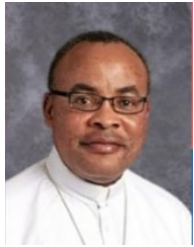




Knights Corner

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

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



Dear Brother Knights,

When I was growing up, Lent was my least favorite liturgical season. I did not like the season because of the impression I got at that time. As a young boy, I liked the joyful celebrations of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. But during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Christians, especially Catholics move around looking like people who are constipating. They spend the 40 days of Lent feeling really bad about their sins. The only issues they talk about are death, the nothingness of life and how miserable we all are. These Christians move around looking gloomy and prohibiting laughter and smiles. Because of their attitude, I disliked the entire period of Lent. I had even thought that someone should petition the Pope and beg him to erase Lent from the Church's calendar. I had also thought that it is time we showed the world that we are not a gloomy bunch of folks who manage to take the fun out of everything. This was the way I felt for some time about Lent until I started to read and study more about it.

Lent reminds us that life is a precious gift from God that should be cherished. It also reminds us that one day we must give up this life. As busy people, busy with the affairs of this world, we need to be reminded from time to time that we come from dust and one day will return to dust. But that is not the end of the story. Lent also comes each year to remind us that Easter is coming. "Lent" itself means "Spring"—meaning, that time of the year after a long winter when new life begins to burst forth everywhere. Although Lent reminds us of our sins, it also seeks to prepare us anew to receive in our hearts the wonderful grace and forgiveness of God offered in Christ Jesus. In my early teens, I tried to help my grandmother carry two buckets of water to her house from a stream. I had put a pole across my shoulders and had someone put a bucket on each end of the pole. The house was a good distance away from the stream. After taking a few steps, I just could not

make it. The buckets were too heavy for me. And I have never forgotten my maternal uncle running towards me, taking the pole and placing it on his own stronger shoulders and carrying them home for me. I felt good getting rid of those heavy buckets. Now Lent comes along to remind us to look at our shoulders for the heavy burdens we may be carrying there— guilt, sin, unforgiving spirit, bitterness against another, hatred etc. and allow Jesus Christ to take them onto his shoulders. This calls for a joyful mood. Isn't it?

On Ash Wednesday, we received a mark of ashes on our foreheads. The priest or a lay minister made a vertical line "I" on our foreheads, which stands for the sinful self, that part of us that wants to rebel against God, that harms our relationships with God and others. But that is not the only mark we received. The "I" on our foreheads was also crossed meaning there was another horizontal mark (—). At the end, what was imprinted on our foreheads was a cross, which means the sinful self has been crossed out. The ashes made in the form of a cross reminds us of the cross of Christ by which our sins and the sins of the whole world were canceled out. Doesn't this call for great rejoicing? Yes, Ash Wednesday reminds us that we belong to a world of sin and death, but we are not abandoned here. The very sign of the cross on our foreheads, though made with ashes to remind us of our sins, also reminds us of that same sign made in the water and on our foreheads when we were baptized. It is a sign of ownership. When you pick up a book and see someone's name inside it, you know it belongs to that person. When we saw the sign of the cross on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, it reminded us that we do not ultimately belong to a world of death and sin, but to a gracious and loving God who is our Father. Lent is here again. It comes each year. I don't know about you, but I need it. I want my sins to be taken away from me. After all, I belong to God through Jesus my Lord.

God bless you!

Fr. Marcel



You have seen Knights around the parish in action. But what does it mean to join the Knights of Columbus? It means you are part of the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world – with over two million members just like you. Knights build each other up to become good stewards of our faith and help protect our families and communities. In addition to the camaraderie and good times we enjoy as a member of the Knights you are a:

PROTECTOR OF FAITH – Our Catholic faith is central to everything we do. We offer a wide array of e-books, articles and videos to members to help them and their families grow in their faith.

PROTECTOR OF THE DEFENSELESS – Our Catholic faith strengthens our pro-life values as we stand up for those most vulnerable.

BROTHER FOR LIFE – With over 15,000 councils around the world, there is a local brotherhood for you to join and grow with as you serve your community.

COMMUNITY LEADER – From helping the homeless to disaster relief aid to widely recognized programs like Coats for Kids, the Knights are always there when their communities need them most.

PROTECTOR OF FAMILY – We offer top quality insurance products exclusively to our members to help them protect their families. The Knights offer whole life and term life insurance, disability income insurance to protect against the loss of a paycheck, and our top rated long term care insurance policies. Your brother Knight Dan Falstad is the local field agent for the Knights, and will be there to service your policy or help out your beneficiaries when the time comes.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE INFORMATION – As a fraternal organization we can only offer our insurance products to members. Your General Agent Lloyd Cybart would be happy to meet with you or assign another agent to review your insurance needs whether you are a member or not. And if you find that coverage through the Knights is the best option for you, he can get you signed up with the Knights instantly. Call Lloyd today at 952-686-7720 or email Lloyd.cybart@kofc.org to discuss your insurance needs or for any additional information you would like about the Knights.

All Catholic gentlemen 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

Thursday, March 7 th	Membership meeting @ 7PM with Rosary at 6:30PM
Sunday, March 10 th	Council Breakfast (8:30AM – 12:00 NOON)
Saturday, March 16 th	Men’s Retreat @ St. Al’s Church
Tuesday, March 19 th	St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday, March 21 st	Planning Meeting at 7:00PM
Sunday, March 24 th	Palm Sunday
Thursday, March 28 th	Holy Thursday
Friday, March 29 th	Good Friday (fast & abstinence)
Saturday, March 30 th	Holy Saturday
Sunday, March 31 st	Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)

St. Alphonsus Blood Drive – Monday March 18 (1:00PM – 6:00PM) openings available, call to schedule an appointment with Ken Bueckers at Tele#763.245.8895; Give the gift of life this Lenten season.

Knights of Columbus Soup Supper/Stations of the Cross with Honor Guard

Friday March 8 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. Come to St. Al's on Friday night for faith/food/fraternity. Brother Knights will lead the Stations of the Cross with 4th Degree Honor Guard starting at 6:00pm with soup meal to immediately follow in CSsR Hall. Council is the host ministry preparing and serving the soup. Volunteers are needed, please call Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774. Come for a good time.

Council Breakfast – Sunday March 10th 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!

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 26th and April 27th. Our work shifts are 2 hours each with check-in at Parish Ministry Center.

Friday at 10:30 AM, 12:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM

Saturday April 7 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.

St. Al's Men's Retreat – "I Have Called YOU by Name"

Saturday March 16th 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Bilingual Retreat is led by Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR. We ask that you register in advance to help with food needs. To register call Jim Stalberger – 763-424-8774) or in CSSR Hallway on w/e's of March 3rd and March 10th. **This is a FREE RETREAT!** Continental breakfast and lunch provided
KC Council 6772

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
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Grand Knight
George Morris 612-306-5540

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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
Labelle Zeller – (passing of husband BK Edward Zeller)

Get Well Cards sent:
Bk Albert Kowalczyk’s wife Judy
Bk Mark Moriarty

Prayers for:
Father Levytskys, CSsR & Father Heleta, CSsR
Who were captured in Ukraine & Russia conflict and
presumed dead.

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: March 2024

For the New Martyrs – We pray that those who risk
their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world
who inflame the Church with their courage and
missionary enthusiasm.

Prayer for World Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, grant us peace on
earth, that all nations may work together and that
there might be an end to all wars. I ask this Lord, in
your name. Amen.

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*