



January 2026

Vol. 40, Number 5

Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275
Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, Massachusetts

knights9275.com

The Knight Reader

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025 – 2026

Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....
Adam Rypinski

Chancellor.....
Ricky Walsh, DD, PGK, PFN

Warden.....
Derek Quirbach

Financial Secretary.....
James Barrows, PGK, FS

Treasurer.....
David Breen

Recorder.....
William Pacino

Advocate.....
Eugene Bartos, PGK, FDD

Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....
Jimmy O'Keefe

Outside Guard.....
Ray O'Neil

3rd Year Trustee.....
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

2nd Year Trustee.....
Joe Molligi

1st Year Trustee.....
Bob Chevalier, PGK

District Deputy.....
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD

Field Agent Tom Mahan
978-273-2409

State of the Council

Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, January 2026

Bishop Ruocco Council is in excellent condition, thanks to the thoughtful efforts of ALL brothers, family and friends. The principle of Charity, which is the cornerstone of our order, is robustly supported by the many acts of **Kindness** and **Welcoming** which have been the hallmarks of the past years' activities.

Many new brother knights have enriched the unity and fraternity to which we are pledged.

Teamwork as servants of Jesus has made it possible to achieve much: summer fair, food booth, coats, tuna, gift cards, hospitality, MnM and Tootsie drives, membership drives and exemplifications, diapers, July 4th parade, pilgrim Icon, keep Christ in Christmas, seminarian support, million Hail Mary's, installation dinner, soup and pizza and Stations, return of collation at member meetings.



There has been something for everybody.

Our council is a bright light shining in dark times. As we drown in information, the Faith of our brother Knights helps to keep us focused on the true meaning of Catholic Christian teaching.

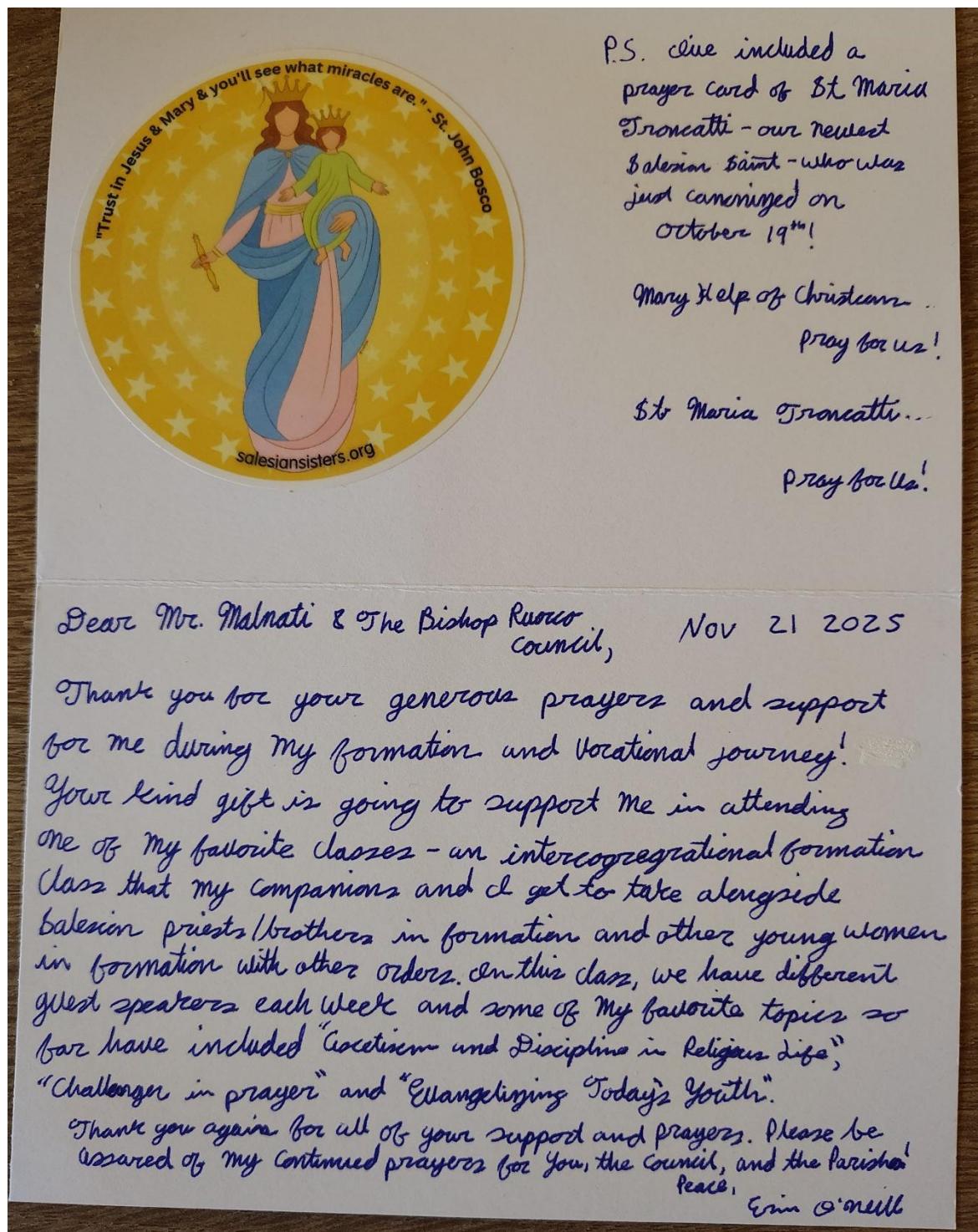
Working in tandem with Holy Rood Collaborative and Blessed Trinity Parish, the Knights of Bishop Ruocco council are leading by example.

The next six-months will provide ample opportunities for participation. A glance at the calendar shows 13 activities, plus member meetings. I look forward to being together with you at these events.

Letter from Sister Erin O'Neill

Our council in 2025 is supporting postulant Erin O'Neill (→). Our council sent her \$500. If you would like to help with an additional donation, send it to Erin O'Neill, Salesian Seminary, 9758 Foster Rd. Bellflower, CA 90706.

Her letter of acknowledgement and gratitude to GK Bob Malnati is shown below. Use the Zoom feature of PDF to make Erin's writing bigger.



Robert's REFLECTION

The year 2026 brings three celebratory events:

- the 250th anniversary of the founding of the USA;
- 139 years since the founding of the Knights of Columbus; and,
- the 40th anniversary of Bishop Ruocco Council.

What are we celebrating?

My recent brush with unexpected serious illness has provided time for reflection.

Pope Leo, Blessed McGivney and firstly Jesus, remind us that Charity is defined as Love for the poor: spiritually poor, materially poor, marginalized, outcast.

The question for Knights (and indeed for everyone) is “what does God want us to do?”

In our intensely materialistic and secular world, we need to make time to listen to Jesus.

He will remind us of the need to be a shining beacon of Faith and Charity in a hostile world. Hold the door, let another driver merge, say hello to a stranger, be seen to behave as a gentleman!

In a world of impersonal algorithms, we have the opportunity to help guide our brothers and sisters and especially the youth of the world by thoughtful example.

Stifle your instincts, be a Knight and help the world to be a better place.

For better or worse, the USA is still a shining example of a “Better Place” and the Knights of Columbus are leaders in making it better for all of God’s children.

Pray fervently for Peace.

It is a privilege to be the council Grand Knight.

Peace, Bob Malnati GK

Highlights of January

In the first part of January, we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, Mother of God, where we honor Mary's highest title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany.

Finally, we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. With a touch of sadness, we take down our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as Ordinary Time where we will devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety.

Catholic Culture,

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=12538>



On 19 of November, 2,277 needy individuals lined up for food

From Lazarus House and GK Bob Malnati

Lazarus House extends its gratitude for your generous support of their mission to provide food and shelter to all in need in our community

Because of generous donors coming together to support those facing food insecurity and homelessness, Lazarus House in Lawrence raised more than \$530,000, enough to purchase 267,745 pounds of food, which is its greatest need.

The Bishop Ruocco K of C council is right in the thick of this fight against hunger. Keep in mind that most of the food that is given to clients of the food pantry is canned, boxed, dry, carbohydrates. There is very little fresh fruit and veggies and little protein. With the K of C council's donation of over 1,600 cans of tuna fish and \$3,025 worth of Market Basket gift cards, we are helping to fill the nutrition gap.

Lazarus House expects that food needs will remain high due to the persistent high cost of living in Massachusetts and recent federal legislation that may still result in SNAP benefits being cut for some 150,000 Massachusetts residents.

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Lazarus House's food pantry, 2,277 individuals waited in line for supplemental groceries – the highest number Lazarus House has ever recorded.

See the Food Pantry line first hand. Click on this link.

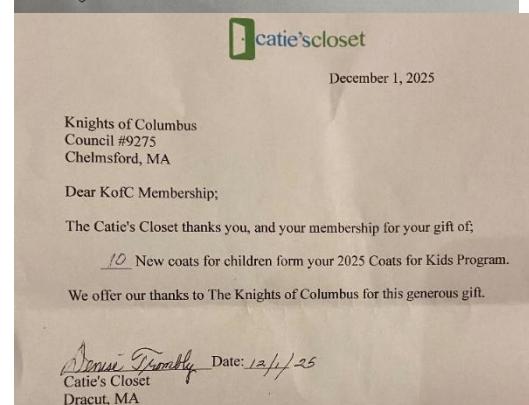
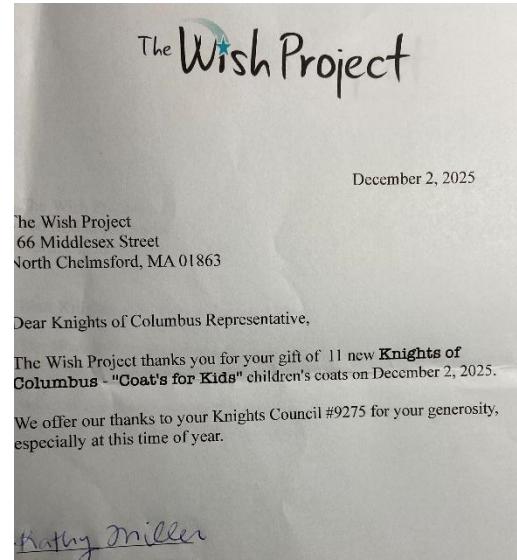
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nlf48iYp0gw>

Donations from latest diaper drive aid Pregnancy Care

From James Barrows

The December collection, from all five churches saw donations of 3,200 diapers, 74 packs of wipes, 72 bottles of baby formula, 380 oz of powdered formula and several onesies. Over \$1500 in value. After sitting in James' garage (see photo) for a short time, the diapers and formula was delivered to the Pregnancy Care Center in Lawrence. At the Care Center, Analia (forefront) and Anna (behind her) helped carry in the donations.





← Coats were delivered to the Wish Project (11 coats) in North Chelmsford and Catie's Closet (10) in Dracut.

Coats for Kids, KofC Charity in the warmest way

From Bob Chevalier

This years effort in our annual Coats for Kids program was completed on December 1, with deliveries of our remaining coats to our long-time associates at "The Wish Project" and "Catie's Closet". With the cooperation of Fr. Brian of the Holy Rood Collaborative in Chelmsford, our Grand Knight. Bob Malnati established a centrally-located Parish space for our Coats to be viewed and selected by our the faithful members of Saint Vincent de Paul who represented families in need for new coats.

We delivered more than 100 coats with our thanks to Bob M, Adam R, Lou S, James B and Bob C, who worked with our wonderful partners at Saint Vincent de Paul to put these coats on so many kids in preparation for winter.

State Raffle tickets, \$5 kept for local council

From James Barrows, FS

Knights9275@gmail.com



We have 215 members in our council and are required to sell 20% of membership in total book sales. That is 43 books need to be sold. So far I have 10 sold.

Please help and purchase tickets – \$15 for a book of 3 tickets. \$5 stays in the Council and \$10 goes to the State. Let me know and I will mail you the tickets. You can send the stubs back with payment.

The funds raised by the State help with state expenses. Without these sales they may have to increase our Per Capita Assessments.

Join in the March for Life, Jan. 23 in Washington, DC

The right to life is a human right. The defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest, TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE. We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

Life Fest rally and Mass (before the March for Life)

Every January at the National March for Life, countless Knights of Columbus come from across the country to bear a joyful witness to the dignity of human life.

Will you be there?

If so, join Life Fest, a rally and Mass before the March for Life begins.

Get Tickets at <https://www.lifefestrally.com/>



Life Fest is open to attendees of all ages. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Sisters of Life, the event is at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Jan. 23, 2026.

Doors open at 6 a.m., and the program begins at 6:30 a.m. You'll have the opportunity to attend Mass, go to confession, hear dynamic speakers and musicians, venerate first-class relics (including our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney) and more before it's time to march in the streets of Washington, D.C.

Note: Article repeated. Take action – volunteer.

Volunteer now to help create annual Flea Market event to be hosted by K of C council 9275

From Matt Bartos

Volunteers sought for Bishop Ruocco council's First Annual "Fleas, Food and Fun" flea market to be held May 9, 2026 (rain or shine) at the field behind St. Anne's church in Littleton.

Planning for this Flea Market event has begun and the Flea Market committee, within the council, is seeking volunteers who can help fill several planning positions.

The Bishop Ruocco council supports five churches: two of the Blessed Trinity Parish (St. Anne's in Littleton and St. Catherine's in Westford); and, three of the Holy Rood collaborative (St. Mary in Chelmsford center; St. John's in North Chelmsford, and St. Margaret's in Lowell).

The site of the May 9, 2026 Flea Market will be at the field behind St. Anne's church in Littleton, but all five churches supported by the Bishop Ruocco K of C council are considered participants in this K of C regional event. It does not matter where you live or go to church. This is a Bishop Ruocco council event to be shared with all five churches.

Planning aspects that need volunteers are:

- Promoting – church bulletin announcements, social media posting (Bishop Ruocco council has existing Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts), regional street signs, notices in local news publications, whatever else you can think of.
- Vendor applications – 20 x 20 spaces are \$60 each (this amount could change), any money made by the vendor is theirs to keep. Fees are considered a donation and non-refundable.
- Permitting/Town co-ordination – Police, fire, local
- Field prep – Mark the field to show vendor spaces
- Traffic control during the event
- Church liaisons – coordinate with church groups who want to be a part of this Flea Market.

How to volunteer

Contact brother knight and Chair of the Flea Market committee, Matt Bartos at mdbartos@gmail.com, 617-650-2187



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following brothers and their families and caregivers in your prayers:

- Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen
- Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati
- Brother knight Chris Cantrell
- Brother knight Paul Sidari, managing chronic issues
- Grand Knight Bob Malnati, cancer treatment
- Brother knights John Acampora III and William Donahue, who both had major surgery in December

For those who are sick or in distress, remember that you are in our prayers at each meeting and in the private prayers of our hearts. If you know of a brother knight or family member who would like to be included in our prayers, please contact one of the individuals below:

Grand Knight Robert Malnati at randrmalnati@gmail.com

Chancellor Ricky Walsh at rwalsh1981@icloud.com

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the February 2026 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knight_news@yahoo.com by January 21. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month of February.

Note: Check your Spam folder every week to make sure your email provider is not electronically judging the messages and monthly newsletter from your local council as Spam mail. You will be surprised how many legitimate email messages end up in the Spam folder.

Meeting times -The monthly planning (first Monday), members (second Monday) and social (fourth Monday) meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held at The Paul Center, 39 Concord Road, Chelmsford.

knight9275.com – Use the Bishop Ruocco council web site for past newsletters and meeting minutes; for officer links; Supreme news.

Return address for physical mail: Knights of Columbus, Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275 Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, 1521 Gorham Street, Lowell, MA 01852

K of C Field Agent for Bishop Ruocco Tom Mahan, office 781-769-3277, mobile 978-273-2409

Social media and Bishop Ruocco council

Watch us on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC01b6-j0e6c6msaoiqiLi8Q>

Follow us on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/bishopruocco/reels/>

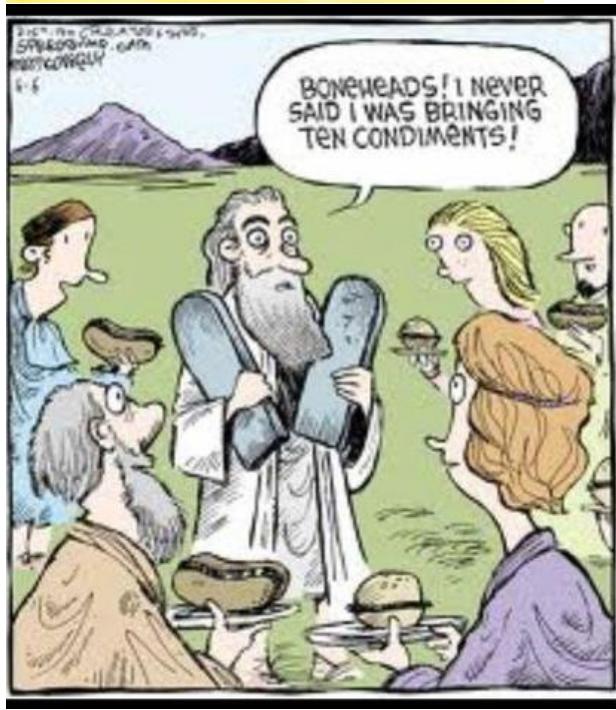
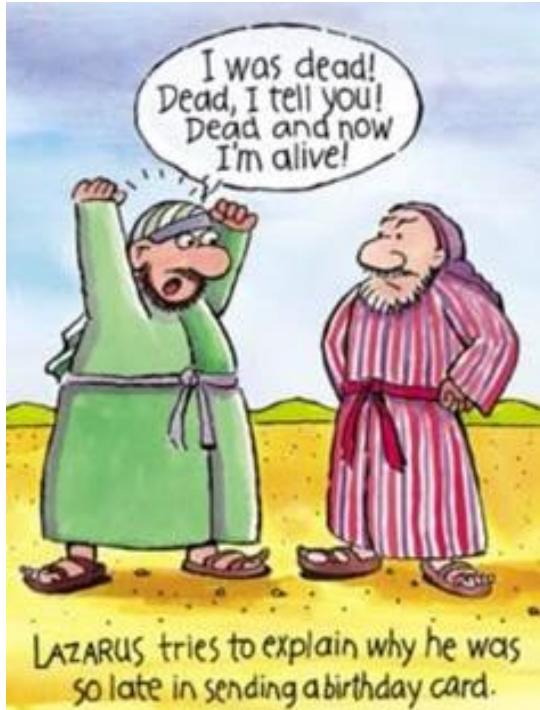
Find us on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/people/KofC-Bishop-Ruocco-Council-9275/61581013854916/>

Catholic humor page

“Humor is the great thing, the saving thing after all. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations, and resentments flit away, and a sunny spirit takes their place.”

Mark Twain



Q: Did you hear about the priest who gave his congregation noodles instead of wafers for communion? A: He was a Ramen Catholic.

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Bishop Ruocco Council, 2025-2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
January 2026			
6	Planning meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM online via Google meet
8	Confirmation retreat dinner	Adam Rypinski	5 PM, St. Anne parish hall
13	Members meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center 6:30 PM audit
15	COR	Matt Bartos	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
27	Superbowl party	Paul Rigazio	Princeton Station, North Road in North Chelmsford
February 2026			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
24	Social Meeting	cancelled	
26	COR	Matt Bartos	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
March 2026			
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
10	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
	March for Life	James Barrows	2 PM St. Catherine's
	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Mary
21	Seder supper	Bob Malnati	After 4 PM Mass at St. Catherine
April 2026			
	ACTS retreat	Paul Rigazio	Billerica
	Catholic Men's Conference	Worcester	For more information, https://catholicmenworc.com
7	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
14	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
	Spring Diaper drive	James Barrows	Drop off 2-4 PM parking lot St. Mary
May 2026			
1	Hail Mary Challenge	Paul Sidari	Hail Mary Challenge begins
	Statue Procession Rosary	Paul Sidari	12:15 PM, St. Mary Church Refreshments after in Church Hall
5	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
9	Flea, Food, Fun	Matt Bartos	Flea Market at St. Anne's
12	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
14	Special Needs Prom	Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse	5:00 PM Tewksbury High School
19	A night of Reflection at St. Benedict's Abbey, Still River Rd. Harvard, MA	Adam Whitehouse	Start at 6:00 PM with vespers in chapel, shared meal, and a talk from a brother
26	Social Meeting?	Bob Malnati	TBD

Date for Johnathan Saniuk's ordination

From Adam Whitehouse

Our council in 2023 supported seminarian Johnathan Saniuk. His ordination is May 16, 2026. He has invited all to join him at his ordination. Pray for him and all seminarians.