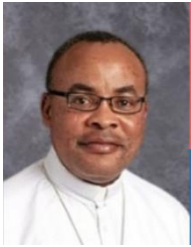




Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 August 2022

Chaplain's Message: Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR



Dear brother Knights,

The great illusion and delusion is believing that one can attain true happiness by simply filling up the ego. The great deception is convincing oneself that the acquisition and procurement of power, wealth, pleasure

and the esteem of others will finally guarantee true happiness, peace, and rest of mind. The greatest lie ever told, the greatest lie anyone can tell himself or herself is to say: I don't need God for anything; I am good myself. It's like saying, I don't need light to see in the dark or I don't need food for my nourishment or I don't need water to quench my thirst. I consider that to be the greatest lie. Unfortunately, many people are telling and spreading this lie to others and telling themselves the lie. On social media, on news media, on newspapers, on blogs, in books, bulletins, magazines, in classrooms, in conference lectures, in work environments and at homes, people spread this big lie. Proponents of this big lie maintain that you don't need God to be truly happy; you don't need God for anything; you are complete and fine by yourself. Sadly, many young people and not so young people have bought this philosophy and are living by it. Each day, they move on with their lives. They might be very productive in their jobs. They may be good parents. They may be very effective in the job they do. When you relate to them they are nice; they speak to you in a respectful manner. In the calculations of the world, they are successful and thriving. But like the man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, who was beaten, robbed and left half-dead in the story of the Good Samaritan, many of these people who appear to be living well in the eyes of the world, are actually half-dead. How come? Because to say you don't need God for anything, even though the human person is wired for God, is to detach yourself from the infinite source of your own existence. Jesus says "without me, you can do nothing," meaning, you cannot truly be alive.

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In John 3:16, Jesus says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Jesus came into the world to redeem us. He came as the Redeemer of the human race. In his infinite wisdom and knowledge, God knows the human race cannot save themselves. God knows we need help. The Psalmist is very clear when he says, "No man can buy his own ransom, or pay a price to God for his life. The ransom of his soul is beyond him" (Psalm 49:8-9). No amount of money, or sacrifice can pay or purchase your ransom, your salvation. That's why Jesus came. He came to show us the way to the Father. He came to take us to heaven. He came to repair the broken relationship. Our relationship with God was broken by us. We burned down the

bridge. Jesus came to repair the bridge so that we can now have access to the Father. Jesus came to show us that God is not a being so distant from us. God is not a "deus absconditus," that is a God who fled from us. Jesus has come to show us that this God that was faceless, so to speak, in the Old Testament, actually has a face. In the Old Testament, Moses wanted to see the face of God, but God said to him, "You cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). But in Jesus of Nazareth, God now has a face. In Jesus of Nazareth, God has a voice. Christianity is not an ideology or a set of ideas or a collection of philosophy. Essentially, it is a relationship with

someone who has a voice, someone who has a face. Jesus came to show us that God is not a dumb mountain out there that we have to explore and discover. In other religions, you have to find God. You are the one who is on a quest to find God. In

Christianity, God finds us. God is the one who initiates this relationship and in many ways, sustains it by means of his grace, his sacraments and his Church. God has given everything of himself to us. Look at the cross! The symbol of shame. The symbol of utter humiliation. The symbol of weakness. The symbol of abandonment. Yet, God embraced it to demonstrate the level he is willing to travel to show us the depth of his love. In Jesus the Most Holy Redeemer, God the creator descended to the level of a creature, became one with us, underwent every human experience, the good, the bad, and the ugly. In anticipation of *what God is planning to do, the author of the Book of Psalms reasonably asks the question, "O Lord our God... what is man that you are mindful of him"* (Psalm 8:5). It is as if God cannot exist without us. Of course God's existence is not contingent on us. It is our existence that is contingent on God. You become the best version of yourself by centering your life in Jesus, by making him the most supreme value of your life. You attain joy by making God the sole value of your life. By joy I don't mean the type that people experience when they find their dream job or when their candidate wins an election or when they win a lottery. That kind of joy will eventually disappear and evaporate. The true joy that lasts a lifetime and thereafter can only be found in God. The saints knew this fact and from the moment they figured it out, they were willing to go to their death for their love for Jesus. So, if anyone tells you that you are all fine by yourself, the person is telling you the biggest and greatest lie. If anyone tells you that you can attain true joy without God, that's the greatest deception. Jesus the Most Holy Redeemer is that joy. Stay with him. Journey with him. Make him the center of your life. Do not allow any worldly distraction to come between you and him. On the last day, you will realize you made the best choice when your crown of victory is given to you.

— Rev. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR



George Morris, Grand Knight Council #6772

Brother Knights – I am excited and delighted to inform you that The Donald Schumaker Council 6772 has achieved the “Star Council Award” for fraternal year 2021-2022, the highest award to be given to a council. This achievement was made possible due to your untiring hard work and dedication to our church, community and society at large. Only 18 councils in Minnesota earned that distinction this year. State of Minnesota was awarded the Circle of Honor by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. We should all be very proud of a stellar year. God Bless everyone!



Summer 2022 4th Degree Exemplification with 22 New Members

Insurance News

Welcome to the late middle of summer! August means most are still in full summer vacation mode. Kids are out of school (and parents are already counting down the days till they return!) and family vacations are planned or maybe already taken. For many it's the time to get outdoors and enjoy some good weather. The temperature, much like Goldilocks and the Three Bears, for some will be too hot, for some too cool and for others...just right.

I hope you get to spend some quality time with your family as the summer moves on. A shady spot in the yard or on the porch may be all you want or need. You might just get away all by yourself for some quality rest and relaxation. For some that might mean the family road trip, kids and parents driving to that favorite vacation spot. For some that are older it might mean the trip to see the grandkids.

Whatever it is that recharges your battery and strengthens the family bonds, I hope you get to do it.

Speaking of driving, it isn't prudent to drive without proper auto insurance. Anyone who does could be in a bad spot should the unexpected happen. The same is true for the insurance coverages that the Order has available. The Knights of Columbus has the products to protect you and your family as you drive down the road of life. So give me a call since you need protection in the event of an unexpected death, unexpectedly needed custodial care at home or in a nursing home, or needing income in the event you unexpectedly outlive your savings.

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with brother Knights.

Fraternally,

Dan Falstad
612 310 5254

Dan.Falstad@kofc.org

Council #6772 Activities

Aug 1st – Feast Day St. Alphonsus Liguori

Aug 4th – KC membership meeting @ 7PM in CSsR Hall

Aug 6th – The Transfiguration of the Lord

Aug 13th – Feast Day of Blessed Michael J McGivney, Founder of Knights of Columbus

Aug 14th - Coats for Kids Breakfast @ 8:30AM – 12:00 Noon in CSsR Hall

Aug 15th – The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Aug 18th – KC planning meeting @ 7PM in CSsR Hall

Aug 30th – Feast Day of Blessed Dominic Trčka (Redemptorist)

Sept 1st – KC membership meeting @ 7PM in CSsR Hall

Coats for Kids breakfast – On Sunday August 14th from 8:30AM – 12:00 Noon in CSsR. Hall. Father Donald Schumaker Council 6772 will be serving a “pancake, egg and sausage” breakfast with coffee, orange juice and tea. Volunteers are needed. All monies collected will go to buy winter coats for local youth in need of a winter coat. Suggested donation of \$5.00/plate. Children eat FREE. Take – out carry trays available for \$5.00 – thank you for continued support and volunteering. **Call GK George Morris @612-306-5540**

Large expenditure – as required by council bylaws, council leadership is informing council membership that council officers has approved the spending of \$ 5,000.00 of council funds as follows:

1. up to \$4,000.00 payable to the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church to purchase new parish hymnals and
2. \$ 1,000.00 to Dynamic Catholic to purchase 2022 Christmas book to be handed out at Christmas.

Bring your comments and concerns to our August membership meeting on August 4th @ 7:00PM.

Upcoming Parish Blood Drive – next drive is scheduled for September 12, 2022 from 1:30PM – 6:00PM at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in the CSSR. Hall. Appointments are preferred. Call Ken Bueckers at 763-245-8895 to schedule an appointment. **DONATE AND SAVE A LIFE TODAY!**

Thank you – Thank you to all brother knights that helped with staffing the North Gate at the Anoka County Fair from July 26 – July 31. This is a major council fundraiser.

FREE 1ST YEAR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP UNTIL October 1, 2022 – Knights of Columbus online membership is free for the 1st year when new members join online. Go to www.kofc.org/joinus when joining, please use password-blessedmcgivney. **Brother knights! Now is the right time to invite Catholic men to join our order.**

STATE STAFF

District Deputy

Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091

Insurance Field Agent

Dan Falstad 612-310-5254

Ben Djondo Deployed

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR 763-561-5100

Grand Knight

George Morris 612-306-5540

Deputy Grand Knight

Richard Schwieters 763-785-2105

Chancellor

Thomas Morgan 612-242-4026

Treasurer

Chris Carlson 763-300-9274

Financial Secretary

John Vella 612-396-5325

Warden

Wesley Jah 612-987-1362

Recorder

Orlando Jones 612-483-6249

Advocate

Paul Althoff 763-228-4856

Inside Guard/Outside Guard

Matt Robinson 763-566-3921

Trustees

1 yr Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

2 yr Jim Stalberger 763-424-8774

3 yr Al Kowalczyk 763-315-0520

Council Directors

Faith: Marty Roers 763-360-5526

Comm: Orlando Jones 612-483-6249

Life: Kenneth Bueckers 763-560-2639

Family: Kevin Haeg 612-751-2877

Membership:

Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Perpetual Memorial cards sent to:

Larry Stoner Family

Pray for:

Frank Noonan

Ray Peterson

Bob Hames

And for others we may have missed and need our prayers.

*If you know someone who may benefit from a card, please contact:
Jim Stalberger: H #763-424-8774 or email: jstalberger720@yahoo.com*

*Pope Francis's Prayer Intention of the month:
For small businesses*

{We pray for small and medium sized businesses in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.}

We continue to pray for those who are unemployed, that they will find good paying jobs.

We pray for the children that they will be loved and cared for.

Our Mission Statement as A Knight of Columbus: *First, as knights we are called to support the Catholic Church and stand behind our priests; second, we are called to protect our families and third; through our charitable works, we help those less fortunate or are in need, WE ARE ABOUT CHANGING LIVES AND SAVING LIVES*