents, and other rulers appear in public, great pomp often ensues. From a biblical perspective, God came first not as a ruling king but as a servant, a baby born in humble circumstances. His becoming human helps humans identify with Him.

Imagine that you and your child are walking in a field and encounter an ant pile with hundreds of ants scurrying about. In the distance, you see a construction bulldozer approaching. Suppose your child asks how to warn the ants of impending danger. You discuss various possibilities: shouting, holding up signs, etc. But the best solution would be if somehow your child could become an ant and warn them personally. Some ants might not believe the danger. But some might believe and take steps to ensure their safety.

Paul, an early follower of Jesus, wrote of the humility Jesus displayed by becoming human:

Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal’s death on a cross. Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven.{9}

The Christmas story speaks of family and humility. But is it true?<sup>{10}</sup>

Reason number six why the Christmas story matters: it is . . .

## A Story that Was *Foretold*

Jesus' followers noted numerous clues to his identity, prophecies written many years before His birth.<sup>{11}</sup>

The Hebrew writer Micah told around 700 BC of deliverance through a coming Messiah or "Anointed One" from Bethlehem.<sup>{12}</sup> We know that ". . . Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. . . ."<sup>{13}</sup>

Isaiah, writing around 700 BC, foretold that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. He wrote, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."<sup>{14}</sup> The name "Immanuel" means "God is with us." Biblical accounts claim Jesus' mother was a virgin when she bore Him.<sup>{15}</sup>

Additional prophecies concern the Messiah's lineage, betrayal, suffering, execution, and resurrection. Peter Stoner, a California mathematician, once calculated the probability of just eight of the 300 prophecies Jesus fulfilled coming true in one person due to chance alone. Using estimates that both he and classes of college students considered reasonable and conservative, Stoner concluded there was one chance in 10<sup>17</sup> that those eight were fulfilled by fluke

He says 10<sup>17</sup> silver dollars would cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Mark one coin with red fingernail polish. Stir the whole batch thoroughly. What chance would a blindfolded person have of picking the marked coin on the first try? One in 10<sup>17</sup>, the same chance that just eight of the 300 prophecies "just happened" to come true in this man, Jesus.<sup>{16}</sup>

In a similar vein, consider reason number seven why the original Christmas story matters. It is . . .

## A Story that Has *Substantial Support*

Can we trust the biblical accounts of the Christmas story? Three important points:

- *Eyewitness Testimony.* The Gospels—presentations of Jesus' life—claim to be, or bear evidence of containing, eyewitness accounts. In a courtroom, eyewitness testimony is among the most reliable evidence.
- *Early Date.* Dr. William F. Albright, one of the world's leading archaeologists, dated every book of the New Testament (NT) before about AD 80.<sup>{17}</sup> There is no known record of NT factual authenticity ever being successfully challenged by a contemporary.
- *Manuscript Evidence.* Over 24,000 early manuscript copies of portions of the NT exist today. Concerning manuscript attestation, Sir Frederic Kenyon, director and principle librarian of the British Museum, concluded, "Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."<sup>{18}</sup>

The Christmas story is notable for its enduring messages of hope, peace, goodwill, family and humility. It was foretold by prophets and has substantial manuscript support. But there is another reason for considering the story of Jesus' birth, perhaps the most important.

Reason number eight: the Christmas story is . . .

## A Story of *Love*

Jesus' followers taught that His conception and birth were part of a divine plan to bring us genuine peace, inner freedom, and self-respect. They believed the biblical God wants us to enjoy friendship with Him, and meaning and purpose. Alas, our own self-centeredness separates us from Him. Left to our own, we would spend both time and eternity in this spiritually unplugged state.

Jesus came to help plug us into God. Mary's baby was born to die, paying the penalty for our self-centeredness, which the biblical documents call "sin." If I had a traffic fine I could not pay, you could offer to pay it for me. When the adult Jesus died on the cross, He carried the penalty due all our sins then rose from the dead to give new life.

Jesus explained, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."<sup>{19}</sup> God can become your friend if you believe in Him, that is, if you trust Him to forgive you. He will never let you down.

Perhaps you are becoming aware of the importance of the Christmas story in your own life. Might you like to receive Jesus' free gift of forgiveness and place your faith in Him? You can celebrate this Christmas knowing that you are a member of His family. Perhaps you'd like to talk to Him right now. You might want to tell Him something like this:

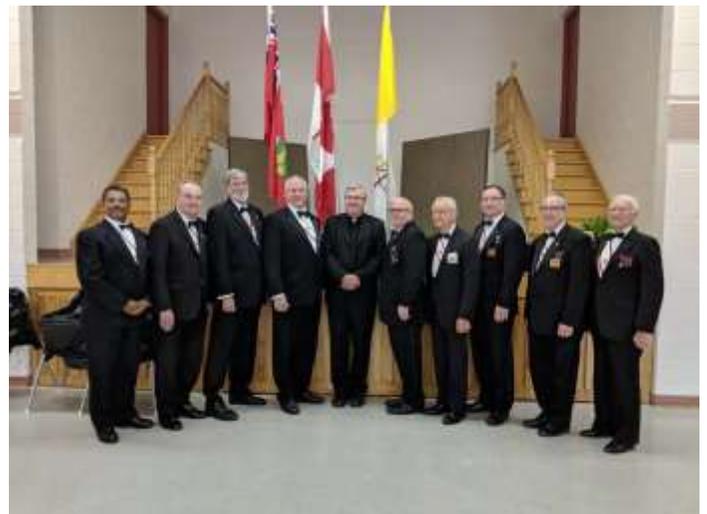
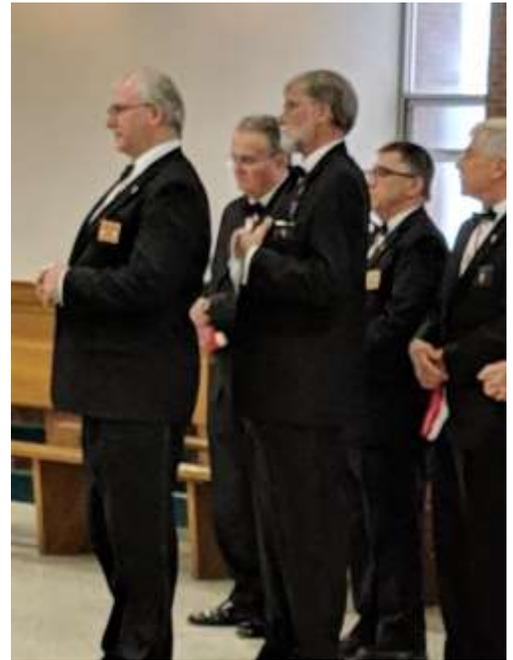
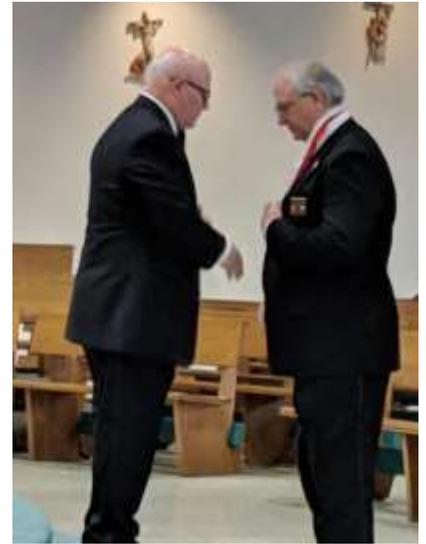
*Jesus Christ, thanks for loving me, for dying for my sins and rising again. Please apply your death as the means of my forgiveness. I accept your pardon. Come and live in me and help me to become your close friend.*

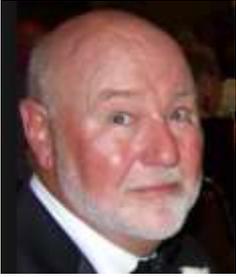
If you made that decision to place your trust in Jesus, He has entered your life, forgiven you and given you eternal life. I encourage you to tell another of His followers about your decision and ask them to help you grow in faith. Call this radio station or visit the Web site [probe.org](http://probe.org) to learn more. Read the Bible to discover more about God. Begin with the Gospel of John, the fourth book in the New Testament, which is one of the easier ones to understand. Tell God what is on your heart, and tell others about the discovery you've made so they can know Him too.

Christmas is meant to celebrate peace and joy. Amidst the busyness of shopping, parties, presents, and fun, remember that the Prince of Peace came to spread peace and joy to all who believe in Him.



# Installation of officers.





Welcome thy neighbour!

## Assembly Bulletin December 2018

Faithful Captain's message: William Coppens

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

As I live through the calendar months of the year, like many others, I often look ahead with anticipation to upcoming events; events like Easter, the beginning of golf season, a wedding celebration, or a vacation trip. I might dream about them, make plans and even long for them. Often my dreaming and planning is to ensure I am ready and well prepared for the special event when it arrives.

Brothers, December is here and we are entering a special time. Yes, it is the beginning of the season of winter; but it is more than that. December is the season of Advent, and the beginning of our Church's liturgical year. With Advent we begin our faith journey with a special message. Advent calls us to hope, to anticipate and to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As Isaiah, in the Old Testament, prophesied to the people of Israel and as John the Baptist later preached to all who would listen “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths*” was a proclamation of the coming of the Messiah, and today is the central theme of the season of Advent. Advent calls each of us to anticipate, pray, reflect and prepare ourselves for the approaching Feast of the Birth of Christ, we celebrate as Christmas. Through the season of Advent we are called to clear away the distractions in our lives, repent and prepare to receive Christ as our Saviour.

Perhaps the message is more? Perhaps we might also look at the season of Advent as a time for us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ in our personal life i.e. the “Second Coming of Christ”, our Saviour and Messiah. We do not know when that may be, but will we be prepared? Why not make this Advent, a special time for us to prepare?



Bill and Lucienne celebrate 50 years married.



S/K Garry Davis Trustee, PFN Assembly 0857

On my way down Princess St., as I marched with other Sir Knights, the Nativity Scene Float, and a Knight (Dale Ezard) in a wheel chair, as part of the Kingston Santa Claus parade this year, I had a time to do some thinking. The question that I was asking myself, "How much longer will we be able to be the visible arm of Knights of Columbus and participate in the Kingston Santa Claus Parades along with other events that we have traditionally participated in." I know from what has been said and written by our Worthy Master, John Schembri, that we will probably be able to be good to go in our regalia for approximately another 5 years. Of course that would be subject to change at any time. In other words that is not written in stone. So I guess we need to be very flexible in our approach regarding the change to the new uniform from our present regalia. Unfortunately whenever it happens that will end my days of parading with our 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guards, something I enjoyed doing. At our Installation of Officers, which was just conducted by the Worthy Master, we also learned that the tuxedo, bow tie, cummerbund. and social baldric would not be authorized for socials as part of this change to a Uniform. My hope and prayer is that we, as an Assembly can survive all these changes and won't be hurt too badly by them with any reduction in the membership. It has never been an easy sell to get 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree members to be exemplified into the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. It will become harder now. One of things that is very important is that we continue to support the patriotic role of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree along with its Laws and Rules.

On a much more positive note, the Santa Claus parade was a very successful event towards the start of our celebration of the birth of Christ. The sign on the side of our Float, "KEEP CHRIST in CHRISTMAS" was visible to all the spectators and tv audience. So lets try to follow that theme during the Advent Season and our Christmas celebrations. It should give us more meaning to our lives than just the material side of life. With that in mind, Rena and I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year 2019.



Vivat Jesu



# Annual Christmas Social Pictures.

Our Annual Christmas Social was a very enjoyable event again this year. There were lots of smiling faces throughout the venue. Some dancing, wonderful singing from the Raycroft family and wonderful food. Thanks to all who helped organize this event this year and Merry Christmas



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—KNIGHTS' DEALS



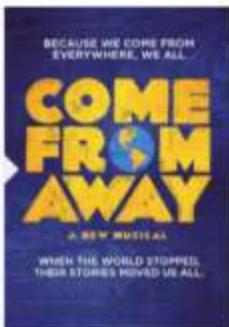
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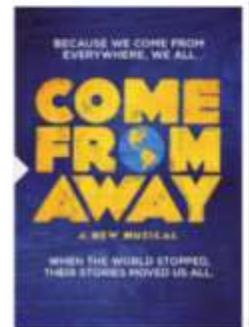
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