Knights of Columbus

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

The Knight Reader

October 2026
Vol. 41, Number 2

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2026 – 2027

Grand Knight……
Matthew Bartos, GK

Chaplain……...
Father Patrick Alemayo

Deputy Grand Knight…….
Adam Rypinski

Chancellor……
Derek Quirbach

Warden……..
Kishore Giduthuri

Financial Secretary……
James Barrows, PGK, FS

Treasurer……..
David Breen

Recorder……..
William Pacino

Advocate……
Ricky Walsh, DD, PGK, PFN

Lecturer……..
Robert Wilson, Jr.

Inside Guard……
Ray O'Neil

Outside Guard……...
Declan Reidy

3rd Year Trustee…….
Bob Chevalier, PGK

2nd Year Trustee……
Joe Molligi, PGK

1st Year Trustee……
Robert Malnati, PGK

District Deputy……...
Bill Killion , PGK, PFN, DD

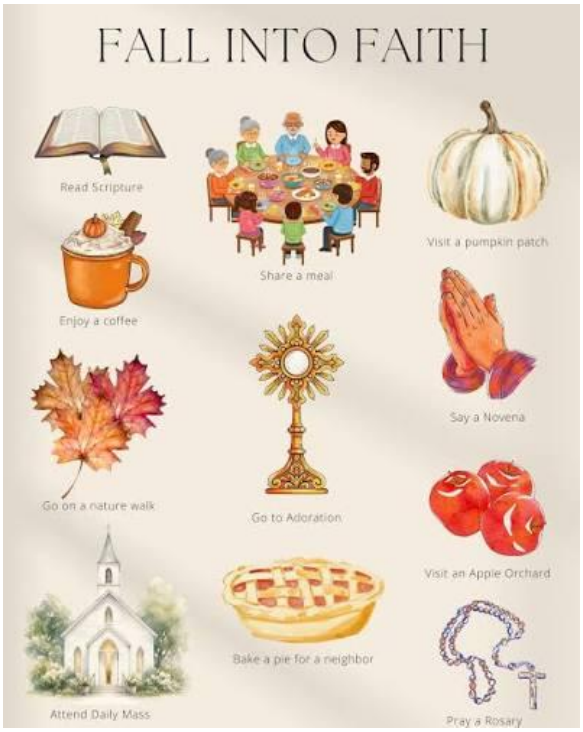
Field Agent……..……
Tom Mahan

Grand Knight Report – Matthew Bartos

Dear brother knights, October 2026

Autumn is a time of intense change. The vibrant leaves show off the beauty of God's creation. Whether by breathing in the crisp morning air, gazing at foliage, or savoring the year's harvest, there is so much we can give thanks for and enjoy.

Perhaps the same can be said for us as Knights as we embrace the fall season. There is much that we can savor and enjoy in the upcoming weeks. Our Council's activities feature clothing drives, membership drives, Rosary procession, charitable fundraisers, and more.



Let us embrace these opportunities to bring about positive change to our parishes and local communities. Our efforts have the potential to show God's love to others. Then they too, our neighbors and loved ones, will get to experience the joy made possible by the good we do.

This month our Council will also formally receive its Star Council recognition. This award is a wonderful achievement, due to the combined efforts of so many of our brothers and their families. Congratulations indeed to the members of Bishop Ruocco 9275!

Lastly, let us more fervently embrace our relationship with The Blessed Virgin Mary during this month of October.

Council officers, 2026-2027



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Matthew Bartos



Deputy Grand Knight
Adam Rypinski



Chancellor
Derek Quirbach



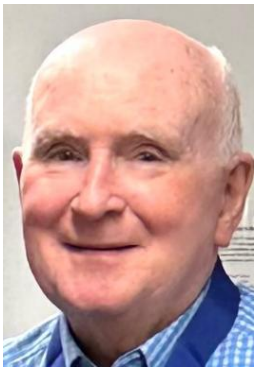
Advocate
Ricky Walsh, PGK PKN, DD



Warden
Kishore Giduthuri



Financial Secretary
James Barrows



Treasurer
David Breen



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William Pacino



1st Year Trustee
Bob Malnati



Outside Guard
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2 Year Trustee
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Ray O'Neil



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Bob Chevalier



Seven Sorrows of Mary prayer service on Sept 15

Brother knights from Bishop Ruocco council contributed as readers at this prayer service held at St. Mary, September 15

(L to R) Readers: Peter Barbella, Lou Soracco, Robert Malnati, Ed Ciampa, Paul Rigazio, Paul Sidari, Adam Whitehouse

Membership Drive at St. Margaret Church October 17/18

From Gene Bartos, PGK, PDD

We are hosting a membership drive October 17/18 at St. Margaret Church at the 4:00PM, 7:30AM and 10:00AM Masses.

We need your help in making this a successful event inviting men from the parish to join our council. Unlike church drives of the past, our new way of inviting men is much simpler with the Delta Church Drive. We need “ambassadors” to place material in the pews before Mass, greet men and hand out brochures as they arrive, and collecting completed application cards as people leave. It’s that simple! Prospects will then receive an email invitation to join online.

We need at least four brothers per Mass to help and your family is welcome to be part of this effort. The only time requirement is to arrive 20 minutes before Mass for orientation and staying 10-15 minutes after Mass.

Please contact membership director Gene Bartos in advance that you will help. Contact information is farmergb@aol.com or 508-517-5677.

Elections have consequences

From Robert Malnati, PGK

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." **

In today's world, beset with fears and anxieties, tensions and wars, there is a vortex of violence that poisons relationships and destroys lives. What, you may ask, has this to do with elections? God doesn't call the qualified: He qualifies the called.

We as citizens of the United States of America have been entrusted by God with the unique opportunity to govern ourselves in a land of incredible beauty and abundance. The experiment in self-governance is an ongoing process, and as Winston Churchill famously stated, "For Democracy to be successful, it of necessity must be messy".

The price of Freedom is participation and sacrifice, so that others may dwell in peace, happiness, and freedom. It can be very hard for us to engage each other in thoughtful and respectful discussion when we have differing political views, yet this is sacrifice! We can always learn from each other. We share the planet, our country and our local community.

Christians, and all others, bear a responsibility to participate in this noble experiment of "One Nation Under God". Doing unto others as we would have them do to us, as Jesus commanded, requires our participation in choosing leaders that God can mold. Be a participating Christian American. Pray earnestly, humbly, and thoughtfully, and exercise your privilege to vote!

** The essay writer heard this quote from Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.
The original quote comes from Morte d'Arthur written by Alfred Lord Tennyson.



Local council aids Loaves and Fishes food panty

Brother knight Adam Rypinski delivered tuna fish in cans and other foods on September 9 to Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Littleton.

"They are as busy as Lazarus House. Lines of people waiting to get food and others waiting to donate. The food need is as high as it has ever been."

Basic clothing needed for local agencies

From Bishop Ruocco council

A clothing drive, at the two Blessed Trinity Parish churches, will be held on October 10-11. New and gently used clothing are sought for Wish Project, the Transitional Care Center and homeless centers in Lowell. These agencies are looking for new underwear, socks (men's and women's), sweat pants and sweatshirts. Any other clothing accepted.

The Bishop Ruocco council has also scheduled another clothing drive for council members at the October 12 members meeting. This clothing drive is in memory of brother knight Tom Callery, who had a homeless Outreach ministry. In this ministry, he walked the cities of Cambridge and Boston and supplied the homeless he met with basic clothing such as t-shirts, sweat pants, underwear and socks. Tom Callery died in June 2023.

Our council will continue to collect basic clothing for the homeless and we will give what is collected to local homeless agencies. In demand is – socks, underwear (boxers, not briefs), hoodie sweatshirts, sweat pants, and long-sleeve t-shirts – in sizes Large/ XL/ XXL.

Please drop off these items at the October council members meeting of October 12, 2025.

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Bishop Ruocco council sponsors Youth Essay Contest, 2026

All Catholic students in public, private and parochial schools, grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are invited to participate in the 2026-2027 Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. The contest will be open to students in the Holy Rood Collaborative, Blessed Trinity Parish, area parochial schools and children and grandchildren of council members.

Students are encouraged to write a 500 to750 word essay on the following topic:

"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."

Explain what this quote from former U.S. President and Knights of Columbus member John F. Kennedy's 1961 Inaugural address means and its importance for the flourishing of a nation.

All contestants at the local council level are recognized for their participation in the contest. Essays will be judged in November and first place winners at each grade level will receive a monetary award and their essays will be submitted to the K of C State Council for further judging and awards from the State Council.

Participants are required to furnish a written parental consent form which may be downloaded from the council website. https://knights9275.com Scroll down to locate Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest form.

Contestants must submit their essay attached to the entry form to Bishop Ruocco Council by October 31, 2026 to the following address.

KofC Council 9275 Essay Contest, 70 Pond Street, Dunstable, MA 01824

Contact Gene Bartos at gene.bartos@verizon.net for any questions about the contest.

State council installation



On Sunday September 13, PGK Gene Bartos and PGK Bob Malnati, represented Bishop Rocco council together with PGK Adam Whitehouse in the 4th degree honor guard.

Mass was concelebrated by brother Knight Bishop Robert Hennessy and Rev Chris Lowe.

Gene and Bob are shown with new State Deputy Nicholas Melanchook. Adam is the fourth Sir Knight from the right in the photo below.



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Faith in Action – Knights of Columbus

Sweet Tradition

Knights from **Father Shine Council 1966** in **Plattsmouth, Neb.**, prepared cinnamon rolls at St. John the Baptist School's kitchen during Catholic Schools Week. Council members baked some 400 cinnamon rolls for students, a Catholic Schools Week tradition for more than 15 years.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Michelle Mosher, daughter of Dave Breen
- Brother knight Chris Cantrell
- Brother knight Paul Sidari, chronic issues
- Brother knight Joe Signor, Fr Peter Quinn, P K Rao (Father-in-Law of Kishore Giduthuri), Michael Quirbach (Brother of Derek Quirbach), Sheila Mahoney (Mother of Fr Brian Mahoney), Christine Ahern (Daughter of Joe Molligi)
- Brother knight Tom Kelly is having surgery on Oct 13th. His sister Stephanie was diagnosed with Lymphoma. His nice Ashley was just diagnosed with cancer. Still undergoing testing.

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 Matt Bartos at mdbartos@gmail.com
Chancellor Derek Quirbach at dquirbach@comcast.net

Newsletter deadlines/ Check Spam folder weekly

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

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

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

Social media and Bishop Ruocco council – Find us on/ watch us on:

YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC01b6-j0e6c6msaoiqiLi8Q

Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/bishopruocco/reels/

Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/people/KofC-Bishop-Ruocco-Council-9275/61581013854916/

Bishop Ruocco Calendar of Events 2026-2027

COR *meets on the third Thursday of every month at Paul Center.*

Date	Event	Chair	Time & Place
October	2026		
5	Planning Meeting	Matt Bartos	7:00 pm @ Paul Center
10	Statue Procession Rosary	Paul Sidari	12:45 pm, St. Mary Church Refreshments after in Church Hall
10-11	Clothing drive All churches	James Barrows	New and gently used clothing is sought for Wish Project, the Transitional Care Center and homeless centers in Lowell. These agencies are looking for new underwear, socks (men's and women's), sweat pants and sweatshirts. Any other clothing accepted.
12	In memory of Tom Callery: Continue to collect clothing for homeless and give to local agencies	Bishop Ruocco council	Socks, underwear (boxers, not briefs), hoodie sweatshirts, sweat pants, and long-sleeve shirts – in sizes Large/ XL/ XXL. Handwarmer packets.
12	Members Meeting	Matt Bartos	7:00 pm, Paul center, 6:30 collation
17-18	Membership drive	Gene Bartos	St. Margaret church
22	COR meeting	Bob Wilson	7:00 PM at Paul Center
23	Host coffee and donuts Pumpkin painting	Matt Bartos/ Jean Croteau	At St. Catherine's - Host coffee and donuts, Pumpkin painting
23-24	Tootsie roll drive	James Barrows	Market Basket – Littleton, Westford, and Chelmsford
November	2026		
1	Boston Archdiocese Culture of Life Mass	Joe Richards/ Paul Sidari	National Men's March to Abolish Abortion and Rally for Personhood
2	Planning Meeting	Matt Bartos	On-line via Google Meet, 7:00 PM
	Star Council award dinner	Ricky Walsh/ Derek Quirbach	Norwood
9	1. Members Meeting 2. 1000 cans of tuna collection	Matt Bartos	7:00 PM @ Paul Center Bring cans of tuna or a check (tuna will be bought with these donations) to this meeting.
7	State Charity Ball Milford Ma	Matt Bartos	6:00 pm Dinner, present TRD check
14-15	Membership drives	Gene Bartos	Blessed Trinity churches
Ongoing	Coats for Kids	Bishop Rocco council and SVDP	Room 6, St. Mary parish center
	Diaper drive/ formula drive	James Barrows	Diaper drive, Holy Rood churches, Nov. 16/17 Blessed Trinity churches Nov. 22/23 Larger sizes of diapers (4,5,6) are most needed. Similac formula is preferred over other brands
	Social Meeting - Charity Night (TBD)		7:00 PM @ Paul Center