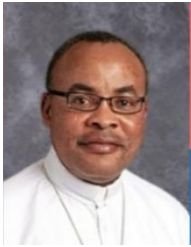




## Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH  
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 May 23

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



Dear brothers,

In ordinary human conversations, we often hear the expression, "Don't trust anyone," or "No body can be trusted." The assertion to not trust any human being is actually

biblically rooted. The Book of Jeremiah 17:5-8 says, "*Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit*" But does it mean that I cannot and should not trust even my mom, dad, brothers, sisters, close friends, fellow priests, my staff in the office? Does it mean that married people cannot trust themselves? Does it mean that parents cannot and should not trust their children and vice versa? Not so fast! Aside from family members, we have met people who are indeed trustworthy; people whose yes is yes and whose no is no. We have friends and colleagues at work that have proven to be reliable and worthy of trust. So, there are human beings out there who can be trusted. But the Bible is laying a curse on anyone who trusts in human beings. What does it mean? It means do not trust any one absolutely, perfectly and unreservedly. The person worthy of such a trust is God alone.

Why is absolute trust in any human being a serious error in judgment? I have two reasons, but due to space constraints, just one will be discussed in this month's edition. The first reason to not trust anybody absolutely is existential. We come and go. In his *Five Ways to Prove the Existence of God*, the great St. Thomas Aquinas writes in the Third Way, which he terms, *Possibility and Necessity*, "We find in nature things that are possible to be and not to be: contingent beings." He adds, "It is impossible for contingent beings always to exist." The human race, like all created things, are contingent beings. It is impossible for us to always exist. Describing the nature of our earthly existence, the Apostle James says, "*You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and*

*then disappears*" (James 4:14). We are like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Because the human person is a puny creature, it cannot and should not be trusted absolutely. Because we are not able to achieve immortality, none of us can be trusted absolutely. We are here today and tomorrow we are gone. During my mother's earthly existence, I relied so much on her prayers. I trusted in her prayers because she prayed for me endlessly. As a priest, I would kneel down before her and she would lay her hands on my head and say lengthy prayers for me. When I wasn't praying as much as I should, I was assured that my mother was praying for me. I built my confidence and hope on the very fact that my mother is mentioning my name and offering me to God in prayer, which was a lot. But one day, I got a call from my elder brother and the heart wrenching news was, "Father, Mama has died."

For several weeks and months, the thought of her not being around anymore to support me with her prayers deeply hurt and bothered me. I believe in the communion of saints; I know she is still praying for me in heaven, however, I do so by faith. Obviously, it is not the same as kneeling before her and hearing her voice as she prayed for me with her two hands placed on my head. There is no earthly immortality for anyone. The man or woman you are building your earthly edifice upon, could be no more. If they are in powerful positions and use their power and connection to protect you from getting into trouble, they could lose such positions. They could be transferred to another position. They could retire. They could die suddenly. Things can quickly change. When that happens, all the mighty edifice you erected upon them will come down crashing. Trust people, but not absolutely! Only God is absolutely and unreservedly trustworthy and reliable. How come? God has no need, so he cannot wear out. God is immortal and ageless, so you cannot lose him. God is necessary. He does not come into existence and pass out of existence. Simply speaking, God is! Trust him alone, absolutely!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSsR

*To be continued in the next edition*



## George Morris, Grand Knight Council

### Brother Knights,

A **Big thank you** to everyone who helped the council raised over \$7,070.70 for people with intellectual disabilities! Working together as Brother Knights, our wives, parishioners plus residents from Living Well Disability House handing out tootsie rolls at four grocery stores (Cub Foods – Brooklyn Center/ Cub Foods – Brooklyn Park/ Festival Foods – Brooklyn Park/ Dragon Star – Brooklyn Park) and 4 weekend masses WE DID IT. Thank you to the following businesses that made donations: Brooklyn Center American Legion Post 360, Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915, Osseo American Legion Post 172. All tootsie roll proceeds are donated approved organizations. Article submitted by Jim Stalberger, trustee.



### *Do you have your final expenses covered?*

Many of you have taken the proactive step of purchasing whole life policies with the Knights sufficient to cover your final expenses or are at least considering this step. If you are in relatively good health, you may be insurable at a significant discount to the face value of these policies which would then be available to cover your funeral costs whenever they occur. The Knights will issue policies with minimums as low as \$10,000, but you may want to consider a higher amount, or add an additional policy to cover funeral expenses. Conventional wisdom was that a funeral ran \$12,000 to \$15,000, but recent examples seem to indicate prices are now higher. Basic funerals recently have been running around \$20,000; imagine the cost in 20 years when you may be paying for yours!

The Knights offer whole life policies up to age 80 and you have the option of making payments or contributing a onetime lump sum to secure the face value of the policy. The Knights have guaranteed issue policies of \$10,000 up to age 65, and \$5,000 up to age 70 which can serve as final expense policies or a supplement even if you are not insurable.

Single premium whole life policies can be purchased for a set premium to get the coverage you will need in the future. A 70 year old woman could purchase \$20,000 of whole life coverage which will grow over time for a one time cost of less than \$15,000 and expect the death benefit to increase to about \$26,000 by the time she reaches 90 years of age.

Whole life policies from the Knights can also be used 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.

Please give me a call today to review the coverage you currently have and to determine if it will be sufficient for what you are trying to accomplish.

Dan Falstad

612 310 5254

[Dan.Falstad@kofc.org](mailto:Dan.Falstad@kofc.org)

## Council #6772 Activities

Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>	May Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM IN CSSR HALL with Rosary at 6:30PM
Saturday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of Fatima
Sunday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day to All Mother's)
Thursday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Ascension Of The LORD
Thursday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Council Planning Meeting
Friday-Sunday May 19 <sup>th</sup> -May 21 <sup>st</sup>	KC STATE CONVENTION IN BLOOMINGTON, MN
Monday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	BLOOD DRIVE @ ST. AL'S CSSR (1PM-6PM)
Sunday, May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost Sunday
Monday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Monday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day
Wednesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Heartland/Brooklyn Park** – Brother Knights -we are packing food at 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 11:00am (show up at 8:30am) – to volunteer/register, please call GK George Morris at 612-306-5540. Vivat Jesus

**BLOOD DRIVE** - The next Blood Drive at St. Al's will be on Monday, May 22, 2023, 1:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. in the C.Ss.R. Hall. Please consider donating as blood supplies are short during the summer months. To schedule an appointment, contact Ken Bueckers at 763.560.2639 or bueckersk@gmail.com. Walk-ins welcome. Thank you for the gift of life.

**ANOKA COUNTY FAIR (JULY 25-JULY 30)** – PLEASE Save these days as our council is again selling tickets at the North Ticket gate from Tuesday – Sunday (July 25-30). We will need 5-6 people/day to fill all the shifts. Spouses can help.

**This is one of our council's largest fundraisers.**

**STATE STAFF**

*District Deputy*  
Kevin Ahlers 612-961-2091  
*Insurance Field Agent*  
Dan Falstad 612-310-5254  
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*  
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

**Sunshine Report**

*Get Well Cards sent:*

Rita Ascher  
Barb Wacek

*Prayers needed for:*

BK Steve Buechler  
BK Albert Kowalczyk  
BK Frank Noonan  
DGK Richard Schwieters  
Sharon Schwieters  
BK Robert Hames  
BK Bill Weber

*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: May 2023*

*We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.*

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*We pray as St. Ambrose did:*

*Come, Holy Spirit.  
Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh.  
Give us hearts to love and to serve, and delight in the many graces that daily come from you.*

**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*