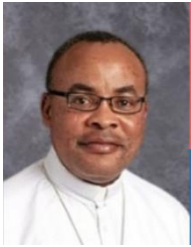




Knights Corner

FATHER SCHUMAKER COUNCIL NO. 6772 ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429 OCTOBER 2023

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



Dear brother Knights,

In his book, *Confessions*, Saint Augustine wrote what is indisputably considered as one of the most quoted phrases in our Christian tradition, "You have made us for yourself, O

Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." I tell you, I have read this quote in Catholic and non-Catholic literature. But why is this St. Augustine's dictum so famous? Because of the stubborn fact that we are wired for God. Our hearts are truly restless until they finally find rest in God. Whether we know it or not, whether we realize it or not, God is the deepest hunger of the human heart. Nothing can finally satisfy this hunger but God alone. But if for whatever reason someone finds a phony rest in what St. Thomas Aquinas called the four false substitutes for God—wealth, power, pleasure and honor, the person is in the condition of what the Bible calls deep spiritual sleep or spiritual slumber. Spiritual slumber is dangerous; the cost is often abject spiritual poverty. When you are spiritually asleep, your ability to produce and yield the fruits of Christianity and be useful is significantly tarnished and diminished.

In Matthew 24:42, Jesus says, "Stay awake!" (24:42) What does it mean to stay awake? It is to continuously find rest and refuge in God. It is to form the habit of resting in God. It is to see God as the *Summum Bonum*, the highest Good and the greatest pursuit of one's life. Now, this does not stop you from living your ordinary life. It does not prevent you from having interests in entertainment, in politics, in social issues, in science, in finance, in marketing, in innovation, in friendships, family, religion, in community organizing, in advocating for justice and peace etc. Christianity is not a sad and depressing journey. As humans, we are definitely going to be interested in other things aside from going to church, but if the organizing principle of your life and activities is God alone, then you are spiritually awake. If Jesus is at the center of everything you do, if he is the Governor and the commanding General of every aspect of your life, then you are an awakened disciple.

Is it possible to find happiness in the goods of the world? Sure! Worldly goods can give some excitement, some comfort, some ease, some pleasure, some confidence. But it will eventually wear off. With the passage of time, it will

fade away. They are fleeting and transient items. There is no permanent rest in the goods of this world. Check this out! In the opening prayer of the Mass, for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary time, we hear, "*O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*" Honestly, this prayer summarizes what it means to "stay awake!" Staying awake, therefore, is to finally realize that the true and lasting happiness is in God alone. It is to habitually fix your heart, mind, soul and being in that place and in God where true gladness is found.

What can help us stay awake? Forming the habit of going to Mass at least every weekend, making personal prayer the fulcrum of your daily life, using the sacraments, studying the Bible, reading spiritual and theological articles and books, joining a society in your parish, being a hearer and doer of the Word of God, taking part in the small group in your parish which is Archbishop Hebda's dream for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. If something is so important to you, if fixing your heart on that place where true gladness is found is of great importance to you, if you really want to stay awake as the Lord exhorts us, you will surround your life with discipline. What does that mean? It means the formation of good character and habits. It means persistence! Never be tired of doing what is good (Galatians 6:9). Even when you are tired of praying, you will endeavor to pray. When you are emotionally not in the right place, and it is Sunday, you will get up and go to Mass. If some friends are inviting you to an event that may jeopardize your faith, expose you to an intense temptation, or that may scandalize another, you say no. When you eat, drink and dance, you do them with moderation. Even your speech and thought-patterns will be trained in the Christian way. You will control the words of your mouth and the meditations of your mind and heart. Making these the habit of your daily life and having your eyes fixed on our Jesus Christ will keep you spiritually awake.

God bless you!

Rev. Marcel E. Okwara, CSSR



**Pictured below:
Volunteer of the Month for September**

**George Morris, GK – presenting to
Kenny Bueckers.**

**Kenny does many things: runs the parish blood drive,
collects and hauls food to Sharing & Caring Hands, opens
the parish doors, has been head usher for many years and is
constantly building/fixing things in the parish that are
requested. May God continue to bless Kenny!**



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 leave this world. This probably includes providing financial support to your parishes or councils 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 \$6,713 while the same policy on a 75 year old female would run \$6,817. Your beneficiary will receive the \$10,000 or more death benefit upon your passing without these funds running through your estate.

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

If you are looking to make a more immediate impact with your charitable giving, please contact me for details on our Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation Donor Advised Funds. You can contribute funds to an account in your name, reap the tax benefit from this donation, and have complete control over how these funds are disbursed in the future to your parish or favorite charity.

Vivat Jesus

Dan Falstad @ 612 310 5254 OR Dan.Falstad@kofc.org

Council #6772 Activities

Thursday, October 5th -- Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM/ Rosary at 6:30PM in CSSR Hall
Saturday, October 7th --Council Social Gathering @ Brooklyn Center American Legion @ 6:00pm
Monday, October 9th – Columbus Day (observed)

Wednesday, October 18th – Feast Day of St. Luke, Evangelist
Thursday, October 19th – Planning Meeting @ 7:00PM in CSSR Hall
Sunday, October 22nd – World Mission Sunday

Saturday, October 28th – Feast Day for SS Simon & Jude, Apostles
Tuesday, October 31st – Halloween
Wednesday, November 1st – All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

Brother Knights,

Please find a copy of proposed 2023-2024 Council 6772 budget with your October council newsletter. We will be voting to approve budget at our October 5th membership meeting. All members are invited to attend, bring your questions and concerns. Thank you, Jim Stalberger, trustee.

Coats for Kids Distribution – Our council has scheduled the distribution of over 300 coats for Friday, October 13th at 6:00pm in the CSSR Hall. We are in need of 8 men to help with setup, handing out of coats and cleanup. To volunteer, please call Jim Stalberger (H) 763-424-8774 or (c) 612-554-3718.

ROSARY - Month of October: Brother Knights and family are invited to pray daily the rosary during the month for Mary. The Joyful Mysteries on Monday & Saturday; The Luminous Mysteries on Thursday, The Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday & Friday and The Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday & Sunday. HAPPY PRAYING!

Council Breakfast for October 15th has been cancelled due Synod meetings going on.

BROTHER KNIGHTS - ARE YOU MOVING OR CHANGING YOUR PHONE NUMBERS OR EMAIL ADDRESS?? PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR RECORDS CURRENT. CONTACT FS JOHN VELLA OR TRUSTEE JIM STALBERGER. THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE.

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

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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:

Prince Montgomery 612-226-3217

Membership:

Edward Dennis 763-300-1356

Sunshine Report

Sympathy cards sent

DGK Richard Schwieters – (passing of his brother)

Robert Schwieters

Joan Noonan – (passing of her husband)

DD/PGK Francis Noonan

Get Well Cards sent:

Bk. Dan McDonell

Bk. John Bloss

Bk. William 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: October

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

We pray for compassion, understanding and patience for those whom we encounter in our everyday life.

Great angels of God, watch over us and defend us, guide us, and heal us!

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*