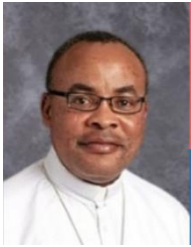




Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 April 2023

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



Dear brother Knights,

One of the deepest truths of spiritual life is stated by the author of the book of Sirach: *"Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given to him."* God respects our freedom so much that he allows us to choose life or death, good or evil. The good and the bad news is that whatever we choose, that's what God will give to us. The idea of God punishing us or seeking retribution is completely off base. What we choose is what we will be given. The great St. Pope John Paul II taught that free acts always accomplish two things: first, they determine what someone will do in a particular situation. Secondly, they contribute to the formation of the moral agent himself. What does that mean? In each of the choices I make, I choose the kind of person that I am becoming. The choices we repeatedly and consistently make eventually help to form and determine the kind of person we become. If you choose over and over again the selfish path, you are going to become a selfish person. If you choose the violent path over and over again, you do all kinds of bad things that hurt people, you are forming yourself into becoming a violent person. If you choose the corrupt path over and over again, you are going to do all kinds of bad things, but more importantly, you are going to become a corrupt person. On the other hand, if you consistently choose the path of love, you do all kinds of good things, you are going to become a loving person. If you consistently choose the path of forgiveness, you are forming yourself into becoming a forgiving person. If you consistently choose the path of non-violence, you will become a peaceful person.

But long before Pope John Paul II, great ancient philosopher Aristotle said that character develops over time as one acquires habits from parents and

community, first through reward and punishment. The word "character" comes from the Greek word "kharakter" which means "brand." By forming your character, you are getting branded, a permanent mark is being placed upon you; that means you are going to belong to somebody. When something is branded by the owner, it means the owner is claiming it. So, who do you belong to now? Who branded you? By your words and actions, you are branding yourself and also demonstrating who you belong to. If you forgive "seventy-times seven (that is, limitless number of times), if you choose the path of love, the path of non-violence, the path of humility, the path of Christ, you are branding yourself a disciple of the Lord and showing that you truly belong to him alone.

In our culture today, any conversation about the law is usually problematic. We see the law as a restriction, a constraint upon freedom. Although we agree that law is important, we see it as a necessary evil. Deep down, most people wouldn't want the law. They would prefer to do whatever they want. But for biblical people, for the author of the book of Sirach, the law does not constrict or restrict freedom. It is rather the very ground of freedom. In the book of Sirach 15:15-20, the author says, *"If you choose to keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand."* The basic biblical principle underscored in those words is that law is the means by which God helps us to make the right choice. God's law or commandment is a kind of lure held out to freedom. It is the invitation to choose what is right. Salvation is set before us. I have always maintained that salvation is free but not cheap. It must cost you something. You must choose it.

Rev. Marcel Divine Emeka Okwara, CSsR



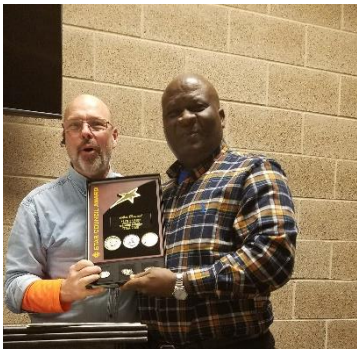
Greetings, Brother Knights - We have come to the end of a harsh winter season and the arrival of a beautiful Spring season with the observance of Easter coincide.

The first day of Spring heralds an imminent change in nature which lifts us up, as do our Easter Celebrations.

As brother Knights, as we move forward to the Holy week of Easter, let's move with a renew sense of determination, commitment, enthusiasm, and vision to be of a greater service to our Council, Parish and community-at- large.

As Catholic/Christians, let's be mindful that the Holy week is not only our most cherish week but most importantly, the nucleus of our Christian faith from death to light through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday and Easter Sunday respectively.

Happy blessed Easter and May God bless us all. Vivat Jesus!; George T. Morris Grand Knight, Council #6772



Welcome Home Field Agent Kodjo “Ben” Djondo

Please join us in welcoming home our own Field Agent and 1st Lieutenant Kodjo “Ben” Djondo. Ben has been deployed for the last year to Iraq in support of OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE. 1ST LT Djondo is an S1 Staff Officer at Battalion level supporting our troops during the deployment. Ben’s assignment was on BASE OPERATING SUPPORT – INTEGRATOR (BOS-I) at Erbil Air Base in Iraq.

Ben started with the Minnesota National Guard as an E-1 enlisted man in 2010 and worked his way up into the officer corps. He has an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts, a Bachelor of Business Administration, and a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management.

Ben is originally from Togo in Africa and eventually immigrated to Minnesota. He became a Brother Knight in 2013 and a 4th Degree Knight in 2019, coming into the Cybart Agency in 2020.

As Ben has served and took care of our troops, he is ready to get back to his duties as a Field Agent to serve and care for his brother Knights and our families.

Welcome home Ben, and thanks to you, your wife Amele, and your sons William, Gabriel, Uriel and Michael for the sacrifices you’ve made for our nation! Vivat Jesus!

Lloyd Cybart, FICF, LUTCF
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Ben/Kodjo Djondo
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Council #6772 Activities

April 2	Palm Sunday
April 6	Holy Thursday (Triduum starts)
April 7	Good Friday (crucifixion of our Lord)
April 8	Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
April 9	Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)
April 13	Membership Meeting in CSSR Hall (rosary at 6:30PM)
April 16	Divine Mercy Sunday
April 28-30	Tootsie Roll Drive (see article for more information)
April 30	World Day of Prayer for Vocations (pray a rosary for vocations)
April 30	Rosary – 5 th Sunday of the Month

2023 State Convention Council Delegates

1st delegate- GK George Morris;

2nd delegate – Trustee Edward Dennis;

Alternate delegates - 1st alternate is Jim Stalberger and 2nd alternate is Paul Althoff.

This years State Convention is being held in Bloomington, MN on May 19-21st.

Mary's Grotto

If you want to order pavers for Mary's Grotto contact Theresa Hardy in St. Al's business office to complete order form.

Each paver (3.5" x 8" approx.) costs \$ 75.00/paver with the engraving included in cost. Limit on number letters allowed.

TOOTSIE ROLL WEEKEND- APRIL 28-30

We need your help to make this year's drive to raise money to help people with intellectual a huge SUCCESS. It's going happen at 4 grocery stores (Cub Foods – Brooklyn Center & Brooklyn Park), Festival Foods -Brooklyn Park and Dragon Star – Brooklyn Park) plus after all masses that weekend at St. Al's.

We have 4 shifts on Friday and 3 shifts on shifts on Saturday. The shifts for handing out tootsie rolls and accepting donations are 2 hours long. Brother Knights will be begin making calls to the membership inviting you, your spouse and your child to volunteer for a shift. You always work with someone. **Thank you for volunteering.**

STATE STAFF

District Deputy

Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091

Insurance Field Agent

Ben Djondo 612-227-6811

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:

Prince Montgomery 612-226-3217

Membership:

Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent

Arlene Peterson – (passing of husband, Ray Peterson)

Joe Thill – (passing of his father, Louis)

Jeff Knack – (passing of his mother, Marlene)

David Van Houtan – (passing of his son, Michael)

Get Well Cards sent:

Albert Kowalczyk

Richard Synsteliën

Richard Schwieters

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 of the month: April

For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by State and citizens

We pray for kindness, love, care, gentleness, forgiveness for our family members, co-workers, friends and all the people we encounter in every day of our lives.

We pray for all people to be willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus. To share the good news of Christ through our actions and words. May the world see his saving grace and love through us.

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*