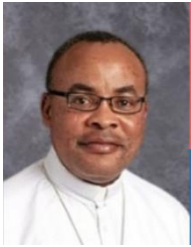




## Knights Corner

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

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



Dear brother Knights,  
**I will be traveling to Nigeria on Monday, December 19, and I will be back on January 24**

In almost every other religion in the East and West and across the ages, God or the gods are considered powerful forces that must be begged, pleaded with and sacrificed to in order for human beings to get what they want. Worshippers of these gods believe that their gods are distant, difficult, and reluctant to grant favors. So, to make them give to people what they want, the gods have to be greatly persuaded by embracing extreme moral views, by practicing all forms of excessive mortification like fasting and mutilation of the body. In some situations, making animal and human sacrifices are adopted just to appease and motivate these divinities to give something they are not willing to give out on their own. But the Bible presents an entirely different picture. The Bible is not the story of our quest and longing for God. It is rather the story of God's quest for us. What we see in other religions is the quest of human beings for God. What we find in other spiritualities is the human person's search for God. But the Bible is not that story. It is not the tale of our extravagant invocation to God. It is the story of God begging us to ask more of him. I know this sounds strange; it is counterintuitive. But that is just what it is.

Brothers, the season of Advent is coming to a close. Christmas is coming. God is becoming one of us. The greatest act of humility in human history is unfolding before us. God who created one hundred billion galaxies, and each galaxy has one hundred billion stars created us in his image and likeness. And

once we got into trouble with original sin, he came to be with us. Our God is not like the Greek and Roman gods believed by their worshippers to domicile above the clouds, which occasionally come down below the clouds to take advantage of the people. In the Bible, in Christianity, our God comes down below the clouds to love us, to save us and give us the greatest gift of eternal life. Does God need us? Does God need you and me? Does God need anyone? The implication of St. Augustine's assertion, "If we praise God, God is not made any greater. If we don't praise God, God is not made any smaller. But if we praise God, we become greater and if we don't praise him, we become smaller," is that God does not need us. God is self-sufficient. God is blessed within himself. However, God wants us. God wants you. Christmas is all about God desiring us, wanting us to be with him in a covenant relationship. When the Virgin conceived and gave birth, the child was called Jesus, which means *God is my salvation*, and that is God's greatest gift to us. At Christmas, we celebrate the stubborn fact that God has pursued us. God wants us. God wants to adopt us as sons and daughters. God has not left us as orphans to figure things out ourselves. Christmas is so much more. It is not about Santa Claus, gifts, food etc. It is about being adopted. Christmas is about being pursued by God; it is about being overcome by his love. As Christmas draws near, let us prepare to meet God with an open and willing heart— a heart of a son, a heart of a daughter.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSsR

## 4<sup>th</sup> degree Christmas



December Pancake Breakfast – proceeds to Sharing & Caring Hands



Cybart Agency, Knight of Columbus

[www.twincitieskofc.org](http://www.twincitieskofc.org)



Have you made New Year's resolutions this year? And do you realistically hope to stay on track with exercising and eating better? How about those resolutions to get the budget under control and make sure you have enough insurance to cover your family in case the unexpected occurs? I can't help with your diet but if you would like help with protecting your family financially give me a call any time for a free professional review of your investment and insurance needs. Within reason, you are never old to consider purchasing life insurance, and various types of life insurance can protect your loved ones in any stage of your life. From paying off the mortgage to providing education funds in the event you pass unexpectedly, or providing a source of income in retirement, the Knights have products that can help you achieve your financial goals and provide peace of mind that your family will be protected. If the children are on their own, you or your spouse may wish to leave something behind to the church, a grandchild, your favorite charity, or a caring friend, and you can use life insurance to leave a legacy tax free to whomever you wish without the time and expense of updating your will, trust, or final plans.

If you are financially set and are looking to leave a legacy for your children or others, have you protected that legacy with long term care coverage? The Knights have some of the best plans in the country and you may find it surprisingly affordable for the peace of mind that it provides.

If you have the conservative portion of your portfolio covered and don't need the security of our guaranteed annuities and cash generating whole life policies you may want to consider investing with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KCAA). KCAA offers a suite of mutual fund investments with a Catholic focus that will specifically tailored to your risk tolerance and address the need for growth in your overall portfolio.

Continued next page.

And if you are even farther along and looking for ways to give back to your favorite charities now with a plan for when you pass check out our Donor Advised Funds.

I look forward to discussing personalized coverage with you. Call me anytime for details.

Dan Falstad

612 310 5254

[Dan.Falstad@kofc.org](mailto:Dan.Falstad@kofc.org)

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### Council #6772 Activities

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Day

**Thursday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** Membership Meeting @ 7PM in CSSR Hall

**Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord

**Monday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>** Martin Luther King – observed Holiday

**Thursday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>** Planning Meeting @ 7PM in CSSR Hall

**Monday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>** Blood Drive – CSSR Hall – 1:30PM-5:50PM

**Wednesday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** Feast Day – Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

**Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month Rosary @ 9:00am  
(in chapel behind the altar.)

**Membership Dues** – your 2023 membership dues statement was mailed to you in mid/late December asking for payment and donation to charity if possible. To cut council mailing expenses, please make payment in the month of January to save our council money by not having to send out a second notice to pay dues. Our membership dues are \$25.00/year making it the cheapest in the Twin Cities NW Metro Area. Thank you in advance for taking care of this!

**MEN'S RETREAT @ ST. AL'S – SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2023 \*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\*more information to follow in upcoming council newsletters.**

**ST. AL'S BLOOD DRIVE** – January 23, 2023 from 1:00PM – 5:50PM in the C.Ss.R. Hall. To make a blood donation appointment call Ken Bueckers at 763-560-2639. Walk-ins are welcomed! Save a life today as the need for blood is great during the winter months. God Bless!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Month Rosary** – on January 29, immediately following the Sunday 8:00AM mass the Knights will pray the rosary in church chapel behind the main altar. All are invited to pray for the end of abortion in America.

**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:**  
Prince Montgomery 612-226-3217  
**Membership:**  
Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

**Sunshine Report**

*Get Well Cards sent:*  
Ken Bueckers  
*Prayers needed for:*  
Frank Anderl's brother - Gerald  
Steve Buechler  
Jim Denn  
Frank Noonan  
Ray Peterson  
Richard Schwieters  
Sharon Schwieters  
Joseph Thill

*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**

*January's Prayer of the month: **For Educators**  
We pray that educators may be credible witnesses,  
teaching fraternity rather than competition and  
helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.*

*-----  
We pray for the end of violence in our country,  
communities and our homes.*

*We pray for people to love as Jesus loves and to  
forgive as Jesus forgives.*

*If we want mercy, forgiveness and love, then we  
must show mercy, forgive those whom we feel have  
hurt us and we must love others so they can know  
love and they in turn can show mercy, forgiveness  
and love.*

**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*