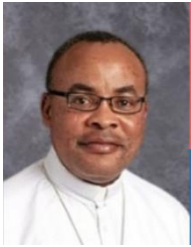




Knights Corner

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

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



Dear brother Knights,

In the public space, on the traditional news media and on social media, atheists, agnostics, and secular humanists find great delight in mocking religious faith. They say faith is gullibility, naïveté, superstition, acceptance of pre-scientific nonsense, unreasonable etc. And they draw a sharp line between faith so understood and modern science, which they argue is marked by healthy skepticism, empirical verification, a reliable and repeatable method, and the capacity for self-correction. Furthermore, they postulate that those who believe in modern science are smart, and those who have faith in God are dumb. Then in a kind of celebratory way, they declare and conclude that the good and fortunate thing is that the western mind has finally been able to free people from the constraints of faith and move them into the enlightened space of scientific reason. Any discussion of faith therefore, is a retrogression to the dark ages. But is faith gullibility? No! Is faith naïveté? No! Is faith accepting something on the basis of no evidence? No! Is faith pre-scientific nonsense? No! Is faith unreasonable? No! Is faith foolishness? No! Is it the way children would think? Not at all!

What is faith? Faith is accepting and trusting what God has revealed to us in his own freedom. Faith is a movement towards God. It is not opposed to reason, although it goes beyond it. Just as trust in another person is not irrational, but it does go beyond reason, so it is with God. We have to finally have faith because we are dealing with a supreme Person. Faith is trust in God who has spoken. Faith means God has spoken; I believe what he has said. I accept it. I trust it. It is true. Faith is the right approach to God. According to St. John Henry Newman, faith is the reasoning of the religious mind. A religious mind is the one that is preoccupied with God. The way the religious mind reasons, is by faith, because God cannot be placed on a table and then is torn apart under a bright light of analytical reason. Faith is a questing and searching reason. Prophet Isaiah describes God as a hidden God. God told Moses that he, Moses cannot see God and live. This does not mean that God is mean or deceptive or punitive. It means that in this life we cannot

see God as an object. So, the proper response to God is faith, which is, the reasoning of the religious mind.

How can someone have faith in God? If there is a person that fascinates you, you spend some time studying about that person. You watch what the person does, how the person speaks, who are the person's friends. You try to find out certain things about the person. You might even try to google the name of this person. And if the person is a public figure, you will find out a lot about him like place of birth, place of education, marital status etc. By using your reason alone, you will find out a lot about him. But if you really want to know this person at a higher level, you will try to meet him. When you finally meet him, some of the things you have already read about may be substantiated, but eventually something extraordinary will happen when he speaks. When he speaks, some of it will be in line with what you have already read. But the more you know him, the more he begins to open his heart to you. As you get to know him more intimately, what's going to happen? He will reveal things about himself that you will never know in any other way. Your knowledge of him is no longer about where he comes from and what he does which you gathered from other sources. He will disclose to you, truths about himself that only he knows. At this point, you have to make a decision: do I believe him or not? What he reveals of himself cannot be verified via a google search, so you have to decide whether to believe him or not. You can decide to believe him and trust him in such a way that you now accept his speech as true. In the process of knowing a person, we don't relinquish our reason, we go beyond our reason. Faith is, *Lord, I accept, I trust what you revealed to me in your own freedom.* Faith is radically turning your life over to God. It is an act of surrender to a mystery that we cannot in principle control, to the providential mercy and direction of God. Keep your faith in God alive and thriving. Ignore naysayers and those who mock you and call you stupid. On the last day, you will realize you made the best choice when your crown of glory and victory is given to you.

God bless you!

Fr. Marcel E. Okwara, CSsR



**Picture of:
Matthew Robinson
Receiving Knight of the Month Award
from Grand Knight George Morris.**



Greetings Brother Knights and families,

Every September a non-profit organization known as “Life happens” coordinates the Life Insurance Awareness Month campaign. This campaign is dedicated to informing people about how important life insurance is to protect their families.

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 Kaufmann, the author of the centennial history of the order, 1882-1982, one of Fr. McGivney’s two main reasons for founding the order was “the need to protect families during sickness and death”

While the order is now well known for it’s 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.

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 our Field Force with a high-tech state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help us form a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions...a strategy specific to your family and your situation.

This analysis can be done in the comfort of your own home, talk to your Field Agent and schedule a time to complete this valuable analysis.

Vivat Jesus
Dan Falstad

612 310 5254

Dan.Falstad@kofc.org

Council #6772 Activities

Monday September 4th – Labor Day (9:00AM Mass @ St. Al's)

Thursday September 7th – Council Membership Meeting @ 7:00PM (rosary at 6:30PM)

Friday September 8th – Feast Day – the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday September 14th – Feast Day – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Thursday September 21st – Council Planning Meeting @ 7:00PM (CSSR Hall)

Thursday September 21st – Feast Day- St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Friday September 29th – Feast Day of St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael; Archangels

SAVE THE DATES-

SUNDAY October 15TH – PANCAKE, EGG & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

FRIDAY & SUNDAY, November 10th & 12th – CCW Christmas Bazaar – Help w/set-up & Take Down

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 - MEN'S RETREAT AT ST. ALPHONSUS

Feed My Starving Children – Coon Rapids

Brother Knights

The Father Donald Schumaker Council is doing food packing at FMSC in Coon Rapids on Saturday, September 30th (shift time – 11:30AM – 1:15PM).

Packing Address – 401 93rd Avenue NW, Coon Rapids.

Please show up 15 minutes ahead of shift start time.

To register: Please call Jim Stalberger at (H)763-424-8774 or (C) 612-554-3718.

Thanks for helping!

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

Sympathy cards sent

Margo Buechler – passing of her husband, Steve Buechler
BK Justin Attipou – passing of Justin's parents
BK Edward Dennis – passing of his Step-Mother & Sister-in-law

Get Well Cards sent:

BK Doug Ranallo
BK Steve Buechler
BK David Van Houtan
Carol Vonderharr
Father John Schmidt, C.Ss.R.

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: September

"For people living on the margins"

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never be considered of less importance.

We pray for all the children and young adults as they return to school:

That they have a safe learning environment.

That they will be treated with respect and love by their teachers and fellow students.

That they will have access to good nutrition so they are able to learn.

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*