



Knights of Columbus

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

knights9275.com

The Knight Reader

June 2025

Vol. 39, Number 10

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024 – 2025

Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....
Matthew Bartos

Chancellor.....
Adam Rypinski

Warden.....
Ricky Walsh, FDD, PGK, PFN

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)

Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, June 2025

Thank you, thank you, thank you. As I compose this final Grand Knight report of my tenure as Grand Knight, I am thankful to ALL of you my brother Knights for the privilege and trust that you have accorded to me over the past two-years. It has been especially gratifying to witness the extraordinary **KINDNESS** that you have all shown as disciples of Christ. The council has welcomed 27 new members to date; the next generation is here. Our involvement in parish activities has grown greatly, a plethora of Faith Community and Life activities are very well-attended and of charitable service; COR has been implemented, the council has achieved two successive years as a Star Council and is now in a position of recognition and leadership in the State. You did all of this and much more, a true band of brothers in service to Jesus and His church.

May was jam packed with activity, in addition to the planning and member meetings. Families of the year, Knight of the Year, State Convention, 39th anniversary dinner, Abbey night of reflection, Scholarship awards, welcoming and exemplification of new Knight Alden Thomas Deepak, Lantern awards, Special Peoples Prom, Hail Mary challenge.

June is upon us; election of officers on June 9, Special Olympics at Harvard on June 7, Dining for dollars at Bertucci's on June 16, Walk for Life on June 21, Changing of the guard on June 23, preparation for the July 3/4 Chelmsford Fair Food tent and parade participation.

July and August will feature the food tent, 4th of July parade, installation of officers, Paul Center Summer Fair. Please watch your email for updates, signup sheets and information. Please, Participate whenever you can.

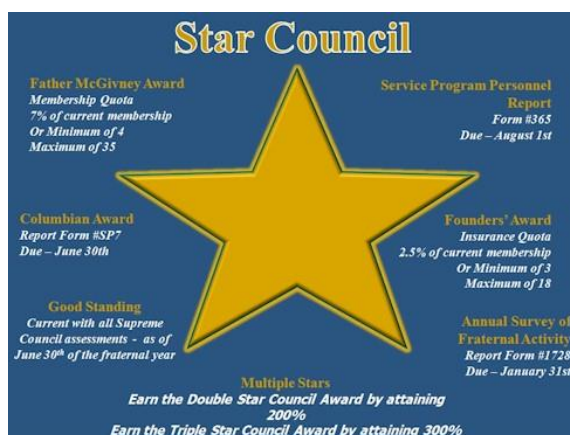
Wrapping up now, I'm accepting appointment as a District Deputy. It is my intention to remain an active participant in the life of Bishop Ruocco Council, together with all of you my brother Knights and friends. Thank you for your **KINDNESS**, you are always in my prayers.

Vivat Jesus, Bob Malnati

Slate of Officers, Bishop Ruocco council 9275, 2025-2026

Vote on Monday, June 9 at council members meeting

Position	2025-2026
Grand Knight	Matt Bartos
Deputy GK	Adam Rypinski
Chancellor	Ricky Walsh
Warden	Derek Quirbach
Treasurer	Dave Breen
Advocate	Gene Bartos
Recorder	Bill Pacino
Inside Guard	James O'Keefe
Outside Guard	Ray O'Neil
1st Yr Trustee	Bob Chevalier
2nd Yr Trustee	Joe Molligi
3rd Yr Trustee	Lou Soracco
Financial Secretary	James Barrows (<i>not elected</i>)



Appointed officers will be announced after the election on June 9

Lantern awards, Patriots Day. April 21

The annual Lantern Awards dinner was held on Patriots Day in Framingham.

The recipient was the Pope John XXIII Seminary. The event was attended by 275 including four bishops. Archbishop Richard Henning was a key speaker.

PFN Adam Whitehouse continued his practice of getting in touch with the leaders of the Archdiocese of Boston at the Lantern Awards each year. Let's hope the Archbishop has room at the Archbishop's table for good friend Adam at the next event.

→ *Brother knight Adam Whitehouse and Archbishop Richard Henning*



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 appears below.

Share this opportunity with family, neighbors and friends.



Pregnancy Care Center, Walk for Life, June 21

From James Barrows



Join us for the Pregnancy Care Center's 40th Anniversary Walk for Life fundraising event! Come help us celebrate 40 years of serving the community, saving lives and building strong families.

How it works:

Register to walk individually or build a team. Once registered, a personal fundraising page is automatically created for you. Invite your friends and family to walk or to support your walk. 100% of the proceeds go to the PCCs life-saving work.

Click on link below:

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/website/?m=7247098>

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.

Welcome to the 39th anniversary dinner featuring members recognition and the Knight of the Year.

From GK Bob Malnati

Good evening brother Knights, Family and Friends. We are celebrating a year of Council Life that was focused on **KINDNESS**. Thank you to all brother Knights present and not present for their participation in the great achievements of the past year. It has been my honor and pleasure to have a lead role in this wonderful Council of Knights of Columbus. I'm pleased to announce that we have achieved STAR council status for the 2nd consecutive year as a direct result of the commitment of all of you.

The increased collaboration between our council, the Holy Rood Collaborative, and Blessed Trinity parish has extended our impact on the Knightly commitments to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism and Evangelization.

The growth [26 new brother Knights in the past 23-months] and success is entirely due to the commitment of our many brother Knights and their supporting families, acting together in good spirited brotherly cooperation as disciples of Christ.

At this time, before we enjoy a meal together as Jesus always did with his disciples and friends, I'd like to make a few special recognitions.

MAN FOR ALL SEASONS - A wonderful example of the maxim that "Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others. Bob Chevalier

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - Despite being a straight A prelaw student, this New Knight, found time to become a 4th degree Knight, assist with the new communications program and create and present a great presentation on on-line scamming There is much promise for the future. Declan Reidy

MAN OF FEW WORDS- We have all come to appreciate the impactful and insightful homilies of this dedicated priest. He has taught us to focus on one point at a time as a means of deepening our Faith. Fr. Joe Rossi

UNSUNG HERO - Reliable, humble, helpful, cheerful, skillful and a friend to all. Gene Bartos

BEST SUPPORTING ROLE- This new Knight has demonstrated that Happiness never decreases by being shared. Phil Bellinghieri

ENGINE THAT COULD - A brother knight that has found the time in an otherwise very busy personal work schedule, to step into a leadership role, lead a new communication program and become an all-round contributor and friend. Adam Rypinski

TRUE GRIT - John Wayne would have been envious. This brother has made wonderful contributions to the life of the council, despite personal health issues. He is responsible for not only this Anniversary dinner but also for several past council social and community events. Jean Croteau

BISHOP SHEEN LIFE IS WORTH LIVING AWARD - In keeping with the bishop's commitment to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, this brother Knight has kept his commitments to hard work, sincerity and charity as the most skillful Financial Secretary in the State. James Barrows

POPE FRANCIS KINDNESS AWARD - This Knight exemplifies Kindness. I've had the personal opportunity to witness this. He demonstrates clearly that the "light of a candle is not diminished by being shared endlessly" Adam Whitehouse

McGivney FELLOW AWARD - This brother exemplifies commitment to family. He champions, peace, hope, honesty and good humor. David Breen

We are all blessed to have these exemplary brother Knights as our friends.

For the announcement of the Knight for the year 2025, go to next page 7

For photos of the anniversary, go to page 8.

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Over 125 photos for one issue

A year-long thanks for all the knights and others who send, to the newsletter editor, photos of all the council events and charitable work. Regular contributors are: Adam Whitehouse; Adam Rypinski; James Barrows; Margie and Paul Sidari; and, Bob Malnati. Over 125 photos are sent in for this double-issue of the June council newsletter.

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

No issues – July and August

All messages to council members in July and August will come via email. The formal production of a newsletter PDF that can be printed out or read online will take two months off in the summertime.

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

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

Knight of the Year, from May 8

Words of praise from Bob Malnati, GK



Brother Knight Charlie DeStefano



Charlie with his wife Barbara, daughter Charleen DeStefano, son-in-law Brian Potorski and three grandsons, Brayden, Charley and Andrew.

The man who can't say no. Yes, we all know him for always saying YES.

In 2012, we were blessed to have this brother Knight move to Littleton and transfer from Wilmington to the Bishop Ruocco Council.

Why did he move to Littleton? To be nearer to his two daughters Charleen and Kristen, and their families.

He plunged right in, volunteering for everything, Men's service group at St Anne, Community Supper, Special Olympics, Polar Plunge, Bowling, every Council event, always looking to do for others. He volunteered and was elected to Council leadership, guiding and preserving the council as Grand Knight through the dreadful Covid shutdowns.

As a long-serving officer of the sons of Italy, he was reunited with his former Chaplain Fr. Joe Rossi when he moved to Littleton.

Together with the Love of his life Barbara, he and his family have been an outstanding example of a Catholic Christian family and what it means to be a Knight.

No surprise here, you all know that I'm introducing our beloved brother Charlie DeStefano as the 2025 Knight of the year.

Would the BIONIC MAN and his family please come forward now.

Anniversary Dinner, from May 8

Dinner held at the Establishment restaurant in North Chelmsford.



Knights and wives ready for next presentation at 39th anniversary dinner



Knight of year Charlie and GK Bob Malnati



Knight Jean Croteau presents GK Bob Malnati with a special favorite wine

Family of the Year

Blessed Trinity Parish

Marrion family

From Adam Rypinski

On Sunday, April 17, 2025, The Knights of Columbus Bishop Ruocco Council recognized and honored the Marrion Family from Blessed Trinity as Family of the Year. Jeff, Julie and their two beautiful daughters, Leah and Hanna, and a third on the way, are pillars of the Blessed Trinity faith community, living out their beliefs with dedication and purpose. Both Jeff and Julie are deeply committed to Jesus, regularly attend Mass and actively participate in the spiritual life of their parish. Their passion for nurturing faith extends beyond their own household, as they enthusiastically share their knowledge and guidance by teaching both youth and adult faith formation. Jeff has also served on the Blessed Trinity Pastoral Council.



Marrion family with knight Adam Rypinski

Family of the Year

Holy Rood Collaborative

MacDonald family

From Bob Chevalier

Tristan, Yesenia, Zelle and Nathaniel are well known in The Holy Rood Parish because of their wonderful Christian lifestyle which includes: participating men's groups, leading in Baptismal Preparation, or conducting a town-wide Bible Review and learning program, open to all in the area.

Over the last few years, many of our Knights have come to know the Macdonalds because of their kind works of Charity toward those sadden with illness, or because Tristan may show up as a worthy and inspiring speaker at a Men of St Joseph meeting, or as a Lector at Mass or the family serving drinks and donuts after Mass on Sunday..

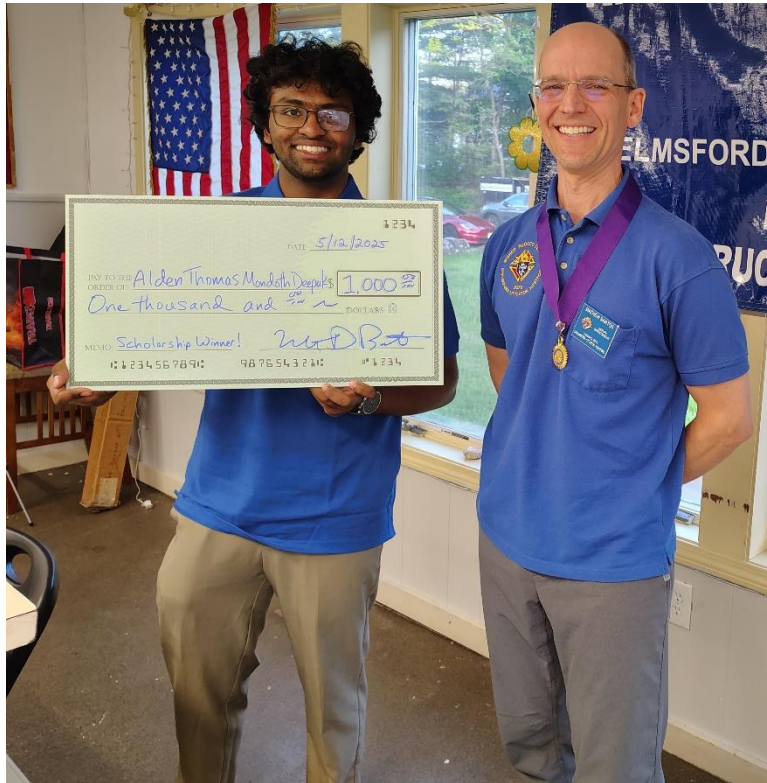
The Macdonald family effort to lead, serve, and defend the Catholic Faith are enriching to all who have come to know them.



MacDonald family with knight Bob Chevalier (little sister screened by big sister)

Scholarships awarded, May 12

In the pictures below, scholarship award winners Ellen McMahon and Arden Thomas Deepak receive their \$1,000 checks from Deputy Grand Knight Matt Bartos. How do you cash an oversize check? Take a picture of the check and send it to the bank?



Alden Thomas Deepak and DGK Matt Bartos



Ellen McMahon and DGK Matt Bartos

New knight Arden Thomas Deepak, May 12



New knight Arden Thomas Deepak was installed at an exemplification ceremony held on May 12 at the Paul Center. Arden assumes the “Youngest Bishop Ruocco council knight” title previously held by brother knight Declan Reidy.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Knight Ricky Walsh requests prayers for his cousin who passed away May 11.
- Brother knight Greg Gallagher, battling cancer
- Brother knight Michael O'Malley, as he battles cancer
- Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen
- Ruth Malnati, wife of GK Bob Malnati
- Brother knight Charlie DeStefano, recovering from knee surgery
- Brother knight Paul Sidari, chronic illness

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

Saint Benedict's Abbey visit, from May 19

From Adam Whitehouse

Fifteen brother knights from the Bishop Rucco council 9275 carpooled to beautiful Still River (Harvard) Massachusetts. We arrived at the Saint Benedict's Abbey early enough as to greet each other and take pictures of the beautiful scenery.

We went inside before vespers started and vespers started promptly at 6:00pm. It was reverent and holy to take part of the vespers with monks of the abbey. Most of us didn't know the Latin that the vespers were said in. But we followed along with a book that was useful.

After vespers, we walked through the long hallways of the abbey to the dining room and enjoyed a delicious meal, prepared by the monks. After dinner, we listened to a talk from Fr. Augustine and had desserts in the relic room while we were listening to his talk.

Fr. Augustine said to keep doing great work in charity with the knights. Fr. Augustine said that there are many evils around us that we need to stay close to Christ. Fr. Augustine thanked everyone for coming to the night of reflection. He gave a blessing at the end of the evening.

How Great Thou art! Saint Benedict Pray for us!



Knight Adam Whitehouse, organizer of this visit, meets the Abbot Marc Crilly in the Relic room of Saint Benedict's Abbey



Bishop Ruocco council group photo in Relic room at St. Benedict's Abbey in Harvard

Special Needs Prom, from May 15

From Adam Whitehouse

On Thursday May 15, 2025, the Knights of Columbus put on an amazing event, God's Special People Prom at Tewksbury High School. A lot of planning went into this great event and everything worked out perfectly. We had around ten brother knights from Bishop Rucco council that helped volunteer for this event. The Bishop Rucco council was in charge of the food at the high school prom.

It was the 16th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus sponsoring and this prom. I would like to thank everyone who came to help volunteer with this awesome event. Every one of you helped put a smile on their faces and thats a huge part of making such a great successful event.

May God continue to bless you for all the good works you do.



Brother Knights at the Special Needs Prom at Tewksbury

Left to right: James O'Keefe, Robert Strain, Bob Malnati, Tony, Derek Quirbach, Adam Rypinski, James Barrows, Richard Zuppardi, Peter Barbella

In light of acrid public discourse which pervades our society

What advice would St. Ignatius of Loyola give us today?

In a letter to Jesuits attending the Council of Trent in 1546, St. Ignatius of Loyola emphasized the importance of careful consideration, humility, and respect for diverse opinions in discussions. He urged them to be slow to speak and to listen attentively, understanding the viewpoints of others. He also advised them to present arguments for both sides, avoiding any appearance of undue attachment to their own opinions, and to conclude their remarks with a salutation acknowledging the possibility of better opinions.



St. Ignatius of Loyola

Here's a more detailed breakdown of the key points:

Be slow to speak:

Ignatius advised the Jesuits to be deliberate and thoughtful in their speech, particularly when discussing matters related to the Council.

Listen carefully:

He emphasized the importance of actively listening to others, understanding their perspectives, and being prepared to respond or remain silent as appropriate.

Consider both sides:

In discussions, the Jesuits were encouraged to present arguments for all viewpoints, demonstrating intellectual humility and avoiding the appearance of being overly attached to their own opinions.

Acknowledge other opinions:

Ignatius suggested ending their remarks with a phrase like "salvo meliori iudicio" (with due respect for a better opinion), acknowledging that others may have better insights.

Avoid causing offense:

He urged them to be mindful of potentially causing offense or dissatisfaction in their discussions, according to a letter on the topic.

Adapt to different personalities:

Ignatius also advised them to be sensitive to the different temperaments and personalities of those with whom they were interacting, adapting their approach accordingly to foster positive relationships.

(article suggested by GK Bob Malnati)

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Quotes from St. Ignatius

O my God, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fear of being wounded, to work without seeking rest, and to spend myself without expecting any reward, but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will. For those who believe, no proof is necessary. For those who disbelieve, no amount of proof is sufficient.

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
June 2025			
2	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
7	Special Olympics at Harvard University	Charlie DeStefano <i>see page 4</i>	Volunteers sought
9	Members Meeting – Elections of officers	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center 8:00 PM in-person exemplification of three new knights
16	Dining for Dollars Bertucci's in Chelmsford	Paul Rigazio <i>See page 3</i>	Dine at Bertucci's, council will receive 15 percent of each member's bill
21	Pregnancy Care Center, Walk for Life	James Barrows	Register via link. See separate article on page 4
23	Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center. Potluck dinner featuring LOU MALNATI Chicago pizza
July 2025			
July 3- 4	July 4 th booth and parade, Chelmsford		Volunteer help needed See notice below.
July 7	Planning Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
July 14	Members Meeting		7:00 pm @ Paul Center
	Installation of officers	District Deputy	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

July 4th Summer Fair and Parade

The 4th of July food booth is our council's premier fund raiser and community outreach event of the year. We raise a significant amount of money for the council, allowing us to continue doing our good work for the community. While it is a lot of work, it is also a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your fellow brothers.

It takes place on July 3rd and 4th in the Chelmsford Common, not far from St. Mary's church.

As you can imagine, it takes a small Knights of Columbus army to get it done. Please prayerfully consider volunteering with us.