



Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275
Chelmsford/ Littleton/ Westford, Massachusetts
knights9275.com

May 2025

Vol. 39, Number 9

The Knight Reader

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024 – 2025

Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....
Matthew Bartos

Chancellor.....
Adam Rypinski

Warden.....
Ricky Walsh

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

Treasurer.....
David Breen

Recorder.....
William Pacino

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

Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....
Richard Zuppardi

Outside Guard.....
Jean Croteau

3rd Year Trustee.....
Adam Whitehouse, PGK, DD

2nd Year Trustee.....
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

1st Year Trustee.....
James O'Keefe

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

Field Agent.....
Tom Mahan (starts July 1)

Tommahankofc@gmail.com

Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, May 2025

April brought an astonishing number of events.

First and foremost, we celebrated Easter, the focal point of our Catholic Faith. Shortly thereafter our beloved Pope Francis returned to Jesus. A favorite statement of Pope Francis exemplifies our council in action: *We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is. Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you!*



Articles in this newsletter highlight the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics; preparation and service of Pancakes for Dinner on Holy Thursday; choosing two scholarship winners; welcoming and exemplifying eight new council brothers [plus new knights from other councils]; an extraordinary presentation on avoiding online scamming; supplying a new refrigerator/freezer to the Paul Center; selecting and awarding Families of the Year; submission of two very carefully thought-out Resolutions to the State Convention. [They have been deemed “out of order” by the resolution review committee. These resolutions addressed an important topic which needs further discussion].

Please examine the calendar on the last page for upcoming May activities and meetings. Consider volunteering for the July 4 Chelmsford fair food booth; the Paul Center Special Needs summer fair in August; Special Olympics at Harvard on June 7; the Special Needs Prom on May 15, and plan to celebrate at the council anniversary dinner on May 8 and Dining for Dollars on June 16. Plan to watch either or both of the upcoming Fraternal Benefit webinars (May 7 and 28).

At all times, let all of us practice **KINDNESS**, even if it is difficult. No act of kindness is ever wasted.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Brother knight Michael O'Malley, as he battles cancer

Brother knight Greg Gallagher, also battling cancer

Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen

Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati

Brother knight Charlie DeStefano, recovering from knee surgery

For those who are sick or in distress, please 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

Or Chancellor Adam Rypinski at arypinski@yahoo.com

Night of Reflection at Saint Benedict's Abbey, May 19

From Adam Whitehouse, awhitehouse21@gmail.com

The night of Reflection is going to be Monday May 19, 2025 at Saint Benedict's Abbey in Harvard. Starting at 6:00 PM with vespers in the chapel. Following vespers, we will have a delicious meal cooked by the monks, and a talk from one of the Abbey's monks.

The price to attend is \$20 per person. Indicate your interest by contacting Adam. This visit is limited to 25 knights.

Looking forward to a wonderful evening in the Easter season.

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the June 2025 issue of this newsletter must be e-mailed to Bill Pacino at **knights_news@yahoo.com** by May 21. The newsletter will be published before the first meeting of the month.

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.

knights9275.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

13 new knights join K of C via exemplification ceremony



Two views of all new brother knights



PGK Eric Kibblehouse addresses the new brother knights

On March 30, 2025, Knights of Columbus Council 9275 held an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity at St. Catherine's Church in Westford, MA. Thirteen new brother knights from councils #9275, #1624, #4027 and #81 participated in this exemplification.

Eight new brotherknights have joined the Bishop Ruocco council and several joined nearby councils. Their names and councils are:

Council 9275 – Damian Amanfo; Matthew Goddard ; Derek Quirbach; Robert Strain; Jeremy Tucker; Eric Tucker-Freeman; Michael Finch; Rev. Peter Quinn.

Council 16241 – Eric Bailey; Council 4027 – Jason Comeau; Council 81 – David Garceau; Thomas McAuliffe; Brian Aucoin; Alexander Caissie.

For those who could not attend in-person, the Blessed Trinity AV Ministry live streamed it. This video is now available for viewing on the council YouTube channel.

Council officers, slate of officers for 2025-2026; vote at June 9 election

Grand Knight	Matthew Bartos
Deputy Grand Knight	Adam Rypinski
Chancellor	TBD
Warden	Jean Croteau
Treasurer	David Breen
Recorder	William Pacino
Advocate	Ricky Walsh
Lecturer	Ed Ciampa
Inside Guard	James O'Keefe
Outside Guard	Ray O'Neil
1st Year Trustee	Bob Chevalier
2nd Year Trustee	Joe Molligi
3rd Year Trustee	Lou Soracco
Financial Secretary (not elected position)	James Barrows

Payout for March madness fundraising effort for Scholarships

James Barrows \$80; David Breen \$80;
Dan Taylor \$100; Steve Fidrych \$20;
Robert Chevalier \$20; Barry Bell \$20

Dining for Dollars with Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizza and Pasta, June 16

From Paul Rigazio

What: Fundraiser for Knights of Columbus:
BISHOP RUOCCO COUNCIL #9275

When: Monday, June 16, 11 AM to 9 PM

Where: Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizza and Pasta,
14 Littleton Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824

Bertucci's will donate 15% of every order of anyone with a copy of the Bertucci's and Bishop Ruocco council photo that will appear in June council newsletter.

Share this opportunity with family, neighbors and friends.

Special Olympics Summer Games, June 7

From Charlie DeStefano

Michelle Henrikse (Volunteer Operations Manager, Special Olympics MA, is excited that the knights are again returning to judge the Volleyball games at the Summer Olympics Games. Michelle has created a signup link just for the Knights of Columbus:

<https://www.specialolympicsma.org/volunteer-job/volleyball-line-judge---knights-of-columbus>

Event: 2025 Summer Games: Volunteers

Job Assignment: Volleyball Line Judge, Knights of Columbus

Date and check in time, June 7, 2025, 8:30 AM

End date/time, June 7, 2025, 4:00 PM

Duration of volunteer shift: 7.5 hours

Location: Harvard University - 65 N Harvard St Boston MA 02134

A week prior to the event we will receive a confirmation which will include parking areas.

Anyone interested that would like to carpool, we will meet behind St Anne Church in the rear parking lot between 7:00AM and 7:30AM.

God's Special People Prom – 2025

From prom committee members Adam Whitehouse & Paul Sidari

Brother Knights. We are asking on behalf of the planning staff for the God's Special People Prom 2025, if you would please consider becoming a volunteer to assist in providing these very excited and jubilant kids with a night they will always remember and cherish.

This event is now being held at Tewksbury High School on Thursday May 15, 2025. The event is still being hosted by the Knights of Tewksbury and will be catered. (The Bishop Ruocco Council will again assist the kids during dining with receiving their food) Knights would be asked to be at the school by 5 p.m. The activities will be concluded by 9 p.m. You can attend for the entire night or come and work in shifts.

As a result of holding the prom at the Tewksbury high school, there will be the needed effort for Knights to assist in door security, so that the prom's participants stay within the confined areas of the prom. The Prom will be held only in the areas of the gymnasium and the cafeteria.

Volunteer by contacting Adam Whitehouse 978-551-20256, e-mail awhitehouse216@gmail.com OR contact Paul Sidari 978-729-1677 e-mail at psidari@ymail.com now.

Summary of activity in March and April

Activity	Date	Description
Exemplification ceremony	March 30	See separate article, on page 3.
Declan Reidy presentation on avoiding scams, online safety	April 14	To an audience of 30, brother knight Declan Reidy gave an hour-long presentation on: avoiding scams by cellphone and computer; common scammer tactics, and how to avoid getting scammed. There was a lively discussion with many questions for the presenter and among brother knights This presentation was video-taped and appears on the council YouTube channel.
Two resolutions for the state convention in May	April 9	See page 9 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution to amend guidelines for charity grants • Resolution to distribute state charity funds
Pancake dinner	April 17	See separate article, on page 6.
New refrigerator for Paul Center	April 14	In April, the old refrigerator used by the programs at the Paul Center was discovered to be leaking coolant fluid, and it was well known that it did not keep things cool. So, the local council decided to replace this old refrigerator with a new refrigerator This was done by April 7.
Use of Google Meet...	April 14	,,,for meetings for those who cannot make it in person.
Special Needs Prom	May 15	See separate article, on page 5.
Dining for dollars	June 16	Bertucci's, June 16, see separate article on page 4.

Pancake supper on Holy Thursday for parish families

From Adam Rypinski

The Bishop Ruocco Council of Knights of Columbus helped the Holy Rood Collaborative with their Pancake Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025. The event was put on as a way to remember the Last Supper and to bring families together in the church. The Brother Knights made pancakes and sausage, prepared soft drinks, set tables, and served parishioners.



Brothers serving included Bob Chevalier, Bob Malnati, Tony Paulo, Phil Bellinghieri, Jean Croteau, Lou Soracco, Raymond O'Neil, Paul Sidari, Matt Bartos, James Barrows, Adam Whitehouse, Damian Amanfo, Richard Zuppari, and Adam Rypinski. Bob Chevalier's wife, Pat, was a tremendous help as well.



Brother knight Adam Whitehouse and his niece with the pancake diners in the background.

Polar Plunge earns \$1,000 for Special Olympics

From Adam Whitehouse



Adam Whitehouse, Paul and Margie Sidari on the beach (←) and in the water (↑), photos from GK Bob Malnati on land.

The Knight Riders Polar Plunge team did the Polar Plunge Saturday, April 19 at Long Lake in Littleton.

\$1,113 raised. Goal: \$1,000. Goal achieved.

Fraternal Benefit webinars in May

Market Volatility & Planning for Success. Register today to reserve your spot.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 8:00 PM ET and May 28 www.kocaa.org/mmv

Ten Tips for Managing Market Volatility: How to approach market fluctuations in times of uncertainty [investment webinar](#)

Learn the Foundations of Investing with Two All-New Webinars May 7 and May 28

ONLINE EVENTS FEATURING



Joseph Monestere
Chief Distribution Officer
and Senior Vice President
of Field Management

May 7: Ten Tips for Managing
Market Volatility

May 28: Investing for Beginners:
Planning for Success

Please join us for two webinars presented by Chief Distribution Officer and Senior Vice President of Field Management Joseph Monestere. We're proud to introduce our new Family Finance series, **Foundations**, aimed at helping investors make informed decisions.



**Knights of
Columbus**
Asset Advisors®

**RSVP today to reserve your spot.
Events are free and open to the general public.**



Ten Tips for Managing Market Volatility
Wednesday, May 7, 8:00 p.m. ET
www.kocaa.org/mmv
or scan for full event details



Investing for Beginners: Planning for Success
Wednesday, May 28, 8:00 p.m. ET
www.kocaa.org/success
or scan for full event details

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Lantern Award given out at Patriots' Day dinner

By Paul Sidari

The annual Lantern Award dinner was held on Patriots Day at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel.

The recipient was the Pope John XXIII Seminary and was given to Rector & President Fr Brian Kiely. The event was attended by 275 including four bishops. Archbishop Richard Henning was a key speaker.



Fr Brian Kiely & District Deputy Paul Sidari



Archbishop Richard Henning with District Deputy Paul Sidari & Margie Sidari

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge for May 2025

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" (Gospel for May 4, Jn 21:17a)

When, following the Resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, why did he ask Peter three times whether he loved him? It has often been seen as a penance for Peter's earlier threefold denial of Christ. But perhaps there's something more, perhaps Jesus was pushing Peter to reflect more deeply on what it means to love him. Sometimes, we speak the words "I love you" by rote, without grasping their true meaning. May we always be mindful of what it means to truly love someone and to love as Christ taught us. Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori: This month, I challenge you to identify one way you can demonstrate true love of God and neighbor. Then pray about how to concretely undertake that sacrificial act of love – and put into action.

Copy of Resolutions sent to Mass K of C April 2, 2025**RESOLUTION TO AMEND GUIDELINES FOR CHARITY GRANTS**

WHEREAS in this age of very rapid advances in technology, it now would be appropriate to amend the Charity Fund Guidelines, to enable us to serve a greater range of people in need, with a greater variety of charitable services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the restriction of "children with physical handicaps who have not reached their 20th birthday" be changed to read: " persons with physical handicaps, regardless of age". This would enable us to assist persons who have lost the use of limbs or have otherwise become handicapped as adults and do not have insurance assistance (e.g. modifying a vehicle for a newly handicapped person to be able to legally operate.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to increase the maximum grant amounts, in keeping with increased costs: Wheelchair ramps to \$8,000, stair lifts and service dogs to \$8,000, wheelchair van conversions to \$10,000, and \$7,000 for any other covered item.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to remove the restriction on "computer type hardware" in paragraph 7. This would allow for such items as text to voice translation, as well as hearing and visual assists that are becoming reality with advances in AI technology.

The intent of this resolution is to enable Knights of Columbus charities to be able to serve a greater community of persons with both physical and intellectual handicaps.

RESOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTE STATE CHARITY FUNDS

WHEREAS it has been shown that at the end of the Fiscal year ending on April 30, 2024, the State Charity Fund has net assets in excess of 5 million dollars. Income to the Fund regularly exceeds expenditures and grants, thereby fueling this buildup. A distribution from this fund would enable local councils to have an immediate Charitable impact.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that approximately 35% of the Fund's accumulated assets to date, be returned to the councils located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that are in GOOD STANDING as of April 30, 2025. This distribution is to be used ONLY FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES as may be determined by each individual council and must be spent for said purposes within 9-months of receipt of the distribution. Distribution(s) to be reported on form 10784-0 8/23 with appropriate notation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Distribution be as follows:

To each of the councils that contributed to the Tootsie Roll Drive during the past fiscal year, the sum of \$10,000. To each of the remaining councils, the sum of \$2,000. This would constitute a distribution of approximately \$1,850,000. Said distributions to be made within 90 days of adoption of this resolution.

Adoption of this resolution is in keeping with the admonishments in Leadership Resources for councils to NOT maintain large balances, except in special circumstances. By putting approximately one-third of the Charity Fund Assets back into the hands of the local individual councils, the ability to have a significant impact on our commitment to CHARITABLE activity at a more local level will be greatly enhanced. = = = = =

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
May 2025			
1	Hail Mary Challenge	Paul Sidari	Hail Mary Challenge begins
5	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
7 and 28	Fraternal benefits webinars	Asset Advisors	8 PM Market Volatility & Planning for Success
8	39 th Anniversary dinner \$45 per person	Jean Croteau/ Lou Soracco	The Establishment restaurant 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
11	Family of the Year	Bob Chevalier	Holy Rood churches
12	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
15	Special Needs Prom	Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse	5:00 pm Tewksbury High School
16-18	State convention	Bob Malnati/ Matthew Bartos	
19	A night of Reflection at the Abbey / social meeting	Adam Whitehouse	Start at 6:00 PM with vespers in chapel, shared meal, and a talk from a brother. St. Benedict's Abbey, 252 Still River Rd. Harvard, MA \$20
June 2025			
2	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
7	Special Olympics at Harvard University	Charlie DeStefano	Volunteers sought
9	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
16	Dining for Dollars Bertucci's in Chelmsford	Paul Rigazio	Dine at Bertucci's, council will receive 15 percent of each member's bill
23	Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
July 2025			
July 3- 4	July 4 th booth and parade, Chelmsford		Volunteer help needed
July 7	Planning Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
July 14	Members Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
	Installation of officers	Paul Sidari	St. Catherine Hall, Westford
August 2025			
Aug 4	Planning meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
Aug 10	Special Needs summer carnival	Matt Bartos	The Paul Center 8:00 AM Serve Breakfast 8:00 AM Set up Games 9:30 AM Start games
	Silver Rose ceremony	Paul Sidari	3 PM at St. Catherine
Aug 18	Members Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center

Council anniversary dinner to celebrate 39-years

The 39th annual anniversary dinner will be held May 8 at the Establishment restaurant in North Chelmsford. This is your last call on paying for this dinner. Also to be celebrated at this anniversary dinner is the Knight of the Year.