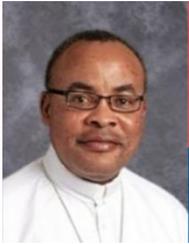




Knights Corner

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

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



Greetings brother Knights,

Lent is here again! It comes each year. Pope Francis describes it as “a journey of return to God” which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter Triduum. Lent is a penitential season when we come to terms with what God wants us to be. We come to terms with the meaning and purpose of our lives. According to Pope Francis, it is a humble descent both inwards and towards others. It is about realizing that salvation is not an ascent to glory but descent in love. The 40 days of Lent is an exodus from slavery to freedom, corresponding to the 40 years that the Israelites trekked through the desert to return to their homeland from Egypt. As Pope Francis notes, this journey back to God is oftentimes blocked by our unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents. So, to embark on this journey, we have to unmask these illusions, and get addicted to God.

Lent actually teaches me that life is a precious gift from God that should be cherished. As busy people, busy with the affairs of this world, we need to be reminded from time to time what our life is about. So, on every Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are dust, and unto dust we shall return. But that's not just it. We are also urged to “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” The sound of being dust and returning to dust does not excite me personally, but the call of repenting and believing in the Gospel does. The Gospel, which means “good news” is the good news of Jesus Christ who is love, kind, merciful and compassionate. The invitation to return to him is very attractive. After all, the word “Lent” itself means “Spring”- which is that time of the year after a long winter when new life begins to burst forth everywhere. Lent seeks to prepare us anew to receive in our hearts the wonderful grace and forgiveness of God offered in Christ.

Lent reminds us that even though we are sinners, we are not altogether abandoned here. On Ash Wednesday, the priests made a vertical line “I” on our foreheads which stands for the sinful self, that part of us that is rebellious to God, that hurts our relationships with God and others. But that was not the only mark we received. The “I” on our foreheads was also crossed with a horizontal mark. At the end, what we saw on our foreheads was a cross, which means the sinful self is crossed out. The ashes made in the form of a cross remind us of the cross of Christ by which our sins and the sins of the whole world are canceled out. That's a great reason to rejoice. 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 water 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 who it belongs to. On Ash Wednesday when people saw the sign of the cross on our foreheads, it reminded them that we do not ultimately belong to this world of sin and death, but to a gracious and loving God who is our Father.

God bless you!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR



George Morris, Grand Knight Council #6772

**Pictures from our February Pancake Breakfast
Thanks to all who helped raise money for
Crescent Cove.**



Council# 6772 members: Our council's Knights of Columbus insurance agent Ben Djondo is in the Minnesota National Guard and is being deployed. FOR QUESTIONS ON LIFE INSURANCE, ANNUITIES AND LONG-TERM CARE please contact Lloyd Cybart, FICF, LUTCF, General Agent for the Twin Cities. (office) 952-686-7720; (fax) 952-388-0851; website: www.twincitieskofc.org

Knights of Columbus hats



A drawing will be held at upcoming membership meetings for a chance to win a Knights of Columbus hat.

- Member must be present at the meeting for a chance to win
- Only one hat per member
- Drawings will be held on the following dates: (all meetings start at 7pm)
 - Thursday, March 3, 2022 Thursday, April 7, 2022
 - Thursday, May 5, 2022 Thursday, June 7, 2022



Council #6772 Activities

Tootsie Roll Weekend – Please save the dates Friday/Saturday/Sunday -April 29-30 and May 1st to hand out tootsie rolls to raise money for individuals with intellectual disabilities. As of today, we have 4 stores committed: Cub Foods – Brooklyn Center; Cub Foods – Brooklyn Park; Dragon Star – Brooklyn Park and Festival Foods – Brooklyn Park. Volunteer shifts are 2 hours. We will be needing around 60 volunteers to cover all shifts. All money raised is donated. Thank you for helping!

Membership Dues – the second dues notice has been mailed. If you have not paid you dues yet, please do as it saves our council money. If you cannot pay membership dues because of health or financial issues, please call our financial secretary, John Vella, at (612) 396-2325. We want you to remain a KC member.

YOU ARE INVITED TO APRIL 7TH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – early starting time is 6:30pm in C.Ss.R. Hall as Jennifer Brady from Holy Family Catholic Adoption Agency will present as short talk on Catholic adoption. **ADOPTION IS THE GREATEST ACT OF LOVE! Families are invited to attend.**

4TH Degree Exemplification - The 85th Spring Exemplification of the Fourth Degree is being held on Saturday April 30, 2022 at Breeze Point Resort in Brainerd MN. Candidates need to complete Form 4 application and pay the registration fee of \$70 by March 31st. Call Paul Althoff for more information at cell 763-228-4856 or email at althoff9170@msn.com

“We Need Each Other” Men’s Retreat – Saturday April 2nd – Our day starts with an 8:00AM mass in church. After mass we move to the school gymnasium for a free continental breakfast and lunch at 12:00 noon. Our retreat is centered on **Pope Francis’s “FRATELLI TUTTI”** encyclical letter on fraternity and social fraternity. Men of the parish are invited to retreat. Our council is underwriting all retreat costs. More retreat information coming in St. Al’s Church bulletin.

Important Council dates-

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

March 3 - Council membership meeting @ 7pm in CSSR Hall

March 17 - Council planning meeting @ 7pm in

There will be green cookies



CSSR Hall

Monday, March 21st Blood Drive at St. Al’s – (1:00PM – 6:00Pm) in C.Ss.R. Hall.

Questions or to make appointment please call Ken Bueckers at (763 560-2639).

Walk-ins are welcomed. Give the gift of Life!

March 25 - The Annunciation of The Lord

April 2 – Men’s Retreat at School Gym

April 7 – Council membership meeting

April 29, 30 – looking for a couple of ladies to help with hospitality for the Tootsie Roll Drive in the parish ministry center. Call Jean Stalberger 763-424-8774

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

OPEN

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: Leon Gerring 763-447-8077

Life: Kenneth Buechers 763-560-2639

Family: Kevin Haeg 612-751-2877

Membership:

Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent:

Edward Dennis – passing of Brother-in-law

Get Well Cards sent:

Frank Anderl

Jim Denn

Steve Buechler

Frank Noonan

Sharon Schwieters (wife of DGK Richard Schwieters)

Praying for:

Lucille Topel – (Bill McAlpin’s Mother-in-law)

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

The Holy Fathers Prayer intentions of the month:

For a Christian response to bioethical challenges –

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine that there is a safe and swift resolve. We pray that God will change the heart of Putin so that he removes all of his troops from Ukraine and thus end the violence.

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*