



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

August, 2025

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays Grill Nights at Olympic Park Pool 5:00 - 7:00.

8/4 (Monday) August Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

8/13 (Wed) Feast of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

8/15 (Fri) Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)

8/15-16 (Fri-Sat) KOVAR at Towers and Town Square ABC stores.

8/18 (Monday) August Social Meeting - planning for 2025-26.

8/25 (Monday) August 4th Degree meeting. (Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

9/1 (Monday) Labor Day

9/2 (Tuesday) September Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30 (rescheduled due to Labor Day holiday).

9/7 (Sunday) Basilica of St. Andrew parish picnic.

9/28 (Sunday) Our Lady of Nazareth fall festival.

Please also refer to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeKnights/> for additional information.

Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brothers,



It's easy to think of our Order in terms of Charity. It is, after all the first principle of our Order. But let me remind you that it is not the only principle of our Order. Our order is equally founded on the principles of Unity and Fraternity. Sometimes we forget these lessons taught through our degrees. During this fraternal year I want you, my brother Knights, to remember these principles; to act in unity of purpose and enjoy the fellowship of your brother Knights. To this end, you will have many opportunities to experience unity and fraternity through the programs, activities, and social events we have planned. Don't be a Knight in name only. Take advantage of these opportunities. Come to a meeting. Attend a social event. Be part of a committee. Come out when called. Our next business meeting is Monday August 4. For those Brothers who haven't been active for a while, this is where fraternity begins. Come on home.

Vivat Jesus!

David Chopski, Grand Knight

July Business Meeting Highlights

- The Grand Knight thanked the outgoing officers and encouraged the incoming officers for FY2025-26. Challenges will be facilities maintenance and recruiting (our goal is 14 new members).
- The 125th anniversary of Council 562 is upcoming - our council was founded April 21, 1901.
- Social meetings will resume on 3rd Mondays of every month.
- 8 Canfield scholarships were awarded for 2025. Checks were sent, and thank you notes were received from the recipients.
- Checks were sent to seminarians and thank you notes were received from the seminarians.
- 36 beds were constructed in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build on 6/20-21.
- KOVAR is scheduled for 7/11-12. Our goal is \$3K for this year.
- The District Deputy thanked those members who have agreed to assume leadership roles in the council.
- The Lecturer reflected on July as the month we commemorate the Precious Blood of Jesus. His Precious Blood was taken, blessed, broken, and given for our salvation.
- Following the council business meeting, a meeting of the Olympic Park Holdings Corporation was held. Corporation officers were elected; George Cuadrado replaces Pat Reidy and Brian Carroll has assumed the role as vice-president.
- All Members of Council 562 are members of Olympic Park Holdings Corp.
- The infrastructure of the property is aging and our financial assistance will be required.

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	P1
Grand Knight's Report	P1
July Business Meeting Highlights	P2
In This Issue	P2
August Birthdays	P2
Council Budget for 2025-26	P3
August Meeting Agenda	P3
Council Programs for 2025-26	P4
Remember the Third Degree?	P4
Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney	P5
Wednesday Grill Nights	P5
Scam Alert	P5
Saint of the Month	P6
Prayer Requests	P6
A Message from the New State Deputy	P7
KOVAR 8/15-16	P7
Officers and Committees	P8
In Case of Emergency	P8

August Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following Brother Knights with birthdays in August:

Walter Lee IV	August 1
Edward Aesy	August 3
Matthew Skelton	August 7
Ronald Kleba	August 8
Francis Otto	August 11
Frank Cummings	August 13
Brian Brindle	August 14
Ronald Mc Ginn	August 15
Gerry Waddell	August 17
Stephen Clements	August 18
Michael Herron	August 20
Peter Radjou	August 26
Mark Noell	August 27
J Scott Sexton	August 28
Patrick Crowe	August 31
James Johnson	August 31

Council Budget for 2025-26

The Council Budget for 2025-26 has been completed and will be presented for vote at the August meeting. The format has been simplified for clarity. The Budget was reviewed by the Officers, Trustees, Committee heads and Program Directors on July 21st and found to be acceptable. Please direct any questions for clarification to the Officers or Trustees prior to the August meeting.

When reviewing the budget, the income figures were estimated using the actual figures from the 2024-25 Fraternal year. The same is true for the operational expenses. Under operational expenses, the listing "State Meeting Expenses" represents reimbursement for travel and lodging to attend State meetings. This is for the Grand Knight according to the By-Laws. The FS Honorarium is also part of the By-Laws. The ceremonial expense is to cover the cost of the items given out at the New Degree (Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity). General supplies are for things like ink and paper for the printer, checks, etc.

The other expenses represent programs and activities that the Council has historically always supported such as the RSVP program (Grants to seminarians) and RAM House Saturday meals. Council Charity donations represent those requests that come up to help support church and charity events such as buying ads or sponsoring a golf hole or a table at a dinner. The Officers and Trustees review these in advance. If brought up at a meeting, they would need to be reviewed and so would delay the request until the next business meeting. Pro-life is there to support pro-life issues. This usually involves sponsoring seats on the bus to the pro-life rallies but can involve other support. I think the rest of the items are pretty much self-explanatory. As you can see, the plan is balanced, and the proceeds of the Fish

Fries are being used for Fraternal or Charitable purposes.

Again, if you have questions about the budget, the Grand Knight asks that you please get them answered before the meeting by contacting him, DJChop-ski@GMail.com, or any Officer or Trustee.



August Meeting Agenda

Call to order 7:30p

Opening Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Minutes of July Meeting

Chaplain's Message

Grand Knights Report

Financial Report

Program Chairman Report

Fourth Degree Report

Insurance Agent

District Deputy

Unfinished Business

New Business

Approval of Budget

Good of the Order

Knight of the Month

Family of the Month

Lecturers Reflection

Grand Knight's summary

Brothers sick or in distress

Special Intentions

Closing Prayer

Adjournment (8:30pm)

Council Programs for 2025-26

For the Fraternal Year 2025-26 the Council will be pursuing Programs in each of the four Knights of Columbus **Faith in Action** categories. In the Faith Category, directed by Brother Joe Kosty from the Basilica of St Andrew, the programs will be RSVP (Refund Support Vocations Program), Holy Hour, and the Rosary Program.

Brother Tim Heffron, also from the Basilica of St Andrew will be directing the Family Category. In this category, the Council will be promoting Keep Christ in Christmas, Food for Families, and Family Fully Alive.

The Community Category will be directed by Brother Nate Griffith from Our Lady of Nazareth. The programs the Council will be promoting are Coats for Kids and the Global Wheelchair Initiative.

The final category is Life. These programs are directed by Brother Mark Johnson from the Basilica of St Andrew. The programs in this category are Pregnancy Center Support, KOVAR, Silver Rose, and Novena for Life.

Overseeing all the Programs is the Council Deputy Grand Knight and Program Chairman, Donald Brown.

Information on each of these programs can be found at KofC.org/faithinaction. If you want to get in involved and to make a difference, here is your opportunity. Please take the time to visit the website and see how the Spirit moves you or talk to one of our program directors. They need your help.

Remember the Third Degree?

Brother Knights who have entered the Order after January of 2020 won't know what this about. There was a time when full Knight-hood in our Order required 3 steps: a First, Second, and Third-Degree Ceremony. After January 2020, the three steps were combined into one. As the older Brothers will recall, the old third degree was more of a demonstration of fraternity than a discussion. The culmination being the revelation in how often our judgment can be wrong. These were the words of the Third Degree.

Remember these words:

Regard your brother with an eye of favor. Let not your faith in him be easily shaken. Judge not, lest you be judged. Appearances are sometime deceptive. This happens to us every day of our lives. Acting on gossip and hearsay, we blazon our neighbor's faults across the sky, for all the world to see. If we have learned nothing else from this ceremonial, let us leave here determined to **aid and assist our brother Knight at all times** and whenever feasible give him preference.

Recall these meaningful words:

"Remember that no creature so accursed can be, but some good thing in him a loving eye can see" Hurt not your brother in thought, word, or deed...Harbor no evil against him".
"Be slow to believe evil reports about him, and slower still to spread them."

Let us never forget the lesson of the Third Degree.

Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney 1852-1890

August 13 is the Feast of our beloved founder, Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney. He was Beatified on October 31, 2020, and we pray for his Canonization.

Shortly after Father McGivney was named a Venerable Servant of God in March 2008, Pope Benedict XVI cited him as a key figure in “the impressive growth” of the Church in the United States, stating, “We need but think of the remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus.”

In his Apostolic Letter that was read at the Mass for Beatification on Oct. 31, 2020, Pope Francis stated that Blessed Michael McGivney’s “zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance.”

All Knights and their families are asked to pray for his intercession in their daily needs, especially in cases of serious illness, and to report any favors and healings to the Fr. McGivney Guild (to join, go to: www.fathermcgivney.org).



Wednesday Grill Nights

Every Wednesday during the summer months (weather permitting) is grill night at Olympic Park Pool. Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats are available from 5:00 until 7:00 PM.

Pool membership is not required, and there is no charge for entry if you do not plan to swim. Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship, and bring a friend.

Help is needed for this endeavor. Please come on out and help if you can.



Scam Alert

Worthy Brothers, Do not fall victim to e-mail scams. On Sunday July 27, members began getting an e-mail that claimed to be from Grand Knight Dave Chopski asking for assistance with a project for the Veteran’s Hospital. It requested gift cards for veterans in hospice and palliative care. Several Knights who received the e-mail contacted the Grand Knight who was then able to send out a blanket e-mail announcing the fraud. If you receive something suspicious, sound the alarm. Call the Grand Knight. If you can’t find the number it’s in the newsletter.

On a side note, the letter you received in the mail from Olympic Park Holdings, our Knights of Columbus Home Corporation is legitimate. As it says in the letter, the money will go to fund the much needed repairs and upgrades to the building.

Saint of the Month

Claire of Assisi

Clare Offreduccio was born to a noble family in Assisi, Italy in 1193. She was the eldest of three daughters who were raised in a grand palace in Assisi by their devout Catholic parents. From an early age, they led a life of prayer.

As a teenager, Clare grew to admire a twenty-four-year-old man named Francis, who had recently undergone an intense conversion. After renouncing his family inheritance and receiving papal approval, Francis and a small group of followers adopted a radical lifestyle, marked by poverty, prayer, penance, and itinerant preaching.

When Clare was nearing her eighteenth birthday, she attended a Lenten preached by Brother Francis. She felt God calling her to join Francis and his brothers by forming a women's branch of their new order. Francis welcomed her and arranged for her to stay at a nearby Benedictine convent. Her sister Caterina (later St. Agnes) joined her a few weeks later. In time, even their other sister and mother joined Clare and Agnes. Under the rule for their new life given by Brother Francis, they became known as the Poor Ladies of San Damiano and led a life of extreme poverty, manual labor, and almost complete silence. Unlike the friars, the Poor Ladies remained cloistered with Clare as their abbess. Mother Clare wrote a rule for her sisters and received approval of that rule from Pope Innocent IV.

God's protection shielded the new order. When Muslim invaders surrounded the convent, preparing to attack Assisi, Clare, upon hearing of their presence, went to the chapel and took the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament to confront them. Overwhelmed, the invaders retreated and

never returned.

Despite her hidden life, Clare's holiness was widely known, so much so that the pope came to Assisi to celebrate her funeral in 1253. She was canonized just two years later. Ten years after Clare's death, the order became known as the Order of Saint Clare or more informally the Poor Clares.



Prayer Requests

Please keep Brother Knights, their family members, and friends of the Order in your prayers:

- BK Paul Miller and his wife Amy.
- Mary Ann Valenzuela, mother of GK James Valenzuela. Uncle of GK James Valenzuela.
- Mother-in-law of BK Roger Vest.
- Brother of BK Bob Carrigan - deceased.
- Sherman Swisher
- Christopher Gibson, grandson of BK George Cuadrado
- Kalyn Purdue, friend of BK Juan Garcia

A Message from the New State Deputy

Worthy Sirs and Catholic Gentlemen,

As we stand on the shores of a new fraternal year, I am deeply honored to begin my service as your State Deputy for the Virginia State Council. With humility and hope, I invite each of you to join me in embracing our theme for the year: **“Christ, the Light of Hope.”**

This theme is not merely a motto—it is a calling. In a time marked by uncertainty, division, and moral confusion, we turn our eyes toward the Light that never fades. Just as our forefathers looked to divine Providence to guide them through the birth pangs of a nation, we too look to Christ to illuminate our path. Their courage, forged in hardship and tested by sacrifice, reminds us that hope is not a passive virtue—it is forged through **hard work, determination, and unshakeable faith in the Almighty.**

The Knights of Columbus was founded in response to adversity. Father Michael McGivney saw the needs of families, widows, and workers and moved to action with vision and resolve. Today, we are called to face modern challenges with the same zeal—to strengthen our families, defend the dignity of life, support our clergy, and lead with charity in our communities.

But we do not do this alone. Like those who signed the Declaration of Independence with full knowledge of the risks, we must move forward in unity, “relying on the protection of Divine Providence.” Let us labor not for recognition, but for righteousness. Let our councils be beacons of Christ’s hope—a hope that dispels darkness, heals wounds, and renews the spirit of fraternity.

This year will demand much of us. Growth, renewal, and deeper commitment will not come

easily. Yet we are fortified by the truth that with God, all things are possible. Let us encourage one another in this journey, remembering that Christ goes before us, beside us, and within us.

Brothers, let us be bold. Let us serve with joy. Let us lead with the confidence of men who have placed their trust not in their own strength, but in the Light of Christ—the Light of Hope.

May we have a restful and safe US Independence Day Weekend while living out Blessed McGivney’s vision.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Trey Hart – State Deputy
Knights of Columbus
Virginia State Council

KOVAR 8/15-16

The 2025 annual KOVAR drive is off to a great start: nearly \$3000 has been collected thus far. This year’s drive concludes the weekend of August 15-16 at the Towers and Town Square ABC stores. This is one of the major charitable works of the Knights of Columbus in Virginia and supports Virginians with intellectual disabilities. Please plan to help if you are able.



Roanoke Council 562 Officers 2025-26

Grand Knight	Dave Chopski	540-915-2819
Deputy Grand Knight	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Chancellor	Juan Garcia	757-719-8753
Warden	Stephen Ratliff	540-774-4796
Financial Secretary	Brian Ripple	540-797-5823
Chaplain	Fr. George Zina	407-758-8855
Treasurer	Chuck Hatcher	540-314-3360
Recorder	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Advocate	Nate Griffith	804-837-8874
Outside Guard	Jean Saade	540-355-0585
Inside Guard	Rod Hidusky	540-985-3195
Trustee, 3 Year	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Trustee, 2 Year	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Trustee, 1 Year	Bill Howard	540-798-3734

Program Chairmen 2025-26

Program Director	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Faith Director	Joe Kosty	540-685-2630
Family Director	Tim Heffron	540-904-2746
Community Director	Nate Griffith	804-837-8874
Life Director	Mark Johnson	540-467-2495
Membership Director	Jack Clarke	540-204-4984

Corporation Board 2025-26

President	Roger Vest	540-520-8520
Vice President:	Brian Carroll	540-266-8598
Treasurer:	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Board Member:	Val Bernys	540-989-9282
Board Member:	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Board Member	Bill Howard	540-989-9399
Board Member:	Dan McBride	540-389-5903
Board Member:	Paul Miller	540-339-8657
Board Member	George Cuadrado	540-989-1758

In case of illness, need, or death, please notify one of the following:

Grand Knight

Dave Chopski 540-915-2819

Financial Secretary

Brian Ripple 540-797-5823

Fraternal Benefits

Jack Clarke 540-204-4984

Jack.Clarke@KOFC.ORG

Roanoke Council 562 Home:

3136 Harris Street, Roanoke, VA 24015

Mail:

PO Box 20974, Roanoke, VA 24018

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Roanoke Council 562 or the Knights of Columbus.