



Knights Corner



FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH,
AUGUST 2020

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



Dear brothers,

May the grace, peace and blessings of God be with you and the members of your family. In the last three editions, I have been reflecting with you on the topic of the spirituality of later years. Today, I will bring this reflection to a close by looking at the virtue of hope and the fruit it produces— joy. As you already know, later years can generate fear, fear of the unknown and fear of death etc. However, this fear can be overcome by hope. Christian hope is not naive optimism that God will eliminate all suffering. As a theological virtue, hope is the firm belief that God is the sovereign Lord of all creation visible and invisible. It is the unyielding belief that God in his love presides over the totality of created reality. Hope is trust in the ultimate sovereignty of God.

We don't know what tomorrow holds for us, but we know who holds tomorrow. Since the one who holds tomorrow is our loving and caring God, let us trust that all will be well, that all manner of things will be well. Naive optimism says there will be no pain, no suffering, no sickness, no hurricane. But Christian hope is that even when any of this happens, we continue to trust that God is still in charge of this creation and in him we put our trust and confidence. Hope is about expectation, of trust, of longing for that which is to come. It is the expectation that God cares for us, that God is not finished with us yet, that God still has some wonderful hopes and dreams for us. At later years, the temptation is to sit down and do nothing. But God continues to work in and through us. Hope motivates us to act for justice for the oppressed. Hope is not passive. Later years therefore is an invitation to hope that God is still working in you.

Remember, when it comes to knowing, loving and serving God there is no retirement. It is a lifetime project and mission. There are people who spent their later years believing that God-is-no-here. But as men of faith, it should not be so with us. Faith in God produces hope because God-is-now-here, not distant. God is here! God is there! God is with us! Undoubtedly, later years can be challenging for it challenges you to accept what you cannot change, to accept that those dreams may not be realized. To be able to live and cope with these realities, a radical trust in God is needed.

During the early and middle years of your life, you were probably busy with work, raising your family, building your career, saving and preparing for retirement and later

years. After your retirement, you may have traveled around visiting family, friends, interesting places.

You may have doubled your volunteering time in the church and in the community. You may still be doing some or all of these now. But permit me to reinforce what you already know— later years is a time to embrace the Passion of Christ, to carry your cross like never before and to see your pains as sharing in the cross of Jesus Christ. Later years is a unique time to pray like Jesus, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." It is a time to say, "It is finished." Not that your life is finished, but that your ability to be in control and control everything around you is just over. It is a time to let go and to gradually acknowledge that you may lose your teeth, sight, health and movement. If you were never aware of your limitations, this is the period to do so and then to trust in the limitless love of God for you and to surrender entirely to Jesus.

Let
your joy expand
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good news.

Now, in spite of the challenges and opportunities that later years bring, it is also a time of rejoicing. The joy comes from the fact that God is still with us. This joy is rooted in the fact of the Lord's resurrection. The resurrection of the Lord points and reminds us of our own resurrection. As such, we should not be frightened by death. Death is not the last word, rather Easter is. Death is not the final word. The final word is Easter. Christian joy says that God makes all things new. Even if we die, we shall all be made new by our good God. So, be joyful. Let your joy expand your hearts and inspire you to share the good news. There is joy even in suffering. It is not naive, it is borne out of hope in God, that God is with us. We are not serving an angry God.

"Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord is your strength" so says prophet Nehemiah 8:10. God celebrates! He celebrates because of us. We are saved by the Lord's suffering and also by his joy. Joy is the witness of the good news. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. If we grow in our relationship with God, we will grow in joy. Joy witnesses to the gospel. So, endeavor to show yourself a joyful person. The spirituality of later years for a man or woman of God is the spirituality of joy. Bitterness in later years could be a hint of the absence of God in a soul and a lack of relationship with God. A godly person is a joyful person. Rejoicing in the Lord is their delight, and their joy delights God as well.

— Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSsR

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Editor's Notice

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. If anyone has information to be published, please feel free to mail it to 1609 68th Lane North, Brooklyn Center, MN55430—E-mail: rbgboweh@gmail.com

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SUNSHINE REPORT

Sympathy cards sent

Family of Robert Huber
Family of Robert Paul
Family of Darlington Wright



Get Well Card

Dennis Hook - Sick

And for others we may have missed and need our prayers. If you know someone who may benefit from a card, please contact Simon simon.f@usfamily.net

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer for St. Dominic

O renowned champion of the faith of Christ, may I ever bear in mind that nothing happen to me but by the particular dispensation of God who is infinitely wise, and therefore knows what is best for my welfare; infinitely powerful, and consequently able to effect it; and above all, infinitely merciful and loving, who has laid down His life for me redemption, and continue daily to give new proofs of his love and bounty. AMEN

Leave No Neighbor Behind



Well Done Brothers Knights for helping a brother in need. May God bless you, guide you and give you the strength you need to continue your good work.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Let go of anything that isn't working for you..
What adds value to your life?
What do you thoroughly enjoy doing/being?

COUNCIL#6772 WORKS OF CHARITY (JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30,2020)

Brother Knights!

We have been busy doing Father Michael McGivney's works to the tune \$ 8,091.90 plus during our council's just completed fraternal year.

Culture of Life donation – \$ 301.00
Masses for Deceased Brothers - \$210.00
St. Al's Catholic Church (Fall Fest donation) – \$ 500.00
Adult Education (Christmas Book & kiosk) - \$ 1,350.00
School Poster & Essay Awards – \$ 265.00
Leave No Neighbor Behind (International – Bouzy) - \$ 300.00
Leave No Neighbor Behind (local – Brooklyn Center/ Brooklyn Park) - \$ 1,370.00
Priest Appreciation - \$ 350.00
RSVP (seminarian sponsorship) - \$ 500.00
Coats for Kids (72 coats) - \$1511.90
Catholic Education (St. Al's School) – \$ 850.00
Pennies for Seminarians - \$ 384.00
MN Student Loan - \$ 100.00
Jim Campbell Fund (Religious Education) – \$ 100.00
During the month of March we collected 975# of food for CEAP and the council help facilitate a clothing gift donation (4,200 t-shirts) to Sharing & Caring Hands/

Mary's Place valued between \$ 20 - \$30,000.

Things you & your family can do together during the Coronavirus pandemic:

Pray the rosary for the end of the coronavirus in America and the world

Pray the rosary for the end of abortions in America and the world

Donate blood – URGENT NEED for blood. Signup at www.mbc.org (Memorial Blood Center)

Join the Father Michael McGivney Guild (no cost) – www.guild@kofc.org

Pray for the canonization of our founder Father Michael McGivney – www.kofc.org

Watch EWTN on TV – masses are said every day & rosary is prayed multiple times per day

Listen to Relevant Radio – 1330AM -- mass daily at 12noon CDT; rosary across America at 7:00pm plus Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00PM PLUS signup online to be a prayer warrior - www.relevantradio.com,

COUNCIL # 6772 WORKS OF CHARITY

(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Generated over \$8,091.90



Dan Falstad - Insurance Officer (Dan.Falstad@kofc.org) - 612 310 5254

Long Term Care Is an Important Piece of the Puzzle

There are many financial consultants and retirement authorities who emphasize the need for a long-term care (LTC) product for estate preservation and family protection. And those that don't may be shortchanging their clients by allowing a major risk to go uncovered. You owe it to yourself to at least get the details on leaving the legacy you want without the risk of your estate being depleted by your end of life care.

There are three main reasons for Long Term Care:

Protect your Assets: Transfer the risk of catastrophic loss so you don't have to spend down your nest egg. Allow your estate to be used in the manner you intend.

Choice of where you go: LTC coverage can completely cover expected costs or provide a meaningful supplement which gives you the flexibility to decide where

you will receive needed care.

Not be a burden on your family: Do you want to live with your kids or be forced into the lowest cost provider in these uncertain times?

You may think or have heard that long term care insurance is too expensive. I would argue that compared to your piece of mind LTC premiums can be a real bargain. Call me today for a no obligation look at the details of a long-term care program customized for you. You may be surprised at how affordable a benefit package can be. And you will never be pressured to take the coverage if it doesn't fit your budget for the long term.

I plan to hold long term care information sessions in the coming months via Zoom video conferences for 4 to 5 couples at a time. If you receive an invite feel free to log on and hear about what the Knights offer and how it can transfer your risk of an uncomfortable retirement. If you want an invitation early or would like the presentation one on one please call me immediately.



Knights Corner

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1609 68th LANE NORTH
BROOKLYN CENER, MN 55430

Return Service Requested

Membership Meeting, 7 PM
First Thursday of the Month
CSSR Hall

Planning Meeting, 7 PM
Third Thursday of the Month

Venue: Parish Ministry Bldg. St Alphonsus Room
Formation Building (*All face-face activities are cancelled*)

Leave No Neighbor Behind

Brother Knights helping a Brother Knight -- If you know of a brother knight or St. Al's parishioner in need of yardwork this fall or winter, please call Roger Borowicz or Jim Stalberger.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the newly installed leadership of Council # 6772 for the ensuing year 2020/2021. May God bless the works of your hands, protect you and your families, and strengthen the faith of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.

LADIES AUXILIANS MESSAGE



The CCW is currently planning to go ahead with their annual Christmas bazaar. Please tune in and look for updates in the church bulletin. Ladies and families please pray daily the rosary for the end of abortion in America, for the end of the coronavirus and peace in the United States of America.

Patrick Farrelly, District Deputy 52, 763-218-3816

Brothers,

we are called to serve, even in times of pandemic. We serve in many ways. Ensuring our Order is able to continue to protect families, feed the hungry and clothe the naked well into the future is service, not drudgery, and not somebody else's problem. We are in the position to make a difference, so let's do all we can together every day!!

I am asking everybody in our Councils to take part by inviting more men to the order. What we are doing is important and makes a difference to our priests, our parish and our community. I like to think we are answering God's call to action! Consider that this is a time for extraordinary men and what we do now will be remembered. Your council leaders are stepping into the breach with meaningful programs and opportunities for service. They need you to walk with them in service.

Be the men they can count on. Be the men that God can count on.

We always need more men to lead. The Knights of Columbus is a great opportunity to serve and grow as a Catholic leader and accomplish great things with men who share your values. You are qualified. You are needed. Heed the call. God bless you all.

THANK YOU, SIMON FEHN!!

For 25 years Brother Knight Simon has been publishing our council's newsletter. Simon is retiring from publishing our newsletter and Reuben Gboweh has taken over the publishing responsibilities. Simon thank you for the years of commitment and a job well done. May God continue His blessing on you and your family.