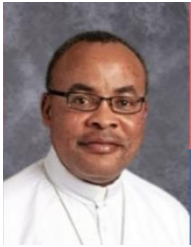




## Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH  
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 APRIL 2024

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



Dear brother Knights,

The Bible is littered with so many essential quotations, but in the Book of prophet Jeremiah, we see one of the most crucially important quotations in the entire Bible. From the lips of prophet Jeremiah, we hear: *The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt... I will be their God, and they shall be my people* (Jeremiah 31: 31-33b). The central word in that prophetic declaration is “covenant,” and it is absolutely central to biblical revelation. The great St. Irenaeus said that the best way to understand salvation history is to see it as the establishment of covenants between God and his people. God made covenants with Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses and David. But what is a covenant? It is not so much a contract, which is about exchange of goods and services—you do this for me, and I will do that for you. A covenant is rather a bond, a personal bond, a sharing of life. We don't speak of marriage contract, rather marriage covenant: I will be yours and you will be mine. This is what covenant life is about. So, the great feature of the biblical covenant is indeed, “I will be your God, and you will be my people.” It is not an exchange of goods and services, rather an exchange of life and exchange of persons. And covenants in the Old Testament were typically sealed in blood and sacrifice. How come? Firstly, because blood signals life and the exchange of life. God wants to get his life into his people, Israel. And he wants their life to be given to him in return. Secondly, because we've gone off-kilter with divine life. So, getting on line through the covenant will hurt. It is said that when people brought animals to the temple in Jerusalem for sacrifice, what they were saying symbolically was, what was happening to this animal by right should be happening

to me. The blood of the animals symbolizes the life blood poured out in reparation.

Jeremiah knew Israel had failed to live up to the demands of the covenant. He knew the Law given to Moses. He knew about the hundreds of thousands of animal sacrifices offered in the temple. But he also knew that none of them were working. Israel did not belong entirely to the Lord. So, he prophesied about a day to come, a day of fulfillment when the covenant would definitively be sealed and lived out, when the Law would no longer be a dead letter, honored and written only in stone. He prophesied the day when God will entirely be Israel's God and Israel will entirely be God's people. Six centuries after Jeremiah's prophecy, a young Jewish rabbi, who performed great miracles of healing and demonstrated a mastery over the forces of nature, enters the Upper Room situated in the holy city of Jerusalem. Surrounded by his disciples for Passover supper, he takes the cup of blessing in his sacred hands and makes an extraordinary pronouncement: **“This is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”**

We know those words from the Mass; they are the words of the consecration. But when Jesus' disciples first heard those words, what came to their minds wasn't the consecration of the Eucharist. What they heard was how Jesus is evoking all the great covenants of Israel. Jesus is demonstrating an exchange of life between God and his people. He is boldly associating his covenant with the one predicted by Jeremiah six centuries earlier. Jesus is saying the sacrifice of his life, the shedding of his blood, his death on the cross will at last initiate an unbroken bond between God and his people. All the great prophets acknowledged that Israel did not fulfill the covenant God made with them. But in the Upper Room, on the Last Supper, Jesus declares that the shedding of his Blood, which Jeremiah saw centuries earlier, has now become a

reality. He is now fulfilling it on behalf of Israel and the whole human race. This is why Jesus said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32). What's the lifting up? It is the lifting up of crucifixion. The shedding of sacrificial blood. In that act, Jesus is saying, "I am making the whole world into the new Israel. I am making the whole world blood brothers and sisters of God. Jesus

is the coming together of divinity and humanity. He is the moment when faithful Yahweh meets faithful Israel. And this is great good news of Christianity!

Rev. Marcel Divine Emeka Okwara, CSsR



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



We spend six weeks each year during Lent fasting, praying and almsgiving. We hope to unite our fasting and praying with Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert, to focus on preparing both our inner and outer selves to celebrate the great Easter feast. We give alms to identify with that great sacrifice of God giving His only begotten Son. With Easter on March 31 this year, I hope this finds that you had a very blessed celebration of this central Christian feast! Easter certainly brings thoughts of newness and renewal. We hope our fasting, praying and almsgiving renews our closeness to God.

As Spring settles in, I observe the many rituals of the season. I think of newness and renewal. Outside beds are prepared for new planting. I see the new blossoms on trees and flowers reaching full bloom, lengthening of daylight, and a rush of sounds and sights not seen for many months. School children begin to count down the days to summer vacation. Parents do the same counting down...perhaps without the joy of the children!

Spring seems to elicit looking forward.

As I look forward this Spring, I am renewed in my mission to meet with my members. I want to keep you apprised of any changes you might want to consider in your insurance program. I hope you will keep me apprised of any changes in your circumstances. Adjustments can be made to make sure that you are on the path to reach your goals.

The Order offers a diverse array of products and services to help you do that. Together we can complete or update your financial needs analysis. This can show where you stand and helps discover any gaps in protection you might have. Our products: life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance, are our core products to help protect you and your family.

Vivat Jesus

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Looking for a Career change, check out the KCs: [A Career Unlike Any Other - YouTube](#)

All Catholic gentleman are eligible to join the Knights and there is no commitment outside of annual dues to participate in our charitable, social, and church related activities. But we invite you to join us, and would encourage you to get involved with the Knights and actively participate in all of our activities for the good of the parish and the community. Ask any Knight you recognize from the parish for a membership form, or go to [Knights.net](#) to register on-line, and we will contact you shortly with more information.

## Council #6772 Activities

|                        |          |                                       |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| April 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday | Membership Meeting/ Rosary @ 6:30PM   |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Sunday   | Divine Mercy Sunday                   |
| April 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Monday   | The Annunciation of The Lord          |
| April 11 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | St. Stanislaus                        |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | Planning Meeting @ 7:00PM – CSSR Hall |
| April 25 <sup>th</sup> | Thursday | St. Mark, The Evangelist              |

**Council Breakfast – Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30am – 12:00Noon – Council will be serving pancakes, eggs, sausages and fruit plus the usual beverages. Breakfast proceeds are going to Abria Pregnancy and to purchase an outdoor grill for the parish priests.

*To volunteer at breakfast call:*

*Roger Borowicz (612-280-1445) or Thomas Morgan (612-242-4026).*

Come for a good time with food and fellowship!

***Breakfast proceeds are going to FMSC & Second Harvest Heartland.***

**Tootsie Roll Weekend** – (Friday thru Sunday April 26,27,28); We will be handing tootsie rolls at 4 storefronts (Cub Foods-Brooklyn Center, Cub Foods- Brooklyn Park, Dragon Star- Brooklyn Park and Festival Foods- Brooklyn Park) on Friday and Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>. Our work shifts are 2 hours each with check-in at Parish Ministry Center.

**Friday, April 26 report times: at 10:30 AM, 12:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM**

**Saturday April 27 report times: at 9:30 AM, 11:30 am AND 1:30 PM**

We will have 4 Brother Knights calling to schedule your work shifts.

Please volunteer when they call. Thanks for caring! All money collected in the past has been given to: Homeward Bound, S/O Fall Bowling Classic, Living Well Disability Services, LifeWorks and Prenatal Partners for Life.

**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 612-810-8505

**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:*  
Sylvanus Larmie  
*Prayers for:*

*Fr. Levytskys, CSsR & Fr. Heleta, CSsR- captured in Ukraine & Russia conflict and presumed dead.*

*Judy Kowalczyk for healing*

*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 THE ROLE OF WOMEN**

*We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognize in every culture and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.*

**Prayer for Divine Mercy**

*Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible,*

*look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent,*

*but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.*

**-Concluding prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet**

**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*