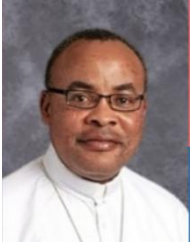




Knights Corner

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

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



Dear brother Knights,

I have an important question to ask. Deep down are you happy? Do you know a lot of happy people? By happy, I mean being deeply content and satisfied; being right with yourself and God. One thing my pastoral ministry has taught me is that a lot of people are sadder than they appear in the public. In the public view, they smile and come across as happy. But in reality they are not. Permit me to ask another important question. Do you think our understanding of happiness and what constitutes happiness is right and accurate? Is it not possible that our understanding of happiness has made us slaves of an illusion? What is the illusion? The illusion that says you will be happy when you get enough pleasure; the illusion that says you will be happy when you have power and wield lots of power; the illusion that says you will be happy when people adore and admire you a lot; the illusion that says you will be happy when you have abundant material wealth. If you think you will be happy once you get all you need or want, you are chasing an illusion. Here are the two bad news: one, everyone is a victim of this great illusion. Two, none of the aforementioned worldly goods can make us happy.

Yes, when pleasure is obtained, when power is attained, when honor and wealth are acquired, we experience a rush of excitement. But sooner or later, all that excitement fades away. We become bored and restless again and find ourselves wanting more and more and more. If we don't turn to God and surrender totally to him, our whole life becomes the terrible desire to fill up our ego with the goods of the world— money, power, fame, sex etc. If you are wondering why we are not happy, this is it! It is an illusion and a great one for that matter to believe that the acquisition and procurement of power, wealth, pleasure and esteem of others will guarantee true and sustained happiness, peace and rest of mind. What's the secret to being happy? Right now, right before you, you have everything you need to be happy. Regardless of the state of your life or what

your pain is or how many attachments you have, right now, you have everything you need to be happy. The holy grail to happiness is right in front of you at every moment.

In the book titled *MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING*, Viktor E. Frankl demonstrates that there were happy people at Auschwitz. Auschwitz is hell on earth. It was the largest concentration camp of death located in southern Poland. Those locked up there were deprived of everything we try to fill up our life with. They were deprived of freedom, money, wealth, pleasure, power, honor, status, fame etc. Yet, Viktor Frankl says there were happy people at Auschwitz. One significant figure that experienced the hell of Auschwitz was Edith Stein. She was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to Christianity and became a Discalced Carmelite nun. Her life ended at Auschwitz. She and her fellow nuns were dragged out of the convent and put in a train heading to Auschwitz. A few days after they arrived, they were killed. But some people who were in the train with them and who survived the war talked about what they saw. According to them, St. Edith Stein and her sisters were so calm, so peaceful that they were ministering to those around them. How can they be calm in the train going to Auschwitz? How can they be calm in the concentration camp of death? All the things we think make happiness possible were taken away from them, yet they had peace and serenity, even ministered to those around them and became bearers of God's presence. How's this possible? The watchword is what Jesus called "detachment," from what St. Thomas Aquinas identified as the four false substitutes for God— wealth, power, fame/honor, and pleasure. The holy grail of happiness is right in front of you. Even in Auschwitz, even on a train taking you to Auschwitz, you can find peace. Consider Jesus crucified. Naked! Humiliated! Stripped of all that the world holds as good. Yet, he is the most blessed. Hate what the world tells you to love. Love what God tells you to do. That's how you become truly happy.

Rev. Marcel Divine Emeka Okwara, CSSR



**George Morris,
Grand Knight
Council #6772**

I would like to thank those who came to volunteer at Second Harvest Heartland on September 13th.

As you can see the groups that night Bagged 3,528 meals



You've heard me preach on how important life insurance is to protect your families. Life insurance is a cornerstone of a family's future financial security. Blessed Michael McGivney certainly knew how important life insurance was to a family. But many members don't understand how involved Fr.

McGivney was in developing the Order's insurance program. According to Christopher Kauffman, the author of the centennial history of the Order, Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982, one of Fr. McGivney's two main reasons for founding the Order was "the need to protect families during sickness and death." (pg. 17) Kauffman goes on to say that Fr. McGivney "spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature." (pg. 35) Originally, when the Order was founded, there was no such thing as an "associate member." Everyone was insured; that was one of those two primary reasons for joining.

While the Order is now well known for its charitable works and strong advocacy for the most vulnerable, strengthening men in their faith and protecting them and their families with life insurance were twin catalysts in forming the Order. While young Catholic men still seek to strengthen their faith, we know families still need protection from untimely death. This mission remains just as important today. In an attempt to make every member and every eligible Catholic man aware of how important life insurance is, the Order has made a substantial investment. The Order has provided me with a high-tech, state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help me formulate a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions...a strategy specific to your family and your situation. The analysis can be done in the comfort of your home or virtually. What can life insurance provide? Peace of mind and security.

Vivat Jesus

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Council #6772 Activities

- Oct. 4th, Tuesday - St. Francis o Assisi
- Oct. 5th, Wednesday -St. Faustina Kowalska
- Oct. 5th, Wednesday - Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (Redemptorist)
- Oct. 6th, Thursday - Council Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM
- Oct. 7th, Friday - Our Lady of the Rosary
- Oct. 10th, Monday - Columbus Day (observed)
- Oct. 20th, Thursday - Council planning meeting
- Oct. 31st, Monday - Halloween
- Nov. 1st, Tuesday - All Saints (Holy Day of obligation)

FALL BOWLING CLASSIC – November 11 – 13 (Friday-Sunday) @ Bowlero in Brooklyn Park – if you are interested in volunteering (serving food or being a lane monitor) please contact Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774 or jstalbrger720@yahoo.com

BLOOD DRIVE—*next drive is on Monday November 14 from 1:30PM – 6:pm at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in C.Ss.R Hall. Walk-ins are welcomed!*

Coats For Kids Distribution – **Friday October 14 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM in St. Al's School Gym.** We are looking for setup help starting at 3:30pm plus extra help at 5:00PM – 7:00PM in handing out coats and gloves. To volunteer call Jim Stalberger at 763-424-8774 – we are in need of at least 10 volunteers.

October is the Month of Rosary – we are inviting members and their families to pray the rosary nightly during October. You can do this individually with your family at 7:00pm each night OR you can do it collective intercessory prayer by praying together with others across AMERICA by listening and praying with others by tuning in Relevant Radio 1330AM at 7:00OPM every night

STATE STAFF

District Deputy

Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091

Insurance Field Agent

Dan Falstad 612-310-5254

Ben Djondo Deployed

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR 763-561-5100

Grand Knight

George Morris 612-306-5540

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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: Kevin Haeg 612-751-2877

Membership:

Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent to:

Ken Kiffmeyer on passing of his wife, Joanne

Simon & Sherri Fehn on passing of daughter, Teresa

Gert Roers' family on passing of their mother, Gert

Get Well Cards sent:

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 a Church open to everyone—

*We pray for the Church, ever faithful to, and
Courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the
Church be a community of solidarity,
fraternity and welcome, always living in an
atmosphere of synodality.*

*We pray for the end of violence in our schools,
homes and communities*

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*