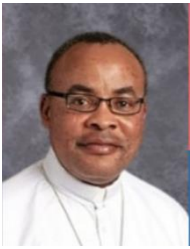




Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 December 2022

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



Dear Brothers,

God is invisible. We can't see him, but if you want to know what God looks like, look at Jesus. If you want to get some ideas of what God looks like, look at Jesus. Jesus is the icon, the image of the invisible God. In

him the invisible God becomes visible in order to set us free. He comes to save us from the deception and lies of Satan. He comes to save us from the seemingly glamor of wealth, power, honor and pleasure. Jesus comes to save us from ourselves. He comes to save us from the corrosion of attachment. Each of us, in various degrees, is attached to some worldly goods. We have some desires, some loves, some longings that work against our Christian commitment. Jesus wants to save us from those too. But if we deeply feel there is nothing in us that we need to be saved from, Jesus becomes a historical figure we fondly remember. If we don't need salvation, Jesus quickly becomes one wise person among the many. He becomes a spiritual or moral teacher among the many others like Buddha, Mohammad, Aristotle etc. On the other hand, if you feel like a prisoner waiting to be released and set free, if your disposition is the same as the thief who said to Jesus, "*Remember me when you enter into your kingdom,*" then the ancient Advent chant, "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel..." will be on your lips. If you have checked yourself out and found out you need the Savior, you will passionately sing and pray, "Come Lord Jesus, do not delay!"

But why do we need salvation? Why do we need the Savior? Because we regularly wander away from the Lord's path. We are meant to walk in the spiritual order of God, sadly, a vast majority of us do not always travel along that way. And the saddest news here is that a great number of the lost do not know they are lost and do not feel and think that they are lost. When I started driving here in the USA, I didn't use GPS because I couldn't afford it. I relied only on printed MapQuest directions. One day, after taking a priest to Memphis Airport and was driving back to

the parish, I missed turning to the right boulevard. Since I wasn't using anything electronic that can recalculate my route automatically, I got lost. The good news was that I knew I was lost. So, the moment I saw a gas station, I drove into it to seek help. As soon as I mentioned my intended destination, the answer I got was, "You are truly lost." In the end, I was able to get home because the man I met at the gas station knew where my church was located, he was going my way, and he also asked me to drive behind him.

Brothers, like the man I met in a gas station in Memphis, Tennessee, Jesus knows we are lost. He knows where we are meant to be. Jesus is the Way to where we are meant to be, and he is the Savior that wants to take us there. But are we willing to travel with him? If you look at your life right now, you may be pleased at where you are. You may have attained some success in your profession. You may have a good family and your children may be doing well in life. But at the deepest level, are you happy? At the spiritual, religious and moral level, are you entirely okay? Don't you feel lost at the core? Like me, don't you sometimes feel like you don't know where you are going? Outwardly, we try to put up a good show. We paint a good picture that communicates to others that all is well with us. But at the depth, we know all is not truly well. We know there is some emptiness, some incompleteness, some deficiency, some darkness, some shame. Rather than ignore them or numb them with more worldly activities, turn and cry out to the one who said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6). Advent is always the season of preparation. We prepare to celebrate Christmas. But this preparation won't be adequate and complete if we go through the season without paying particular attention to how we conduct ourselves. Advent is a season of waking up, a time to "throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." It is the season to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

God bless you!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara,



Fraternal greetings to all my Brother Knights

As we are about to reach the end of another successful calendar year, let's remain grateful of all our achievements as a Council. As I reflect on the year 2022, one of my most cherished homily I have heard is from Luke 16: 19-25 which is focused on service, the call that we embraced when we joined the Order. This homily was centered on Lazarus and the rich man.

It was mentioned that striving to avoid sin is not enough to enter the Kingdom. Rather, we must strive to not only avoid sin but do good, help others, be charitable, serve as our Lord serve - these are the things that make us good Catholics. Do not let your mind be clouded with distractions when put to the test by the evil one, even our Lord was put to the test. We must strive to be open-minded to accept and work with old and new ideas with the primary objective to make our Council a better one.

The rich man may not have committed any sin; however, he had an opportunity to help Lazarus and he did not and hence was not able to enter the Kingdom.

In this regard, I am encouraging all brother Knights to step up in Service in terms of strengthening our will and commitment to our Church, our communities, and our Noble Order.

Let's be reminded that Jesus is truly the reason for the Season.

Happy Holidays!

Vivat Jesus,

George T. Morris, Grand Knight

Knight of Columbus, Council #6772



The Value of Children's policies

As a father, you worry about your children and do everything you can to protect them. Many of you have purchased life policies from the Knights for them or are contemplating such coverage. If you have taken this important step don't forget about the valuable benefits included with those policies, including the Guaranteed Purchase Option provisions.

When you insure a child, you are protecting his or her future. If you purchase a policy for your child from the Knights of Columbus with a guaranteed purchase option, it guarantees that more insurance can be purchased for that child at certain set dates, without proving insurability. When the child turns 17, and every three years around the time the young adult turns 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, and 40 you or they are able to increase their coverage without regard to any medical issues they may face now or in the future.

Take it upon yourselves to ensure your young adult children are taking advantage of these options. Many times the Knights are unable to maintain contact information for these insureds to allow us to contact them about their benefits. And as many of you know, some of these young adults do not realize the advantage of obtaining permanent life insurance at an early age. So help them out and encourage them to at least talk to me to consider the advantages of these options.

Contact me today to update the contact information for any of your children that you have policies on, or discuss the many policy options for child plans. Plans can be put in place which are paid up front with premiums on deposit or paid over 10 or 20 year periods to be completely paid up with policy coverage for life. Grandchildren can also be covered and policies paid by the grandparents assuming the father of the child is a Knight or eligible to become one.

Looking for a valuable Christmas gift that won't be discarded before the new year? Look into giving them a gift that will last their lifetime.

Dan Falstad

KofC Field Agent

(612) 310-5254

dan.falstad@kofc.org

Council #6772 Activities

Dec 1 – Council membership meeting in CSSR Hall @ 7PM
Dec 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dec 11 – Council Breakfast in CSSR Hall (serving 8:30am- 12noon)
Dec 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (see church bulletin for times)
Dec 15 – Council planning meeting in CSSR Hall @ 7PM
Dec 25 – Christmas Day – The birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Dec 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (see church bulletin for times)
Jan 1—New Year’s Day (see church bulletin for mass times)
Jan 5 – Council membership meeting in CSSR Hall @ 7PM

Sharing & Caring Hands Breakfast Fundraiser – on Sunday December 11th, our council will be serving a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast from 8:30am – 12:00noon. All proceeds will go to Sharing & Caring Hands. Carry out trays available for \$ 5.00. Come and support this worthy cause.

COME TO ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS to get your **FREE Catholic book!!** – Our KC Council 6772 is giving out Dynamic Catholic’s Christmas book titled, **“HOLY MOMENTS”**. This Catholic book will help you on your journey to holiness.



A Christmas Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You are the Light that shines in the darkness of our world.

As your humble servant, allow me to join others who are shining the Light of your love into the lives of the poor and forgotten, this Christmas season and beyond.

May we draw closer to you by serving our neighbors’ spiritual and material need, sharing the Good News of hope and salvation—gifts won for us by your life, death, and resurrection.

Ever grateful for the countless blessings you’ve bestowed,
I humbly ask for these mercies in your most holy name.

Amen.

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent

Marilyn Heck – (Howard Heck Passing)

Get Well Cards sent:

Simon Fehn

Sharon Schwieters

Lee Stangl

Richard Schwieters

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*

STATE STAFF

District Deputy

Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091

Insurance Field Agent

Dan Falstad 612-310-5254

Ben Djondo Deployed

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 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

Pope Francis's

Prayer of the month: For volunteer not-for-profit organizations-

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Prayer from St. Teresa of Calcutta:

LORD, open our eyes that we see You in our brothers and sisters.

LORD, open our ears that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened and the oppressed.

LORD, open our hearts that we love each other.

LORD, renew in us Your spirit, make us free and make us one.

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*