



Knights Corner

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

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



Brothers,

In the Gospel of Luke 18:8, Jesus asks one of the most disturbing questions in the entire New Testament: *"But when the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on earth?"* Jesus came to set the earth

on fire, that is the fire of the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Church has now been in existence for more than two thousand years is a sign of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. But does it mean that the Church will always be around? How's faith passed on? Faith is contagious. My siblings and I got it from my parents. My generation got it from the previous generation. But if we fail to pass on the faith, it can fade away in one generation. Couple disturbing facts show that we are always one generation away from the extinction of faith. If you think the Christian faith cannot fade away, look at some places in the world where the Christian faith was once very vibrant. But now, it has ceased to exist. Where did St. Paul mostly preach? In Asia Minor! Today, it comprises most of present-day Turkey. St. John Chrysostom and St. Maximus the Confessor also preached there. Add to it, some of the earliest Christian churches were formed there. In Turkey today, the Christian faith is practically non-existent. Where is the birthplace of the Christian faith? The Middle East! There were once vibrant churches there as well, but today only a handful of Christians are there. What about Egypt? Egypt was the home of Origen, one of the greatest Christian theologians of all time; it was the home of the Desert Fathers, and once had a very vibrant church in Alexandria. Today, Christians are a tiny minority in Egypt. What about North Africa? Great Christian figures like Cyprian of Carthage and Augustine of Hippo were North Africans. The region once had a vibrant Christian church in North Africa. Now, it is practically non-existent. Look at Western Europe today. It is even worse there. For centuries, it used to be the bedrock of the Christian faith, it was the place that produced many missionaries that went out to all the world, it was the continent that gave birth to pivotal figures like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Catherine Sienna, etc. Today, the Christian faith is seriously threatened over there. Faith is fading over there. What you find mostly in Western Europe today are historic huge cathedrals with a few elderly people in them. As you can see, faith can disappear. This beautiful faith of ours, this thing that God has given to us, this everything that Jesus has offered us can fade away, not because of God's actions and activity,

rather due to ours. The world is becoming aggressively resistant to the Christian faith. The secular culture is intensifying its war against the Christian Church and the proclamation of the Gospel. If you don't know it, know it now. We are in a fight, in a war, in a spiritual warfare. We have always been in a fight from the very beginning. After all, we worship a crucified God who was put to death by cultural and political forces.

The survival of the Church and the spread of the faith is primarily God's work, however it is our work too. It is our responsibility to ensure that the Christian faith is passed on from one generation to the next. Tell others about your faith. Share your faith with your family, especially your children and grandchildren. When they ask faith based questions, don't ignore them, and don't tell them to ask the priest or their faith formators. Be the one to answer their questions. If you don't know the answer, be the one to make enquiries. Understand your faith and then be able to explain it to your children. Read good Catholic books, ask your priests, read Catholic newspapers, go online, but be mindful of the sources. Your children and grandchildren trust you a lot. If they don't get the answer from you, they might become disappointed and may even conclude you have no reason for believing in what you believe and in what you are trying to teach them. I believe that one of the reasons why many of our young people are disconnecting from faith is due to lack of understanding of the faith. No one understands the Christian message and abandons it. If a child does not understand the reason to believe, to practice, to experience and express the faith, when he or she gains independence from the parents, they will disconnect. As you share your faith with others, especially your family, one thing you should emphasize is practice, practice, practice. In religious tradition, two things are important — the passing on of beliefs and the passing on of practices. Practices are the things we do, like prayer, rituals, sacraments, processions, signs of the cross, dipping your hand in the holy water, kneeling, genuflecting, doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. If you believe strongly, practice strongly. If you believe boldly, practice boldly. Do not privatize the faith. We have a fight in our hands. The secular world is fighting with everything it has, but we can fight back with love, with beauty, with practice and thereby hand on the faith to the next generation.

God bless you!

Rev. Marcel Divine Emeka Okwara, CSsR

George Morris, Grand Knight Council #6772



Coats for Kids 2022 – Thanks for all who had a part in it.



What would you like your Legacy to be?

As we look at our fellow parishioners and councils we can't help but notice we are all aging. And knowing the measure of the men who belong to the Knights, I am positive each of you want to leave the world a better place after you receive your heavenly reward. This probably includes providing financial support to your parish or council after you pass. But many of you are reluctant to commit to this support given the possibility you may need these funds to live on or provide for surviving spouses or children.

Whole life policies from the Knights would allow you to commit a donation to your church or favorite charity by naming them as beneficiaries, while leaving you in complete control of the funds should you need them later in life. If circumstances change and you need funds from your policies later in life, you can cash in the policy or borrow against the cash surrender values and leave the balance to your beneficiaries.

If you are in relatively good health and under age 80 you may be insurable at a significant discount to the face value of the policy you are considering. You have the option of making payments or contributing a onetime lump sum to secure the face value of the policy. As examples, a \$10,000 policy for a 70 year old male non-smoker carries a single premium of \$7,464 while the same policy on a 75 year old female would run \$7,787. Your beneficiary will receive the \$10,000 to \$12,000 or more death benefit upon your passing without these funds running through your estate.

If you are interested in exploring the options available using life insurance for providing for your parish, council, or favorite charity, please give me a call today.

If you are in a position to donate to causes you believe in at this time you should consider a donor advised fund with the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund. You can receive your tax deduction in the year you choose to donate, and have the funds distributed any time in the future to worthy charitable entities. I'm happy to stop and visit and provide all the details you need.

Dan Falstad

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Council #6772 Activities

Important Dates

Nov. 1st Tuesday - All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)
Nov. 3rd Thursday - Council Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM
Nov. 8th Tuesday - Election Day (go vote)
Nov. 14th Monday – Blood Drive
Nov. 21st Monday - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Nov. 24th Thursday - Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 27th Sunday - Advent Season starts

Coats for Kids 2022 – Thursday night October 27 from 5:00PM – 8:00pm in the CSSR Hall, our council working with St. Al's Youth Faith Formation director Vidi Flores Garcia plus many faith formation student volunteers, parents and 10 Brother Knights, together handed out over 330 new winter coats plus over 150 pairs of winter gloves. Coats and gloves were also given to St. Al's Catholic school. Money to buy 360 coats plus 288 pairs of winter gloves was made possible by the American Legion/Brooklyn Legion (large donation) plus two major council fundraisers during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a very successful event.

Guest Speaker – Lauren Brutger of Lifeworks to speak at our November 3rd membership meeting. Lauren is development officer with Lifeworks. She will tell us about Lifeworks and what they do help individuals with intellectual disabilities. All are welcome to attend to learn more on the good work that Lifeworks does. Some of our council tootsie roll collections are donated to Lifeworks.

Upcoming Council Breakfast – on Sunday, December 11th from 8:30am – 12:30pm in the CSSR Hall, we will be hosting a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast. Mark your calendar to volunteer and come support the council in this important yearend fundraiser.

Blood Drive - St. Alphonsus Catholic Church is hosting a Memorial Blood Bank Blood Drive on Monday November 14 from 1:30PM – 6:00PM in the CSSR Hall. To schedule a donation appointment, please call Ken Bueckers at (c) 763-245-8895. Walk-ins are welcomed. Give the give of life!

Remembering Brother Knights: The Father Donald Schumaker Council 6772 has had 10 brother knights die between November 1st, 2021 - October 31, 2022. Brother Knights:

Thomas Kelly (Nov-21)

Paul Ditter (May-22)

Lawrence Stoner (June-22)

Donald Johnson (Sept-22).

Daniel Arndt (Dec-21)

Richard Sorenson (May-22)

Roger Scherer (Aug-22)

Harry Spoden (Jan-22)

Frank Jurgovsky (May-22)

Jerome Braun (Aug-22)

Remember these deceased Brother Knights in daily prayer during November.

Knights Fraternal Benefits Seminars (FBS) – all councils are asked to have 7 members minimum to attend two (2) fraternal benefit seminars between now and June 30, 2023. **The next time available date is December 13, 2022 at 7:00pm. Our council has selected this date as our first seminar.** Since Fr. McGivney's time, the Order has extended our mission to other capabilities such as preparing for long-term care, disability, and the retirement situations we may all face. More information to come in next newsletter

STATE STAFF

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COUNCIL OFFICERS

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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: Kevin Haeg 612-751-2877

Membership:
Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent

Marilyn Johnson – Wife Donald Johnson

Get Well Cards sent:

Margaret Borowicz

Judy Kowalczyk

Marley Roehrl

Steve Buechler

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: For children who suffer;

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

We pray for a peaceful election and respect of the results.

We pray for a solution to America's homeless.

We pray for an end to violence in our homes, cities and country.

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*