



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

July, 2026

Upcoming Events

7/4 (Saturday) Independence Day.

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

7/11 (Saturday) Virginia State Organizational Meeting - Alexandria.

7/20 (Monday) July Council Social/ Planning Meeting. Details TBA.

7/26 (Sunday) Virtual Rosary 7:00PM

7/27 (Monday) July 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15. Installation of Assembly Officers - details TBA.

8/3 (Monday) August Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

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

Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers,

I want to thank you for making our 125th year a great one. I'm happy to report our Council is in good shape going into its 126th year. We have 14 new members and some that we haven't seen for a while are coming back. We supported five seminarians and donated coats for kids to Roanoke County Social Services. We donated to the Blue Ridge Women's Center and 40 days for life. We held exemplifications at both the Basilica of St Andrew and Our lady of Nazareth. We survived six Lenten Fish Frys and a Ministry Fair. There's more but the one event I am most happy about was our 125th Anniversary Dinner.

I want to thank Karl Kleinhenz for getting the Hall ready and Clyde Moak and Keith Watkins for doing what I thought was impossible: preparing steaks for 70 guests with baked potatoes and carrots, a salad, drinks and desserts. That was amazing. Thank you to Don Brown for getting us servers for the dinner. Thank you to Steven Ratliff for the slide show. Thank you to David Bowers for being a great MC. Thank you to Rick Vitolo for the dinner music. I didn't know what a difference that background music would make. Thank you to John Keeley for probably one of the best presentation of the



(Continued, P2)

June Business Meeting Highlights

- The Chaplain reminded us that June is the month for devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also thanked the council for their support of the Lebanese Festival.
- The KOVAR drive was very successful - over \$3000 was collected. Our next collection will be in October.
- Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity was held on 5/30. Five new BK's were received into the Roanoke Council, and additional BK's were advances to the 3rd Degree.
- Upcoming events:
 - Grill nights are on Wednesday evenings at the pool (see P3).
 - Eucharistic Procession tomorrow (6/2).
 - Roanoke Council 125th Anniversary celebration/dinner on 6/20 - reservations required.
 - Blue Ridge Women's Center open house 6/23.
 - State organizational meeting on 7/11.
- The Chaplain expounded on the evils of abortion.
- Officers for the 2026-27 fraternal year were elected. Delegates to the State Council and corporation board were also elected (see P8).
- A resolution was introduced to increase scholarships from 10 to 12 for 2026 (only) - see P7.
- BK Ben Haar was named Knight of the Month for May.
- The Field Agent announced virtual rosaries on the last Sunday of every month, sponsored by the Virtus Agency.
- The Chaplain reminded us to pray for the health of the nation as we approach the 250th anniversary of our country's founding.

(GK Report - Continued from P1)

Colors this Council has ever had. Thank you to Paul Miller and Tom Huck for managing our open bar and making it a true celebration, a real party.

Father George and Monsignor Patrick were there. The State Deputy, Trey Hart was there as were the other State Officers. We had the wives of our deceased Brothers, Jim Sullivan, Val Bernys, and Joe Moses with us. Those Brothers were a part of our Council and it was an honor to have their wives with us. We only had room for 80 guests and it was sold out. We could have had a bigger venue but we wanted this celebration to be a homecoming, and I believe it was. For our 150th, I say we do the Hotel Roanoke.

I hope to see you all at the July meeting on Monday the 6th and looking forward to another great year.

Vivat Jesus,
Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

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Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity

On Saturday, May 30, an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity was conducted at OLN following the 5:00 Mass. Nine candidates participated; five new Brother Knights were welcomed into Roanoke Council 562. State Deputy Trey Hart and State Deputy Elect John Knox and several District Deputies were also in attendance.

Congratulations to the new Brother Knights and to those advanced to the 3rd Degree:

Paul Begeman
 Branden Mchols
 Matthew Schartau
 Tombe Mora
 Theodore Ivanco
 Keith Griswold
 Carlton Pleasants
 Samuel Smith
 Matthew Schallon



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 are able.



July Birthdays

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

Noah Beckner	July 1
James Specht	July 1
Theodore Ivanco	July 2
Teddy Crowe	July 5
Michael Kupec	July 13
Samuel Turner	July 14
Michael Whelan	July 14
Joseph Davis	July 15
Pierre Ellis	July 17
Brian Amend	July 18
Thomas Young	July 19
Daniel O'Dell	July 21
Jay Assenat	July 22
Edward Bradley	July 22
Frank Haranzo III	July 24
David Boyer	July 25
John Anderson	July 28
David Bittel	July 28
Deo Ndayisenga	July 28
John Church	July 29
Gary Kehres	July 29
Thomas Engl Jr	July 31

Saint of the Month

Lawrence of Brindisi

Giulio Cesare Russo was born in Brindisi, Kingdom of Naples, in 1559 to a family of Venetian merchants. His father died when he was 12, and he continued his education at Saint Mark's College in Venice under the supervision of one of his uncles. He was a gifted linguist, and wrote and spoke seven languages in addition to his native Italian.

When he was just 16, Cesare joined the Capuchins (a branch of the Franciscan Friars) as Brother Lawrence. He completed his studies of philosophy and theology at the University of Padua and was ordained a priest at the age of 23.

With his facility for languages Lawrence of Brindisi was able to study the Bible in its original texts. At the request of Pope Clement VIII, he spent much time preaching to the Jews in Italy. So excellent was his knowledge of Hebrew, the rabbis felt sure he was a Jew who had become a Christian. In addition to his gifts as a preacher and writer, Lawrence was recognized for his sensitivity to the needs of his people. These traits served him well in his service to the Capuchins.

In 1601 Lawrence was named the imperial chaplain for the army of the Holy Roman Emperor. He helped in the fight against the Ottoman Turks and led the army, armed only with a crucifix.

He was elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan province of Tuscany at the age of 31, and was elected minister general of the Capuchins in 1602. Lawrence established Capuchin monasteries in modern Germany and Austria, furthering the Counter-Reformation and bringing many Protestants back to the Catholic faith. He subsequently entered service to the Holy See and served as Papal Nuncio to Bavaria and

Spain.

Lawrence died on his 60th birthday in Lisbon, Portugal after a brief illness. He was beatified in 1783 by Pope Pius VI and canonized in 1881 by Pope Leo XIII. In 1956, the Capuchins completed a 15-volume edition of Lawrence's writings, and in 1959, Pope John XXIII proclaimed Lawrence of Brindisi as Doctor of the Church. His feast day is July 21.



In Memoriam

- Fr. Tom Collins
- Martha Yengst, Wife of BK Paul Yengst

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer Requests

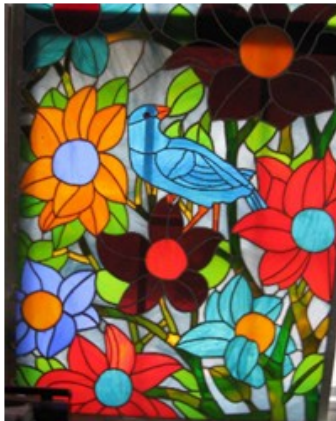
Please keep Brother Knights, their family members, and friends of the Order in your prayers:

- BK Chris Johnson
- Sharon Vest, wife of BK Roger Vest.
- BK Steve Wilkinson
- Susan Shannon-Haar, mother of BK Ben Haar

Seminarians

Every year our Council supports 5 Seminarians. We are fortunate to have two of our seminarians home from Rome and doing their pastoral year with us. Graham Fassero is at Our Lady of Nazareth and Michael Anctil is at the Basilica of St Andrew. Graham will be going back to Rome in the fall to be ordained a Deacon. Our other seminarians are Michael Moak, son of Brother Knight Clyde Moak, Brennan McCoy who was recently ordained by Bishop Knestout as a Deacon, and Mark Farah, our Maronite seminarian. Don't hesitate to invite these men to our Council Home.

We have a Brother Knight of Our Council, Fain White, who is entering the Seminary in Florida this Fall. He needs to raise \$3000 to help with tuition. He needs our help but this is more than the Council can afford. Can anyone help? Fain's mother does Stained glass. She would be willing to donate pieces that we could raffle on Fain's behalf but we need



someone to run the event. Below are a couple of examples of her work. If you want to contact Fain, his address is:

FWWEIGHTLIFTING@GMAIL.COM.

Any assistance would be welcome.



Food Drive for St. Francis House



Worthy Brothers, It has come to our attention that St. Francis House Food Pantry is running out of food. You might have seen this when WSLC Channel 10 did a news story and showed the empty shelves and refrigerators. They had a 61% drop in deliveries. Kathleen McCormac reached out to us for help and Brother Brian Carroll stepped up to organize a food drive. You can help. He has collection locations at:

- Our Lady of Nazareth (all to St Francis)
- Saint Andrews (all to St Francis)
- Saint Gerard (all to St Francis)
- Saint Elias (all to St Francis)
- Olympic pool (to St Francis and SWVA food bank)
- Knights Hall (to St Francis and SWVA food bank)

He also is having food collected by the AOH, the Italian Club, and JMU Alumni association.

Brothers, we need to do our part. We'll talk more about this at the July meeting, but if you haven't donated yet, you can bring your contribution to the meeting. Below is a list of items that St. Francis House is requesting:

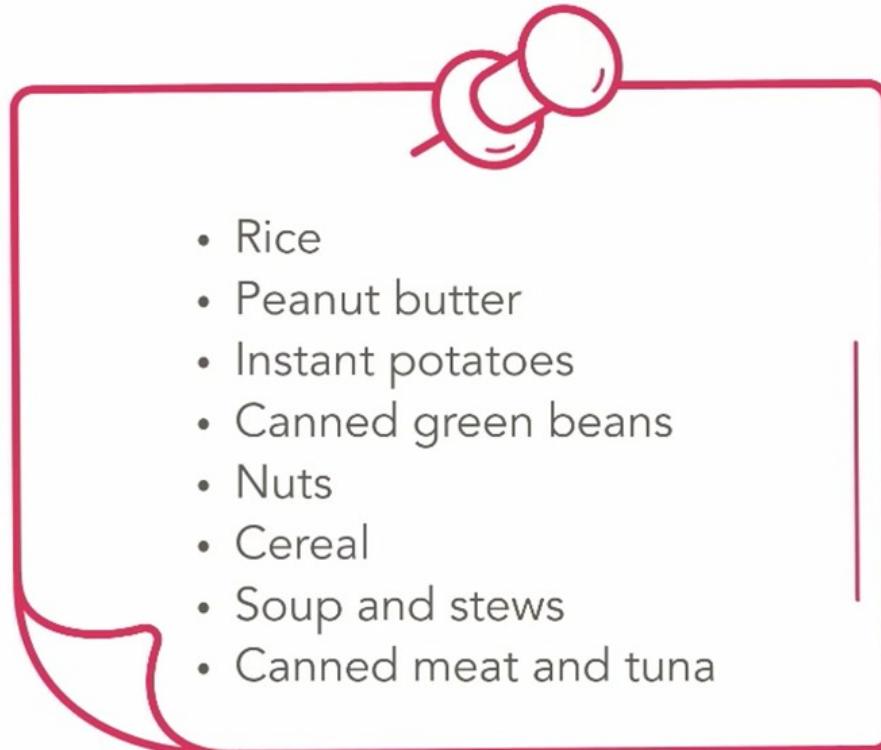
- Canned meats
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Salmon
- Canned soups
- Canned Chili or Stews
- Canned fruits
- Canned spaghetti sauces
- Canned beans
- Rice and pasta
- Boxed meal kits
- Canned vegetables

Please be generous.

Food Drive: Urgent Need

An unexpected shortage has left the Saint Francis House Food Pantry shelves bare at a critical time.

Help us restock and care for neighbors in need by donating any of the following:



Individual donations can be dropped off at St Francis Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9am and noon.

Planning on a large donation?
Contact Lucy Enge
lucy.enge@cccovfa.org



Roanoke Council Celebrates 125 Years

Roanoke Council 562 was established April 21, 1901, so the Knights of Columbus commemorates 125 years in Roanoke this year. Our city also took the name Roanoke in 1901, and the first Catholic Mass was celebrated here in that year.

A celebration of our 125th anniversary was celebrated on Saturday, June 20 with a festive dinner at the Council Home. A delicious dinner was served by Chef Clyde Moak and our kitchen crew. State Deputy Trey Hart presented a certificate of congratulation to the Roanoke Council and to GK Dave Chopski from the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. A pictorial presentation of some of our history was presented by BK Stephen Ratliff. Over 80 guests were in attendance.

Thanks to everyone who made this event a great success.



Resolution - Scholarships

- Whereas, the Scholarship was established in 1989 with the purpose of awarding funds to deserving students seeking to further their education at post-secondary levels; and
- Whereas, applicants for these scholarships are eligible for consideration if they, themselves or their father or grandfather is a member of council 562 in good standing, or was at the time of death; and
- Whereas, by prior resolution, a maximum of ten (10) Scholarship awards of one thousand (1,000) dollars each is awarded annually, with two (2) of those Scholarships dedicated to current members of council 562 in good standing that meet the Scholarship application criteria, should they apply; and
- Whereas, the Scholarship is funded by revenue sharing between the Virginia State Council and Council 562 through *Keep Christ in Christmas – Send Religious Christmas Cards*; and
- Whereas, a five-member Scholarship committee consisting of 4 elected council 562 members plus the current Grand Knight was established to coordinate the application and review process for awarding scholarships; and
- Whereas, the investment account holding the funds reserved for use for the Scholarship contains an adequate amount to cover this resolution; and
- Whereas, there were twelve (12) Scholarship applications by the May 1, 2026 deadline; and
- Whereas, the Scholarship committee has found all applicants deserving of an award.
- Be it resolved that the maximum number of awards for the 2026 Sir Knight Albert H Canfield Memorial Council College Scholarship be increased from ten (10) to Twelve (12).

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	540-512 4583
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	Daniel Nunn	757 672 9799
Outside Guard	Jean Saade	540-355-0585
Inside Guard	Rod Hidusky	540-985-3195
Trustee, 3 Year	Bill Howard	540-798-3734
Trustee, 2 Year	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Trustee, 1 Year	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148

Program Chairmen 2025-26

Program Director	Donald Brown	540-520-3060
Faith Director	Joe Kosty	540-685-2630
Family Director	Juan Garcia	757-719-8753
Community Director	Rich Whitney	443-465-7742
Life Director	Mark Johnson	540-467-2495
Membership Director	Jack Clarke	540-204-4984

Olympic Park Holdings 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:	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Board Member	Bill Howard	540-989-9399
Board Member:	Paul Miller	540-339-8657
Board Member	George Cuadrado	540-989-1758
: Board Member	Donald Brown	540-520-3060

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

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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.