



Knights of Columbus

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

May 2024

Volume 38, Number 9

The Knight Reader

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023 – 2024

Grand Knight.....
Robert Malnati, GK

Chaplain.....
Father Fernando Ayala

Deputy Grand Knight.....
Paul Sidari, PGK, PFN, DD

Chancellor.....
James O'Keefe

Warden.....
Joseph Molligi

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

Treasurer.....
David Breen

Recorder.....
William Pacino

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

Lecturer.....
Ed Ciampa

Inside Guard.....
Ryan Cozzens

Outside Guard.....
Matt Bartos

3rd Year Trustee.....
Charlie DeStefano, PGK

2nd Year Trustee.....
Adam Whitehouse, PGK, DD

1st Year Trustee.....
Louis Soracco, PGK, PFN

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

Field Agent.....
STEPHEN A. WHITE
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Grand Knight Report – Robert Malnati

Dear brother knights, May 2024

April showers bring May Flowers. Brother Knights rained down their time, talent and treasure in an abundance of Charitable and Fraternal activities. In addition to the well-attended planning and member meetings, there were two Fraternal Benefit events. Online with Ed Stott on April 4 offered great insight and advice into retirement and tax planning strategies, with the mantra “tax free is always better”. This presentation leads to consideration of K of C products available through Knights Asset Advisors. The second in-person presentation by our own Field Agent, brother knight Steve White, was held at St Mary’s church on April 16 and focused on K of C insurance and annuity plans.

On the Fun Front, a gala Anniversary dinner took place at The Establishment. Great food, comradery, Knight of the year awarded to Bill Pacino and ten [sometimes tongue in cheek] member recognitions. Thank you, Jean Croteau. Five brave Knights took the Polar plunge into Long Lake [Littleton] on April 10.

Communication committee held meetings on Apr 3 and 25. Great progress [take a look at our website]. The Apprentice and Succession plan is now ready for use. Time for all to get more involved.

On the Faith Front, 21 Knights joined together for a Night of Reflection at the Abbey in Still River, 12 Knights participated in the second COR/Into the Breach meeting at the Paul center. Lou Soracco attended the Lantern award.

Finally, we hosted an online exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity on April 17, at which we welcomed our 12th new member of the fraternal year, Michael Malnati [yes, he’s my grandson].

May is the month of Mary. May 1 is St Joseph the worker, May 13 Our Lady of Fatima, May 20 Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the Church. May 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let’s all pray frequently and urgently for the Intercession of our Mother Mary for Peace in the world.

In May, in addition to regular meetings, three Knights will attend the State convention, planning is in process for budgets, elections, the 4th of July Chelmsford country fair food booth, Paul center summer fair, Special Peoples Prom at Tewksbury High on May 16th, Family of the Year, Changing of the guard and Installation events.

Please find time to pray and participate. Christ works through us; Knights are true Christians when we strive to lead exemplary lives. Don’t forget Mother’s Day and Feast of the Ascension on May 12.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Luigi Iacoviello; Michelle, daughter of Dave Breen; George Ripson passed away April 13
Charlene Muscato, the wife of the late brother knight Brian Muscato, who died in 2017,
passed away on April 25.

Brother knight Frank MacDonald asks to add his wife Jennifer MacDonald to our prayer list
He says that Jennifer entered into Hospice on April 19, after 7-years of a cancer journey.

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 James O'Keefe at jimmy_okeefe@msn.com

God's Special People Prom – 2024

From prom committee members Adam Whitehouse & Paul Sidari

We are asking on behalf of the planning staff for the God's Special People Prom 2024, 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 16, 2024. 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 a new location, 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. Volunteer
by contacting either Adam Whitehouse at 978-551-20256 or e-mail at awhitehouse216@gmail.com
OR contact Paul Sidari at 978-729-1677 or e-mail at psidari@ymail.com now.

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

Articles that are intended to be included in the June 2024 issue of this newsletter must be
e-mailed to Bill Pacino at knights_news@yahoo.com by May 26. 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.



Council team says “Results worth plunging into very cold lake water”

On Saturday, April 13, 2024 our Bishop Ruocco Council Team Knight Riders participated in our sixth annual Polar Plunge at Long Lake in Littleton, MA. Our team, the Knight Riders, consisted of brother knights Adam Whitehouse, James Barrows, Paul and Margie Sidari, team captain Charlie DeStefano, and Barbara DeStefano.

I am truly thankful to have such a dedicated group of individuals participating in the Polar Plunge.

Through their fundraising efforts and with donations from council brothers, family members, and friends, we as a group were able to raise \$1200 for Special Olympics Massachusetts.

I thank all of you for your dedication, you bring forward the true meaning of Knights of Columbus, Thank you and God Bless,

Charlie DeStefano PGK/ Community Director



Paul and Margie Sidari



Charlie DeStefano



James Barrows

Continued on next page

Polar Plunge continued



Adam Whitehouse



The Knight Riders hit the very cold water at Long Lake.

Council anniversary dinner celebrates 38-years

The 38th annual anniversary dinner was held August 22 at the Establishment restaurant in North Chelmsford. See separate article, in this council newsletter, about the Knight of the Year also celebrated at this anniversary dinner.



District Deputy Paul Sidari (L) gives PGK Lou Sorocco (center) an appreciation certification while GK Bob Malnati looks on.



District Deputy Paul Sidari (R) gives council treasurer Dave Bream (L) an appreciation certification while GK Bob Malnati applauds. Our prayers have been with Dave, and the rest of Dave's family ever since his daughter was seriously injured in a March skiing accident.

Meet me at 2024 Lantern Award

Brother knight Adam Whitehouse is tireless in his effort to meet all the bishops that attend this ceremony.

In this photo, at the 2024 Lantern Award, Adam meets up with two clergymen from Melkite Catholic in Newton.

The one in the middle of the picture (next to Adam) is Bishop Francois Beyrouti.

From: <https://melkite.org/>



Melkites serve as a witness to the Roman Catholic Church

We have, for centuries, maintained such practices as a married clergy, the election of bishops by the Church as a whole, collegial government and so forth. Many of these features are unknown to Roman Catholics and many Catholics feel that our practices may be more suited to today’s world than their Roman counterpart. Our presence is a witness to the universality of the Catholic Church.

Melkites serve as a witness to the Eastern Orthodox Churches

To the extent that we are true to ourselves, we exist as a living example that one can be true to a different heritage and yet be truly Catholic, i.e. in communion with Rome. Thus, we exist as an example of what other Churches can expect if and when they too achieve a union with the Church of Rome.

Melkites provide a different option for people searching for Christ

Any church exists to bring its people to Christ. There are many for whom the ‘style of Christian living’ practiced in our Church is more compatible than contemporary Western forms. For these, the Melkite Church can serve a very important function; it can be their way to God.



2024 Lantern Award winner

At the K of C Patriots Day dinner on April 15, 2024, Louis Soracco, (L) Major, USAF, Retired, PFN, PGK congratulates Lantern Award winner Denis P. Mills, MSgt, USAF, Retired, for his military service and for serving as Location Coordinator/MC for Wreaths Across America at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

Council Officers slate of Officers for 2024-2025

Grand Knight	Robert Malnati
Deputy Grand Knight	Matthew Bartos
Chancellor	Adam Rypinski
Advocate	Gene Bartos, PGK
Warden	Francis Bulman
Treasurer	David Breen
Recorder	William Pacino
Inside Guard	Richard Zuppardi
Outside Guard	Jean Croteau
1st Year Trustee	Paul Brzezinski
2nd Year Trustee	Louis Soracco, PGK
3rd Year Trustee	Adam Whitehouse, PGK

Local council web site: knights9275.com

Be sure to check out our website. It has been recently refreshed, making all you need to know easy to obtain. Featured are meeting minutes, newsletters, a collection of council photos, and a calendar.



Exemplification was held, at the Paul Center in Chelmsford, for new brother knight Richard Landers, on April 8, with many brother knights in attendance.



Bed frame for Alina from your donations

From GK Bob Malnati and Ken Desilets

Brother Knights

We need your help to raise \$400 to complete the funding to purchase an \$848 bed frame for Alina Chehabi who is a severely autistic, non-verbal 13-year-old.

Initially this bed frame and a swing set were submitted for Tootsie Roll Grant Funding from the State K of C. Although the swing set is still pending approval, the bed frame has been denied because the Mass K of C Grant guidelines only allow for one item per person every 3rd year.

Alina lives in Acton and currently sleeps on a mattress on the floor and this frame will provide a safe bed which is of solid wood, close to the floor and has no spindles.

In summary, we have already collected \$450 (\$150 from Acton Lions Club and \$300 from two council members) leaving a need of \$400.

Donation of any amount is welcome. Let's Make This Happen!

Contact GK Bob Malnati
randmalnati@gmail.com

or financial secretary James Barrows
barrows020@gmail.com

if you can contribute.

Thank you and God Bless!



Brother knight Bill Pacino



Brother knight Bill Pacino, GK Bob Malnati, PGK Harold Coughlin

Knight of the Year 2023-2024

From Bill Pacino

First, thank you for your support and contributions to all the charities we cover. This effort is what ends up as an article in the council monthly newsletter. Pictures, from council members, start the newsletter article.

Remember, I can't make this stuff up on my own. I need your help.

My background is in technical publications. My career as a technical writer meant I wrote many manuals that no one read.

Six years ago, I volunteered to take over a system of newsletter preparation, publication, and email distribution from brother knight Barry Bell, something that he had done for 28-years.

I was able to take his systems and publish a monthly newsletter for the council.

Where I have been able to provide some enhanced value is the use of photos from smartphones.

Many council members have expensive smartphones which means high-quality cameras. Those high-quality pictures are solid gold for me. So much can be done: make it smaller, make it bigger, extract a single person from a group shot, or cut out the clutter that sometimes shows up on the edges of the photo.

Examples of what I have done with photos from council members:

1. I needed a head shot of Gene Bartos to go along with notice that he was moving on from his role as District Deputy. So, I took a group photo from an induction ceremony and pulled out the head shot I needed.

Continued on next page

Knight of the Year (continued from previous page)

2. I have had fun showing off Adam Whitehouse in what might be called “selfies” with archdiocese church leaders such as Cardinal Sean and Bishop Reed from Catholic TV. James Barrows was the photographer of these pictures.
3. Working from pictures taken recently by Bob Malnati, I think that the 1000 cans of tuna fish given to Lazarus House community groups made for an interesting angle on food insecurity.
4. Charlie DeStefano is known for his work with Special Olympics, but he has provided some interesting photos with clothing collected for Tom Callery’s homeless ministry (when Tom was living) and now to St. Francis house in Boston. The Polar Plunge photos are priceless.
5. The Special Needs Summer Fair usually provides a number of photos for me to work with. Kudos to past chair Ken Desilets and current chair of this council activity Matt Bartos.
6. From photos from Workdays at St. Benedict’s Abbey, I made it a point to showcase Lou Soracco up on a ladder scraping old wallpaper off the wall (*task corrected by Lou S*).
7. All the programs chaired by James Barrows and Paul Sidari stand out for their photography opportunities:

From James: Tootsie Roll Drive; Walk for life; Diaper drive, Pregnancy Care Center; Monument to the Unborn at St Joseph Cemetery in Chelmsford.

From Paul Sidari: Rosary prayers; Silver Rose; St. Joseph Icon; Seven Sorrows; Soup and stations.

Keep sending in those photos. Our world runs on visual communication.

I end my words with a quote from the late brother knight Tom Callery, who had a personal homeless ministry in Boston and Cambridge. I worked with Tom to get his words into our council newsletter:

Prepare yourself spiritually, take 15-minutes a day to sit in silence with Jesus and just listen. Increase your prayer lives. Put your faith and hope in Jesus. Also, I leave you with this, now more than ever, community is of the utmost importance. Talk to each other, help each other, find a community and be involved.

With love, Thomas Callery

I am proud to serve the Knights of Columbus community of the Bishop Ruocco council.

Quotes

St. Catherine of Siena – “Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.”

St. Thomas Aquinas – “To convert somebody, go and take them by the hand and guide them.”

St. Francis of Assisi – “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

Night of Reflection at St. Benedict's Abbey

From Adam Whitehouse

On April 22, 2024 the weather was perfect. Twenty-one brother knights from the Bishop Rucco council 9275 carpoled 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 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!



Twenty-one brother knights filled the chapel after vespers.



The monks at St. Benedict's Abbey sang during vespers.



A wonderful dinner cooked by the monks was enjoyed by the visiting brother knights.

Bishop Ruocco Council, 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
May 2024			
1	Hail Mary Challenge begins	Paul Sidari	
4-5	Scholarship presentations	James Barrows/ Matt Bartos	In churches
5	Ministry Fair	Adam Rypinski	St. Anne's after 8:30 AM mass
6	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
	Knights' family Mass	Jimmy O'Keefe	St. Anne, Littleton, 8:30 AM
12	Mother's Day		
13	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
16	Special People Prom	Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse	5:00 pm Tewksbury High School
17-19	State convention	Malnati/ Soracco/ Sidari	
27	Memorial Day		
June 2024			
1-2	Ministry Fair	Malnati/ Matt Bartos	St. Catherine after Sat. 4:30 and Sun. 10:30
3	Planning Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
8	Special Olympics at Harvard University	Charlie DeStefano	Volunteers sought
10	Members Meeting - Elections	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm Council Meeting
16	Father's Day		
16	Family of Year presentations	Bob Malnati	At St. Mary and St. Anne
24	Social Meeting, Changing of the Guard	Bob Malnati	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
July 2024			
July 1	Planning meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM at Paul Center
July 3- 4	July 4 th booth and parade, Chelmsford	Bob Malnati	Volunteer help needed
July 8	Members meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center
July 14	Installation of officers	Paul Sidari	St. Catherine Hall, Westford, 6-8 PM
August 2024			
Aug 5	Planning meeting	Bob Malnati	7 :00 PM at Paul Center
Aug 11	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
Aug 13	Blessed Michael McGivney feast day		
Aug 19	Members Meeting	Bob Malnati	7:00 PM @ Paul Center