



Knights Corner



FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH,
DECEMBER 2020

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



Dear brothers,

As we go through the holy season of Advent, one temptation we should strive to avoid is the tendency to reduce Advent to a cozy and sentimental season. In reality, Advent is preparation for revolution. It is a revolution proclaimed by Isaiah, announced by John the Baptist, which reached its momentum in Christ Jesus. About 500 years after the Israelites returned from Babylonian exile, there appeared in Judean desert a strange figure who dressed in animal skins, ate locust and honey— John the Baptist. When people who came to listen to him asked him, “Who are you? (Jn. 1:22) he replied in the words of prophet Isaiah, *“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord”* (Jn. 1:23).

Many centuries before him, Isaiah had said that a voice of one is calling in the wilderness and asking people to make straight in the desert a highway for our God (Is. 40:3). Upon his emergence on the public scene, John the Baptist asserts that he is that voice. Thereafter John said, *“...there is one among you whom you do not recognize...”* (Jn. 1:26b). He called him “the Lamb of God.” The “one among you” is a young Galilean rabbi whose message is very simple and unambiguous: *Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand* (Matt. 4:17). What does sin do to us? Sin distances us from God. We are meant to be close to the heart of God. According to St. Augustine, sin is a journey into the land of the unlikeness. We are made in the likeness of God, but when we sin, we wander far away from where we are meant to be. Repentance therefore is a return from a spiritual exile. To facilitate the return to our heavenly

Father who is eagerly waiting for us like a good shepherd, we need to travel by God’s high way. Who is the highway? He is precisely the one that John the Baptist called “the Lamb of God,” Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

On the first Sunday of Advent, our Lord urges us to “Be watchful! Be alert! Be alert to the signs of the passing of all things. Be alert to the fact that all human acquisitions, achievements, accomplishments, successes, pleasure, the joys and goods of this world will one day be taken

away from us. Be alert to the futility of what St. Thomas Aquinas called the four false substitutes for God, which are wealth, pleasure, power and honor. Be consciously aware that all these vanities, all of culture, all of nature, and even the cosmos

(universe) itself will come to a crashing end. Be watchful and alert to the fact that everything as we know it will definitely come to a halt. When it comes to the end of all things, even scientists, especially physicists agree that the entire universe will run out of fuel and energy to continue to exist. They tell us that one day, the universe will fade out in a great freeze or burn out like a great fry.

Now, with all these cataclysmic tales, you might be tempted to despair, and to say, “Then what the heck?” “What’s the point?” “Why bother?” You might even be tempted to fall into the existentialist philosophy of Albert Camus and his colleagues who say that “life is absurd.” That there is no meaning in life, and we can’t make a meaning out of it. Rather than submit to the meaninglessness of life, we can look to the steadfast love of God, which brought the

REPENTANCE,
THEREFORE, IS A RETURN FROM A SPIRITUAL EXILE.

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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

SUNSHINE REPORT

Sympathy cards sent

Loretta Jerome (her husband – Donald); Dennis Felling (his mother)



Get Well Card

Jackie Holst
Joan Noonan,
Kay Ditter
Ken Bueckers
Reuben Gboweh



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

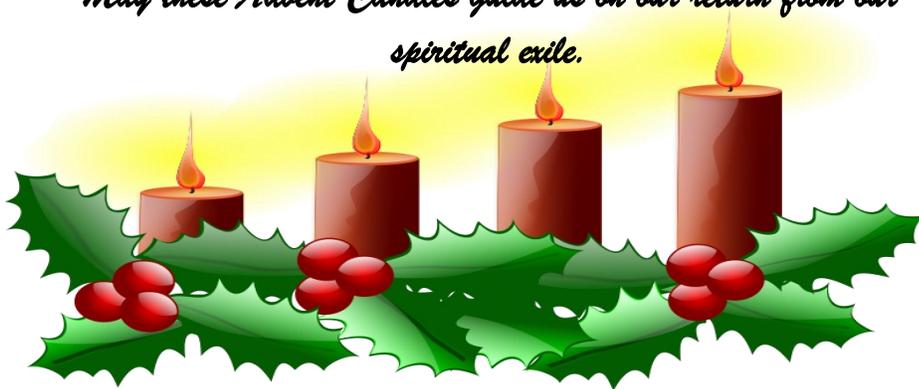
PRAYER OF THE MONTH

God of mercy, you chose a tax collector, Saint Matthew, to share the dignity of the Apostles. In doing so, you showed us that with you, all things are possible, and that though we are sinners, we too can answer your noble call to evangelize the world. By St. Matthew's example and prayers help us to follow Christ and remain faithful in your service.

Chaplain Message Cont'd from p. 1—

... entire universe into existence from nothing, which sustains it even now, and which will one day draw us to a life and joy that is beyond this world and that knows no bound. We can turn to the One whose love is eternal, whose patience does not run out, whose mercy is boundless, and whose power to save is mighty and persistent. This is why Advent is a preparation for a revolution. A revolution that urges us to be alert in the spirit. To wake up from our spiritual slumber. To change and repent for the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Yes, a kingdom is at hand and a new King has emerged. Change and live under his lordship.

May these Advent Candles guide us on our return from our spiritual exile.



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH



RISK IS THE PRICE YOU PAY TO REACH A PLACE THAT CAN BLAST YOUR SPIRIT CLEAN!

COUNCIL#6772 ACTIVITIES

Deceased Brother Knights - Nine Brother Knights from our council have gone home to be with the Lord since November 1, 2019. They are: Ajaynue Waljroh (Nov-2019); Rev Aloysius Svobodny (Dec-2019); Orville Hanken (June-2020); Robert Huber (June-2020); Robert Paul (July-2020); Darlington Wright (July-2020); Harlen Fricke (Aug-2020); Dennis Hook (Aug-2020) and Donald Jerome (Oct-2020). When a council brother knight dies, our council enrolls the deceased brother in a perpetual mass with the Redemptorist Order. Your membership benefits provide for daily mass of Remembrance at St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Haven, CT for deceased members and their wives at the birthplace of the Order. Please pray for all brother Knights and their spouse during the month of December.

Council Raffle – This past summer with the Covid-19 pandemic not going away anytime soon, mass attendance down at St. Al's plus one less mass on Sunday morning and restrictions on indoor dining, the council starting looking into ways to replace breakfast revenue. We decided to do a council raffle with total prize payout of \$ 5,000.00 with **the Grand Prize of \$ 3,000.00**. There will be a total of 9 winning tickets. We are inviting members to buy a ticket.

Raffle tickets are \$ 100.00 EACH. There is a limited number of tickets printed and are inviting each brother knight to purchase a raffle ticket. **IF YOU CANNOT OR CHOOSE NOT TO PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET – WE UNDERSTAND.** Either way all tickets need to be returned by December 31st, 2020. The raffle drawing will be held on January 7, 2021 at January membership meeting. We are hoping to raise \$ 4,500.00 if we sell of 100 tickets. By time you get your December council newsletter, you may have received a raffle ticket accompanied by a letter detailing more information on the raffle drawing. If questions, please call Roger Borowicz at #763-560-5686 or Jim Stalberger at #763-424-8774. Thank you for your support!!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP – Brother knights effective immediately from now until December 31st, 2020 Catholic men can join the Knights of Columbus for **FREE. Yes, I said FREE!** Please spread the word and invite Catholic men to join us. Joining is easier than ever during the pandemic. After they join online, they can take the three lessons on charity, unity, and fraternity in the privacy of your home on their computer. Lessons are offered the 1st three Wednesday of each month but you must sign up. Your spouse can witness the lesson right along with you. Membership requirements are that you are practicing Catholic man and a minimum age of 18 years old. To join go to – www.mnknights.org click on "join us". Council number 6772- St. Alphonsus Catholic Church -

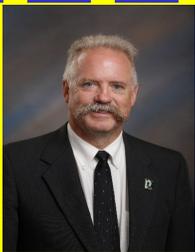
Please use promo code: McGivney2020 to get free first membership!

Any questions, please contact Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774

St. Alphonsus Blood Drive – next blood drive is on Monday January 18th in the C.Ss.R. Hall from 1:30pm – 6:00pm. Call Ken Bueckers (763-245-8895) to schedule a time to donate blood. Give the gift of life!

Coats for Kids Program—New winter coats were given away by our council in October. The council handed out 201 coats to children in need at St. Al's Catholic School and Faith Formation students. Thank you to all knights that helped.

Dynamic Catholic Christmas Book Program – at Christmas, our council is giving out over 960 free books titled, "I Heard God Laugh" by Matthew Kelly. **Be sure to get your copy to grow your spiritual life.**



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

New members are the life blood of our Order! New members give the council they join more manpower to accomplish the good works that the Knights are known for across the world. It gives the new member an opportunity to give back to his community and help his fellow man. It infuses the council with new and fresh ideas. It's our responsibility to let them know what benefits they are missing by not joining us. So, invite someone today. Our approach to membership can be summarized in four points:

LEAD WITH FAITH—becoming a better Catholic man, father, and husband through prayer, study and encouragement from fellow brother Knights. **SERVE OTHERS**—This is where our council excels. Let them know about our Coats for Kids programs, the support for the Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission, and the Ultrasounds Initiative. **DEFEND YOUR VALUES**—From the March for Life to Christian Refugee Relief to the Ultrasound Program, new members can get involved in issues that are close to their hearts and have a dramatic impact on our

hurting world. **PROTECT YOUR FAMILY**—This includes the Consecration to the Holy Family, our Family of the Month and Year and the protection afforded by our Order's highly rated insurance and saving products.

Brother Knights are encouraged to allow young families that need coverage to benefit from the Knights of Columbus policies while learning more about the fraternal side. With so much good, why can membership be a challenge? Maybe it's been my approach. I often assumed other men would want to join to help us, the council. But shouldn't I be inviting men to join to help them, ...help them along their faith journey,... help them discover the joy of being of service to others, ... help them become better Catholic men? So tell them why you joined, what it's meant to you, how you are better for it and how you hope you've made the world just a little bit of a better place because of your membership in the Knights. Then ask him what he's looking for...I think no matter what he says, we'll have a solution for it...right here in this council.

Vivat Jesus!



**Knights
Corner**

Return Service Requested



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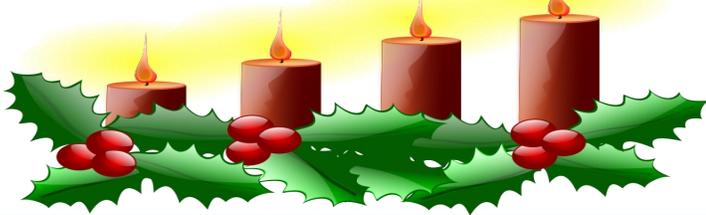
Membership Meeting, 7 PM
First Thursday of the Month
CSSR Hall
Planning Meeting, 7 PM
Third Thursday of the Month

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

LABEL

- Three reasons for Long Term Care:**
- **Protect your Assets; You don't have to spend down our nest egg**
 - **Choice of where you go; don't let the government or price decide**
 - **Not be a burden on your family; do you want to live with your kids?**

REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND



LADIES AUXILIANS MESSAGE



Hello Ladies,
We are being called to serve our Lord by serving others in their time of need. Ideas of how we can do this is by calling family members, friends & neighbors, maybe cooking a meal or baking cookies for someone or sharing your garden produce with others or sending a card. Letting others know that are they are loved and that they matter is so important. Let us live joyfully serving the Lord.

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

Brothers,

We are called to serve. Inviting men to join us is an important service to them, their families and our community! Answering the call to service is what we do because we are Knights and Knights serve.

I welcome our newest brother Knights and encourage you to connect with your new brothers however they meet and make a difference for your parish and your community. Our work is important!!

I hope you will join me in staying active as a Knight while our world needs us more than ever. You can even make a difference right from your home by calling men and inviting them to share what we have. No risk of infection. Just share your story.

Have friends and family join online at **kofc.org/joinus** and enter their parish name. Give them your council number to include as they sign up. Give them your member number to get credit for inviting them. Getting them into

your Council is as simple as having them sign up for and watch a 30-minute video exemplification with their family at their convenience. Again, no risk for them or their family. Coordinate with your Grand Knight and Financial Secretary.

We do not have to let the pandemic win. We must continue our work together. Bringing more men into our Councils is the only way we can ensure we will be able to do this into the future, able to do more and serve God's family together in new ways. Be not afraid! God Bless you!

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.

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