



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

October, 2026

Upcoming Events

10/5 (Monday) October Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

10/7 (Wednesday) Oktoberfest at BOSA 6:00.

10/11 (Sunday) OLN Fall Festival 4:00 - 7:00.

10/12 (Monday) Columbus Day

10/19 (Monday) October Council Social Meeting - Dinner served at 6:30.

10/24 (Saturday) Diocesan Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. (see P6)

10/25 (Sunday) Virtual Rosary 7:00PM.

10/26 (Monday) September 4th Degree Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; meeting at 7:15.

11/1 (Sunday) Feast of All Saints.

11/2 (Monday) All Souls' Day; Mass celebrated at St. Andrew's Cemetery at 11:00.

11/2 (Monday) October Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30; Meeting at 7:30.

11/3 (Tuesday) Election Day.

Grand Knight's Report



Worthy Brothers,

September was a busy month. We had an abundance of opportunities to be active. Our Lady of Nazareth and the Basilica of St. Andrew both had extended Eucharistic Adorations. The Basilica had their parish picnic. Our Council conducted a KOVAR drive on both Friday and Saturday at two separate locations. We had the 40 Days for Life Kick-off event at the Council Home, and we are still collecting food for St. Francis House. That was a lot of volunteer hours. Thank you to the Brothers who participated. You truly exemplified the principle of charity. You are to be commended.

October has fewer opportunities. We will need some Brothers Saturday October 3rd at 9:30 to put the pool cover on. We will need some Brothers to help at Our Lady of Nazareth's Fall Festival. That is Sunday, October 11. We will be having our "Beer Tent" again. Set up about 3pm. We're done at 7pm. The ladies in the kitchen would like a couple of Brothers to assist them with the cooking. I'm looking for volunteers.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine is October 24th. I would like to see the Brother Knights of our council take advantage of this. It is a true pilgrimage and a true Catholic family event.

We have 249 members in our council. I don't expect to see 249 Brother Knights at our business and social

(GK Report - Continued from P1)

meetings. I don't expect to see all 249 Brothers Knights volunteering for every event. I know our lives can be demanding. Our lives can be stressful. Work, home, and family responsibilities can be all consuming. That's why you need a break. You need to experience the camaraderie that comes from being with other Catholic Men united in a fraternal brotherhood. You need to come out and join us at a business or social meeting. You need to volunteer a couple of hours towards service. To be a Knight in name only is to miss out on so much. Come out and join us, you'll be glad you did.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Chopski, Grand Knight

Pool Winterization

Help is needed on Saturday, October 3 at 9:30 to put the pool cover on. Many hands make light work.

Food Drive Continues

Worthy Brothers, the situation at St. Francis House has not changed.

The USDA food shipments that sustained the Food Pantry are now down 65%. They need 5,000 pounds of food a month and the USDA is supplying less than 3,000 pounds. Our Council, along with the Ancient Order of Hibernians has pledged 1,500 pounds and at this writing we are about half-way there. Please be generous and bring a non-perishable item to the October meeting. (Peanut Butter, Cereal, Rice, Canned goods, or pasta are all needed).



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October Birthdays

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

John Meise Sr	October 2
Michael Pyle	October 4
Daniel Keeley	October 5
Patrick Patterson	October 8
Mark Johnson	October 11
George Pufko Jr	October 12
Stephen Ratliff	October 13
Daniel Austin Sr	October 15
Alfred Bertolacci	October 16
Wayne Parker	October 16
Anthony Hopper	October 17
Robert Way	October 17
George Clay II	October 21
Rev Les Schmidt	October 21
John Mercer	October 23
Glenn Hall	October 26
David Peters	October 26
Michael Grant	October 28
Louis Soldano	October 31

September Business Meeting Highlights

- Geralynn Slough Trellue from Roanoke Catholic School spoke to the council about a major matching grant for RCS. Major donations are requested by the end of the year to take maximum advantage of the matching portion of this grant. (See P6.)
- Council shirts have arrived. Members are urged to wear the shirts proudly.
- The Grand Knight announced several upcoming events:
 - Adoration at Our Lady of Nazareth (OLN) on 9/11-12 and at the Basilica of Saint Andrew (BOSA) on 9/17-19. Security help is requested.
 - Picnics are scheduled at BOSA on 9/13 and at OLN on 10/11.
 - Open house will be held at Blue Ridge Women's Center on 9/14 and 10/8.
 - The food drive continues.
 - 40 Days for Life is celebrated 9/23.
 - He reminded us that we connect with 3 parishes. We can make a difference!
- BK Roger Vest was presented with the a special KOVAR award by BK Tim Minnich.
- The District Deputy reported on a potential corn hole tournament in Southwest Virginia.
- The DD also announced incentives for membership recruiting exceeding 110%.
- A motion was approved to increase our annual contribution for snacks at the Virginia Veterans' Care Center from \$120 to \$150.
- A motion was approved to contribute \$100 to Right to Life billboards during 40 Days for life.
- The Corporation reported a profit of \$696 for the grill event at Olympic Park Pool on Labor Day.
- BK Juan Garcia was named Knight of the Month for August.

- The Lecturer reported that the birthday of the Blessed Mother is celebrated today (9/8). God worked thru modest beginnings, and Heaven rejoiced! Mary was prepared by God for Her Divine Mission. Everything Mary did points to her Son Jesus.
- September 11 marks the 25th anniversary of the 9/11/2001 attacks; 46 Brother Knights were killed in the attacks. BK Rick Vitolo recited the names of those Brother Knights killed in the attacks on that fateful day.



In Memoriam

- BK James Brown

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.

May his soul 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:

- Betsy Ratliff, mother of BK Stephen Ratliff.
- Sharon Vest, wife of BK Roger Vest.
- Gregory Brown, brother of BK Donald Brown.
- Patricia Reidy, widow of BK Patrick Reidy.
- BK Ed Malinowski and his wife Carolyn.
- Marie Carignan, daughter of BK Bob Carignan

Saint of the Month

John Henry Newman

John Henry Newman was born in London, England in 1801 into an aristocratic English devout Christian family. From a young age, John was given an excellent education at Great Ealing School, a boarding school considered to be the best private school in England at that time. John was a serious student who loved to read. When John Henry was fifteen, during his final year at Ealing, he went through a profound conversion. He sensed that his life mission would require him to remain celibate, perhaps so he could be a missionary or for some other reason.

After his personal conversion, John Henry continued his studies at Trinity College, Oxford. In 1824, he was ordained an Anglican deacon and became a priest in 1825. In the mid-1830's, John Henry and others began to write and publish "Tracts for the Times", a series of pamphlets that defended Anglican apostolic succession and argued for a return to the liturgical traditions with a renewed interest in the Church Fathers. Little by little, however, his writings appeared to sound more like Catholic teaching than Anglican. After a thorough study of the Church Fathers and the development of the doctrines he deeply believed in, he was convinced that the Roman Catholic Church was the Church instituted by Christ. On October 9, 1845, he was received into the Catholic Church in a small ceremony at Littlemore; He then traveled to Rome for further studies, and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1847.

In the years that followed, Father Newman helped found the Catholic University of Ireland and published the *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, a theological defense of his personal conversion. He also published several other works,

including *The Idea of a University*, in which he especially articulates the purpose of a university. He argued that a university was not just to teach useful knowledge but to cultivate the mind in its pursuit of knowledge, ultimately arriving at "a great and firm belief in the sovereignty of Truth." It is for this reason that Catholic chaplaincies at colleges are called Newman Centers.

Before his death, Father Newman received two important honors. In 1877, he was given an honorary fellowship at Trinity College and in 1879, Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal, despite the fact that he was not a bishop. Saint John Henry Newman could have lived a comfortable life as an Anglican priest and scholar. However, he chose to follow the convictions of faith that God planted in his mind and heart.

John Henry Newman died August 11, 1890. He was Beatified on September 19, 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI and Canonized on October 13, 2019 by Pope Francis. His Feast Day in the Catholic Church is October 9. On August 1, 2026, Pope Leo XIV approved the decision to declare Saint John Henry Newman the 38th Doctor of the Church.



40 Days for Life



The fall 2026 40 Days for Life campaign continues until Sunday, November 1, 2026. Details and registration can be found at 40daysforlife.com. Any questions, contact Joan Murano @ 540-278-4634 (jmmchooselife@gmail.com).

Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.

The kickoff for the fall, 2026 campaign was a dinner with speaker at the Council Home on Tuesday, September 22.



Field Agent's Report

Brothers,

Nearly half (47%) of adults say they would have trouble paying living expenses within six months of their primary wage earner's death.¹ Planning ahead about how your family might manage financially can be an important part in caring for those you love.

When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, he was witnessing firsthand the precarious situation widows and orphans faced when a father died. He sought to create a way to relieve their burdens and care for those in need.

Today, we are proud to continue that tradition of guarding what matters most to our members — their families and their faith. Income replacement through life insurance can be one part of that protection. As your financial circumstances and family needs change over time, I'm here to help you consider whether your coverage continues to align with your goals and priorities. That's why every year, we ask for an update on any big life changes — such as whether you've bought a home, had a baby or retired. This survey gives my team important insight into your evolving financial needs so we can provide the personalized, faith-based service you deserve. Complete your survey online at

<https://survey.kofc.org>

Thank you again,

Contact **Jack Clarke:**

540-204-4984 or jack.clarke@kofc.org.

	 Jack Clarke, FICF Assistant General Agent Office: 540-204-4984 Mobile: 757-575-0069 Jack.Clarke@KofC.org 2800 Electric Road, Suite 102C Roanoke, Virginia 24018	
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance Protecting Catholic families since 1882		

Roanoke Catholic School Matching Grant Opportunity

Roanoke Catholic School is blessed with an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen its long-term financial foundation. A generous RCS family has offered a **dollar-for-dollar match up to \$500,000** for the **Mortgage Reduction Campaign**, now through the end of the year. With this match, our community can create a **\$1 million impact** to eliminate the remaining mortgage on the school's multipurpose building.

Retiring this debt will provide benefits far beyond financial relief. Currently, about **\$600 of each student's annual tuition** goes toward mortgage payments. Eliminating this obligation will free up nearly **\$200,000 every year** to reinvest directly into students, academic programs, faculty support, and the mission of Roanoke Catholic School.

This matching grant is a powerful opportunity to help secure the future of Catholic education on *The Hill*. Every gift is doubled, and every contribution moves the school closer to redirecting vital resources toward growth, excellence, and faith-filled formation.

The campaign runs through **December 31, 2026**. Your support and prayers will make a lasting difference for current and future generations of Catholics.



Diocesan Pilgrimage

Mark your calendars Brother Knights. In honor of the 250th anniversary of our Nation, Bishop Knestout invites the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond to join in a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on **October 24th, 2026**, to entrust our country to the maternal care of Our Lady, Patroness of the Americas. The Bus will be leaving Our Lady of Nazareth around 5am and round trip is \$10.00. There should be information in the Church bulletins, and you can click on the link below (or paste into your browser) to register. A shuttle bus is available to access other sites and Bishop Knestout will say mass at 4pm. Confession will be available.

[Diocesan Pilgrimage – Evangelize Richmond](#)



Roanoke Council 562 Officers 2026-27

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 2026-27

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 2026-27

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

Roanoke Council 562 Home:

3136 Harris Street, Roanoke, VA 24015

Mail:

PO Box 20974, Roanoke, VA 24018

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