



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Saint Kateri  
Council 12229**

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### **Newsletter Editor's Message**

Do you read the Bible? Have you read the Bible? It is probably safe to say that many Catholics do not. If you haven't, here are several points that may entice you to begin that reading journey.

**Bible reading is for Catholics.** The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. Reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to in himself.

**Prayer is the beginning and the end.** Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.

**Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition.** A Catholic edition will include the Church's complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic edition will have an *imprimatur* notice on the back of the title page. An *imprimatur* indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.

**The Bible isn't a book. It's a library.** The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.

**Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't.** The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for our salvation.

**The Old relates to the New.** The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God's plan for human beings.

**What is God saying to me?** The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?

**Reading isn't enough.** If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective." (Hebrews 4:12).