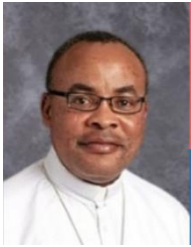




# Knights Corner

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

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



Dear brother Knights,

In these words of the great St. Paul of Tarsus, "*I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.... Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord*" we hear one of the most descriptive and indisputable conditions of the human person. I tell you, no one can reasonably dispute those words of St. Paul. Majority of people, I believe, want to do good, but as hard as we try, in the end, we find ourselves doing what we do not want to do. Sometimes I fight with myself, and I ask myself, "What's wrong with me? Why did I do it? Why can't I stand uninterruptedly upright?" If that is also your sentiment, read again these words from St. Paul: "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."

But didn't the Book of Genesis tell us that we are made in *imago Dei* (image of God)? Yes indeed! God made us in his own image, which is love. However, we have it within ourselves the impulse, the tendency, the deep pull to selfishness, to greed, to self-satisfaction, to self-sufficiency, to pride, to over-inflate our ego and to sin, which is a rejection of God's invitation to friendship. This is the struggle and battle that goes on within each of us. One day, we rise, another day we fall. One day, we are amazing, another day, we are dreadful. One day, we are lovely, another day, everyone around us is avoiding us. One day, we love, another day, we are full of hate. One day, we reach out, another day, we retreat and build walls. One day, we pray, another day, we curse. One day, we build, another day, we find ourselves destroying what has taken us a lot to build. Just look around you and see what's going on in the world. Many of us really want to love God, we want to love our neighbor because of God. But we struggle to do what we want to do. This is the mystery of the human condition.

Oftentimes Christians are accused of hyper-stressing sin, of being over preoccupied with guilt and the weakness of our human condition: "Stop talking about human weakness. Stop focusing on human frailty. Talk about human achievement, the progress in science, technology, humanities etc." many say. Has the human race made progress in science and technology? Yes! Many years ago, it took months to move from Europe to Africa. Today, it takes just a few hours. No doubt, there has been so much progress made in so many fields of life. But despite these advancements and accomplishments, the one human phenomenon we have not been able to alter is "*I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.*" We are yet to invent and produce tools, therapies, equipment that can enable us to do the good we want to do and avoid the evil we do not want to do. We still struggle with this human condition today just as the great St. Paul did many centuries ago. No scientific or technological evolution has solved this downward tendency to selfishness. No philosophical theory and framework has provided a definitive solution to this mystery. More to it, without a healthy and balanced sense of our sinfulness, we cannot see any need for redemption from sin. And without a sense of sin, we won't see any need for redemption from sin. As a consequence, we won't see any need for God.

What's the bottom line? There is finally a place for God. God will always be part of the human equation even as we try so hard to ignore God and to kick God out of our lives. Check this out! God is that which we cannot possibly ignore. God will always be part of the discussion. In fact, God is the end of the discussion. Unless we surrender to God totally, the discussion continues. Until we give God his prime place, the confusion continues, our weakness grows, our division intensifies, our recklessness and dysfunction deepens.

Are we totally helpless? Not at all! Undeniably, St. Paul acknowledges his own miserableness: "*Miserable one that I am!*" He realizes his struggle

and his inability to do the good he wants to do. Although he is a good and faithful Jew, he admits his best effort is not good enough. Then cries out: “*Who will deliver me from this mortal body?*” Science? Technology? Philosophy? Religion? Wealth? Power? More pleasure? Honor? Country? Tribe? Academic degrees? Arms and military might? Rigid obedience to law? Not at all! Mind you, all these are good in themselves but none is able to deliver St. Paul or anybody from the downward tendency to sin and selfishness. Who will deliver St. Paul? Who will set us free? Where will our salvation come from? Paul answers, “*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ*

*our Lord.*” Only God through Jesus Christ can save us. Finally, no one can pay his or her own ransom. Your salvation, my salvation is beyond us. Only Jesus can save. If you are still wondering why you should give your life to God, this is it. This is the reason why God must be central in our life.

*Veni Sancte Spiritus!*

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSsR--  
*Servant of the servants of God*  
Associate Pastor  
Church of Saint Alphonsus



### **George Morris, Grand Knight Council #6772**

Congratulations, Jim Stalberger our October Knight of the Month. Thank you for your service.

From our house to your house, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



### **Brother Knights & Families**

When planning for retirement, many people fail to consider one important and potentially significant expense...the cost of long-term care services.

The average cost of nursing home care is quickly approaching \$97,000 a year according to [WhatCareCosts.com/KnightsOfColumbus](http://WhatCareCosts.com/KnightsOfColumbus). And that's just for one person. If both partners need care, a retirement nest egg could be depleted quickly. Without a plan to pay for long-term care services, you could be putting everything you have worked a lifetime to accumulate at risk. So how will you pay?

Like most people, you may mistakenly believe your long-term care needs already are taken care of. However, major medical insurance doesn't cover long-term care services. Medicare coverage is limited to helping you get back on their feet after an illness or injury. And relying on Medicaid may mean spending down assets to qualify.

With these options off the table, how would you pay for the care you may need? Here are three good questions you need to ask yourself:

- Could you afford to pay up to \$97,000 a year out of your retirement savings?
- Would you have access to the funds you need? Or would you have to sell assets, cash in stocks, or dip into 401(k) or other savings accounts?
- Which asset would you use to pay for long-term care services?


Talk to your Knights of Columbus Field Agent about how he can help you create a plan to fund for the care you may need someday.

Dan Falstad

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## Council #6772 Activities

<b>Sunday, 12/3/23</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b>Thursday, 12/7/23</b>	Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM/Rosary @ 6:30PM
<b>Friday, 12/8/23</b>	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin – Holy Day of Obligation
<b>Tuesday, 12/12/23</b>	Feast Day – Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Thursday, 12/21/23</b>	Planning Meeting @ 7:00PM
<b>Monday, 12/25/23</b>	Christmas Day – Holy Day of Obligation
<b>Wednesday, 12/27/23</b>	Feast Day – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
<b>Sunday, 12/31/23</b>	Feast Day – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
<b>Monday, 1/1/24</b>	New Years Day – Happy New Year! 

### UPCOMING BREAKFAST –

Brother Knights, our next breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – please put it on your calendar to help, by volunteering, attending and having breakfast.

### SAVE THE DATE – ST. ALPHONSUS MEN'S RETREAT – SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

#### Brother Knights Watch for:

***The 2024 Statements mailing, which will be in mid-December.***

Honorary Life members will get their 2024 membership card at this time. For other members it is a dues statement to keep your membership in good standing. Our 2024 dues will remain the same: \$25, and \$12 for Honorary members.

Once again there will also be an opportunity to contribute to the Charities Fund, which helps our council to provide charitable donations to many in our community and beyond – thank you in advance for your support.

The state is once again offering an opportunity to participate in the state raffle, and our council will get half of the money from state raffle tickets purchased. Please be prompt with your dues payment to avoid extra mailing costs/reminders. Thank you and wishing all brother Knights a Merry Christmas!

#### Notice:

If, you have moved or changed email addresses please contact:

John Vella: [jvella529@gmail.com](mailto:jvella529@gmail.com) or 612-396-5325, Jim Stalberger: [jstalberger720@yahoo.com](mailto:jstalberger720@yahoo.com) or 612-554-3718.

#### Prayer of St. Benedict

Gracious and Holy Father, give us the wisdom to discover You, the intelligence to understand You, the diligence to seek after You, the patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You, and a life to proclaim You, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

**STATE STAFF**

*District Deputy*  
Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091  
*Insurance Field Agent*  
Dan Falstad 612-310-5254  
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*

*BK Richard Arnevik – passing of his wife, Jeanette*  
*BK Richard Schwieters -passing of his sister-in-law, Kathy*  
*BK Jeff Knack – passing of his brother, Dan*  
*Yvonne Thibodeau- passing of her husband,*  
*BK Emerick Thibodeau*  
*BK Fred Goenner – passing of his wife, Mary*

*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 for the month of December*

*We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

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*We pray for peace in our world.*

*We pray to have love of our neighbor and prayers for our enemies that they may turn their hearts toward God.*

*May we be generous in our dealings with others, in words and deeds. May we serve God by serving others.*

**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*