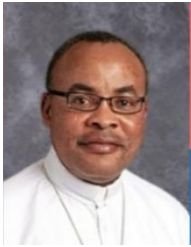




Knights Corner

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

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



Dear Brother Knights,

Welcome to the holy season of Lent. Lent is a penitential period when we are urged to come to grips with our sins and material attachments so as to prepare for

real communion with God, the Father of light. It is the annual preparation for Easter that calls us to reform our lives and to open our hearts to the blessings God has promised to bestow on us. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday evening when the Triduum begins.

What must we do during this season? According to the Church's Code of Canon Law, all healthy Catholics from age 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on all other Fridays of Lent. Fasting is a bodily way to remind ourselves that we need God above all things. We fast and abstain during the season of Lent in order to uniquely know Jesus as our Food. He is the Source of our strength and nourishment. When it comes to fasting or abstinence, not every Catholic is required to do it. But the second and the third disciplines of Lent can be done by everyone. What are they? Giving alms and praying like never before. We particularly give alms during this period in order to know Jesus as our Treasure. He is the most precious Gift of inestimable value. He is God's greatest and finest gift to the human race. A lively Christian prays all the time. But in the season of Lent, we pray fervently in order to know Jesus as our Voice. He is the One that speaks for us before our God, the eternal Father of light. But it is important to note that these Lenten disciplines are not just chores to be done simply because the Church strongly urges us to do them. Above all, doing them are wonderful opportunities to grow in faith and in love for

God. They are meant to strengthen our resolve to make Jesus the sole absolute center of our life.

As we commence another season of Lent, don't forget what it is all about. Don't forget what the disciplines of Lent are meant for. God wants us to embark on a journey of repentance, conversion, reconciliation, transformation and renewal. God wants us to step out of the comfort zone of sin. He wants us to step away from the old sinful lifestyle, and to accompany his Son, Jesus Christ to the mountain of Transfiguration where we will experience a glimpse of the new place, the place of glory.

Is it necessary to set Lenten goals? Not really, but it does not hurt to do them. If you are planning on setting goals, think and pray over it first. Afterwards, make a realistic list. Be modest about it. Don't set goals you won't be able to observe. If you are not able to fast and abstain from food, drinks and snacks, you can definitely fast from impure thoughts and other sinful acts. As for giving alms, make it a habit to help the poor or to send a check to the parish for the care of the poor. When it comes to the basic physical needs of the poor, I believe with all my heart that every parish must care and do something to address them. You can set a realistic goal of praying the whole rosary or a decade or even praying three Hail Marys' everyday throughout the season of Lent.

Once again, remember what this is about. It is all about Jesus. It is all about getting close to him. It is all about knowing him, loving him and serving him here and then being fit for the Kingdom of the Father of light.

Have a wonderful season of Lent!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR

Brother Knights,

Lent has started and as Catholic men, our faith calls us to be more fervent in doing works of mercy. We are called to form/do more spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Whether it be corporal works (helping feed/donate to the hungry, visit/call the sick, bury the dead) or spiritual works (forgive transgressions, pray daily for the living and the dead, bear wrongs patiently). We all have time in our day to devote 15-20 minutes to give to the Lord.

March is a busy month for the council with lots of opportunity to do our charitable works. To name a few – Soup Supper (Friday March 3); Men’s retreat (Saturday March 18); Council Breakfast (Sunday March 19) plus in April there’s Church Garage Sale plus Tootsie Roll Drive (April 28-30). If you are not physically able to work, come support the activity financially.

Each month in our newsletter we invite members/families to pray for those in need/those who have died. **PRAY IS POWERFUL**. If you know of a Brother Knight/spouse/sibling/friend in need of our prayers, please call/email Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774 or jstalberger720@yahoo.com to get them on our prayer list.

A simple prayer that Father Marcel suggested each day is: **JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!** – pray it slowly 10 times in a row.

Working together in Christ,
Jim Stalberger, trustee



FRATERNAL BENEFIT EVENTS

Supreme is augmenting the Minnesota Agencies with more Fraternal Benefit Seminars, now called Fraternal Benefit Events (FBE). These are all professional financial experts that Supreme has hired for these presentations. All members, family members, and members of the Parish are welcome to attend at no cost. Simply click on the Hyperlink below or copy and paste in your browser to register.

Feel free to contact Dan Falstad at 612 310-5254 with any questions

- The Minnesota Region welcomes Ed Slott “Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning” on March 7th at 7:00 PM CST
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCSlottMarch7>
- The Minnesota Region welcomes Jim Effner “Importance of Whole Life as part of Retirement Plan” on April 13th at 7:00 PM CST
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerApril13>
- The Minnesota Region welcomes Tom Hegna- “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” on May 23rd at 7:00 PM CST
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCHegnaMay23>
- The Minnesota Region welcomes Jim Effner “Importance of Whole Life as part of Retirement Plan” on June 27th at 7:00 PM CST
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerJune27>

Membership Dues:

If you have not paid your 2023 yearly dues, please pay your membership dues as Financial Secretary John Vella has mailed out your 2nd Notice. Your 2023 Council membership dues are \$ 25.00/year or less than \$ 0.07/day. This is the best value for growing your Catholic faith. Questions on your dues, call John Vella at 612-396-2325. If you are paying by cash, come to membership meeting.

Council #6772 Activities

Thursday, March 2nd - Membership Meeting @ 7PM in CSSR Hall (Rosary @ 6:30PM)

Friday, March 3rd - KC Soup Supper @ 6:00 – 7:30PM in CSSR Hall

Friday, March 3rd - St. Katherine Drexel (Feast Day)

Thursday, March 16th - KC Planning Meeting @ 7PM in CSSR Hall

Friday, March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 18th - St. Al's Men's Retreat (8:00AM – 2:30PM)

Sunday, March 19th - KC Breakfast (8:30AM – 12:30PM)

Monday, March 20th - St. Al's Blood Drive (1:00PM – 6:00PM)

Monday, March 20th - St. Joseph (Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary)

Monday, March 20th - 1st Day of Spring (Hooray!!!)

Saturday, March 25th - The Annunciation of the Lord

Friday, March 3rd - KC Soup Supper @ 6:00 – 7:30PM in CSSR Hall – we will need help cooking, serving, setting And cleaning tables, washing dishes. If, you are available to help please call 763-424-8774 Jim Stalberger or email at jstalberger720@yahoo.com If, are unable to help, please come eat and support The Knights and St. Alphonsus Parish.

MEN'S RETREAT – SATURDAY MARCH 18TH

Where – St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, school gym and C.S.Sr. Hall (noon lunch)

This year's retreat theme is centered around **Pope Francis January 1st, 2023 letter for the ** 56th World Day of Peace**** - Retreat will start with at 8:00am mass in the church followed by continental breakfast in school gym. Retreat runs from 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon. Viewing of the film on St. Mother Theresa will be shown in CSSR Hall. ALL MEALS ARE FREE. Retreat is being sponsored by KC Council 6772. For planning food needs please register by contacting John Vella at (612) 396-2325 or email him at jvella529@gmail.com. Come for a morning in growing your faith, fraternity and fellowship.

Council Breakfast - Sunday March 19 from 8:30AM – 12:30PM in CSSR Hall: Brother knights will be serving pancakes, breakfast sausages and scrambled eggs plus the usual beverages of coffee, tea, juice and water. This is a free will offering breakfast. **Carry out trays will be available for \$5.00/tray.** All proceeds to be donated to charity to be decided at the March membership meeting. Come support the cause. To volunteer with this breakfast, call Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774 or email at jstalberger720@yahoo.com. – Lots of help is needed!!

BLOOD DRIVE @ ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH – Monday March 20 (1PM – 6:00PM) in CSSR Hall. Walk – ins are welcome. To make appointment call Ken Bueckers at 763-245-8895.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE – SAVE THE DATES!! (April 28-30) We will be handing out tootsie rolls at 4 grocery stores on Friday/Saturday April 28/29 and after all masses that weekend. All proceeds will be given to approved organizations that serve people with intellectual disabilities. Please plan to help. Thank You.

STATE STAFF

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Ben Djondo

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Matt Robinson 763-566-3921

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2 yr Jim Stalberger 763-424-8774

3 yr Al Kowalczyk 763-315-0520

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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

Kenneth Kiffmeyer (family of)

Frank Anderl, passing of Gerald Anderl (brother)

Get Well Cards sent:

Ray Wojtysiak

Sharon Schwieters (BK Richard Schwieters wife)

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 March:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center of the Church; may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

We pray for a peaceful end to the war in Ukraine.

We pray for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

We pray for the end of violence here in America.

Let us love as Jesus loves, and forgive as he forgives.

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*