

Grand Commandery

Of The

District of Columbia

Manual

Of

Tactics

Official Manual

Of

Tactics

v2.5

Prepared by Sir Knight Elijah C. Mills, EPC, KTCH

Based on:

“Asylum Tactics of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia”
(Draft)

Prepared by
Sir Knight Michael J. Kastle, REPGC, KTCH

and

“Manual of Asylum Ceremonies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of
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Forward

To stimulate interest in the ceremonies and to acquire a high degree of proficiency, the officers should become thoroughly familiar with the commands and movements before attempting to open the Commandery. It is bound to discourage even the most enthusiastic Knight if he is compelled to stand at attention while the officers learn their work. In the militaristic tradition of Knights Templar, the officers should learn the lines themselves, but how to execute them crisply and decisively. The officer who believes that it is the duty of Knights to attend conclaves should remember that the Knights have a right to expect the same officer to know how and when to give the commands before attempting to do so. Preliminary practice in the Asylum by the officers, individually or collectively, will amply reward them.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of DC for putting the trust in me to accomplish this task and get a published tactics in the hands of our members for the first time in some decades. My thanks also go out to the Sir Knights of both Columbia and Potomac Commanderies where I was honored to serve as Commander while this document was drafted, reviewed, corrected, and now printed. The bulk of this effort was done by the following Sir Knights who are the only reason this has become a cohesive document today:

Nicholas J. Sampogna, EPC
Chris B. Ruli
Peter W. Brusoe
Basil N. Mossaidis

It was through their supreme efforts in correcting my many scrivener's errors which has led to the polished and complete document you now hold. Truly they are among the backbone of this Grand Commandery.

The generous support of Columbia Commandery No. 2, KT in printing this manual also deserves commendation – many thanks to you all. The Sir Knights of Columbia should be proud knowing that they have supported this Grand Commandery ever since they assisted in constituting it.

Elijah C. Mills, EPC, KTCH
Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, 2020

Dedication

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (John 23:46)

The final draft of this document was prepared and finalized in early 2020. I don't need here enumerate the difficulties that began that year but suffice it to say, the project was delayed. In that time a great many changes befell this Grand Commandery, not least of which was the death of a significant supporter of me, this project, our shared Commandery, and the Grand Commandery. To commemorate his unwavering and incredible devotion, the printing of this, long delayed and much needed volume, is therefore dedicated to

WELDON JACKSON "JACK" CAMPBELL, JR.

Sir Knight Jack died on April 1st, 2020 at the age of 62 after an extended struggle with cancer. He was Commander of this Commandery in 2019 and I can say there was never a Sir Knight more eager to serve and ready to literally roll up his sleeves and do the work. In addition to his support in pushing this project from a dream to being over the finish line, he leapt to serve as a proxy at the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment and created the system of awards we now enjoy.

Man cannot say why those we love leave us sooner than anyone wanted, while some who do evil linger in this world. As it is written, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9). Indeed, there is a certain rage against explanation, for no logical reason can justify such an early loss of such a good Sir Knight.

Jack truly lived the words, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For if we live, we live unto the Lord. And if we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

Let us remember this valuable Sir Knight all the days of our life and pray for the happy repose of his soul.

*Elijah C. Mills, EPC, KTCH
All Souls' Day 2022*

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Knight Templar Opening and Closing

Full Opening

*The C ensures he has a G, CG, P, and W on hand, or a total of at least nine SKs present before beginning the opening ceremony. NB: The Grand Encampment allows a minimum of **five** SKs present if no Orders are to be conferred during the conclave.*

C *From a position near the East of the Asylum* **Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) see that the Asylum is in suitable array for my reception. (H)(H) Sir Knight Generalissimo, (H)(H) and Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) accompany me to my apartment. C, G, and P retire through the West Gate, exit single file through the door, and proceed to the Commander's apartment. Door remains open.**

CG *CG goes to C's station, faces west, and sits in the C's chair.* **Sir Knight Warder, (†)(H) sound the assembly. (†)(H)**

W **Sir Knights, atten, -tion.** *W returns sword.*

CG **Officers, take your stations. Sir Knights, be, seated.**

S exits through the Tiler's Door and closes it. The W checks to see that the S has closed the Tiler's Door, returns to his station, and sits down. At this point, the CG fills all Stations that are empty.

CG **Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) are all present Knights Templar? (†)(H)**

SW *Faces JW and commands:* **Sir Knight Junior Warden, (†)(†) ascertain if all in the north are Knights Templar. (†)(†) Both Wardens face East and march to within two (2) feet of the P's Pedestal. JW executes two (2) Left Faces. SW executes two (2) Right Faces. They both walk toward the West, checking to see that all are Knights Templar.¹ When they reach a point two (2) feet in front of the Standard Guard, they halt and face each other.**

¹ If any person is unknown to a Warden, the Warden faces the unknown individual and says, "Are you a Knight Templar?" If negative answer, "Please retire." If positive answer, "Can any Sir Knight vouch for you?" If a SK competent to do so, sitting near the visitor, can and does so vouch, the Warden may accept the statement and pass on; the statement being to the effect that the Knight vouches for the visitor as a Knight Templar in good standing. Otherwise, the Warden causes the visitor to rise, faces the East, and reports, "Sir Knight CG," (†)(H) "I find a visitor whom I do not know to be a Knight Templar." (†)(H) The CG asks, "Can any SK present vouch for this visitor?" Whereupon, any SK present, competent to do so, may arise and say, "SK CG" (H)(H) "I vouch for the visitor as a Knight Templar in good standing" (H)(H). The CG announces "SK Senior (or Junior) Warden," (†)(H) "A SK has vouched for the visitor" (†)(H). If no SK vouches for the visitor, the CG will say "The visitor will retire to the ante-room where an examining committee will wait upon him." The W opens the Tiled Door, sees that the visitor retires, and returns to his station. The Warden proceeds with his inspection. An examining committee should be appointed by the CG and retire to conduct the examination immediately after the Wardens are seated.

JW Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) all in the north are Knights Templar. (†)(†) Both Wardens face east, return to their stations, and halt together, still facing East.

SW Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) all present are Knights Templar. (†)(H) SW and JW inward face together, both return swords, and are seated in unison.

CG Sir Knight Warden, (†)(H) post the Sentinel. Inform him that a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened, and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(H)

W W forward marches, executes two (2) columns right to a position in front of the Tiled Door, raps *, opens the door, and says, Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened; you are directed to guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery * ** * on the door with his left hand. He awaits like raps *** ** * on the outside of door by S. W then returns to his station (there is no eleventh knock). Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) the Sentinel is at his post and the Asylum is duly guarded. (†)(H) W returns sword and sits in his seat.**

CG Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) form the lines for the reception of the Eminent Commander. (†)(H)

SW Marches directly to a position four (4) feet in front of the CG's station, faces West, and then commands. Sir Knights forming lines, Fall, in. The SwB, StB, W, and JW arise. Left, face. Right, dress. All heads look to the right except the SK on the right (east) end of the line. SW verifies that the line is straight. Front. All heads turn to face forward. Draw, swords. The SwB, StB, W, and JW also draw swords. Count, twos. All in line except the SK on the right (east) turn their heads to the right. The 1st SK counts "1," the 2nd SK counts "2" and looks to the front, remaining SKs count off in the same manner, each turning his head to the front when he counts his number. Number Ones constitute the First Division. Number Twos constitute the Second Division. Twos right, march. Divisions, halt. Left, face. Second Division, three steps forward, march. Second Division, about, face. Second Division should be in line with the G's station. The SW checks alignment of the First Division and gives commands to correct as needed. The SW right faces, marches forward and stops in front of the Second Division, left faces, checks alignment, and gives commands to correct as needed. SW returns to former position and faces east. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) the lines are formed. (†)(H)

CG Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) you will repair to the apartment of the Commander and report the Asylum is in suitable array for his reception. (†)(H)

The SW marches around and past the First Division, does a column right in front of the Standard Guard, marches to a point east of the West Gate, does a column left, and proceeds out of the Asylum. As the SW passes, the W follows him and stops, in the asylum, facing the line of march.

SW Having passed through the West Gate, the SW halts in front of the C and reports, Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the Asylum is in suitable array for your reception.

C Sir Knight Senior Warden, escort us into the Asylum. (†)(H) The SW about faces and returns to the West Gate followed by the C and his staff.

W *When the SW arrives at the West Gate, the W announces in a clear, distinct voice, The Eminent Commander approaches. He then executes “present, swords.”*

CG **Sir Knights, Atten, -tion. Sir Knights in Line, present, swords.** *The CG takes his post at the head of the First Division, draws sword, and executes “present, swords.”*

The C and his staff follow the SW single file. As the SW passes the line of the Standard Guard, the SW executes a column right. In front of the StB, the SW executes a column left. When the SW reaches a point at the foot of the First Division, he steps into line, and faces north. The JW takes a like position at the foot of the Second Division.

Immediately after the C and staff have entered the Asylum, the W executes “carry, swords,” closes the door, returns to his station, and executes “present, swords.”

C and staff, following the SW, execute a column left in front of the StB. The C only then uncovers as he nears the base of the lines and proceeds through them, followed by his staff. C and staff go directly to their stations. The C recovers as he passes the CG. The C and G face the west together.

Forming the Lines

C **Carry, swords. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) form the lines for rehearsal. (†)(H)**

CG **Officers, post.** *G takes position at the head of the Second Division, directly across from the CG, draws sword, and comes to a carry. Sir Knights not in line, be seated. W, SwB, and StB remain standing; P sits. Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the lines are formed. (†)(H)*

C **First Division communicate to the Second Division the Pilgrim Warrior’s Word. On, guard.** *Lines execute position of “on, guard.” Give, cuts. SKs follow in cadence with four cuts or parries. Communicate. After PWW is given, Carry, Line resumes position of “on, guard” swords. Line resumes position of carry.*

In giving the cuts, begin with the position of on guard. Feet should be at right angles, with the left foot in a north / south line, and the right foot in an east / west line. When giving cuts, the swords should touch lightly on the flat of the blade about ten inches from the points. The palm of the sword hand should face the sword of the opposite SK when the swords engage each other. The word is given with four cuts of the sword and under an arch of steel. Therefore, on the command “give, cuts” the four cuts of the sword are given and held until the command “communicate” is given. After the word has been exchanged, hold position.

C **Second Division, communicate to the First Division the Pilgrim Penitent’s Word. On, guard.** *Lines execute position of “on, guard.” Give, cuts. SKs follow in cadence with four cuts or parries. Position. Each SK then advances his left foot and places it beside that of the Knight opposite while simultaneously he places his left hand on the right should of the same Knight. Communicate. Carry, Line resumes position of “on, guard” swords. Line resumes position of carry. Return, swords.*

C First Division, communicate to the Second Division the Immaculate Word. **Sir Knights**, one step forward, march. **Kneel. Un, cover. Deposit, chapeaux. Interlace, fingers.** *The SKs of both divisions extend arms in front of the body, palms forward, fingers open, and extended upwards. The SKs of the First Division will cross their arms, right over left, and interlace their fingers with those of the SKs of the Second Division.* **Sir Knights**, as your fingers are thus strongly interlaced, so should the hearts of all **Knights Templar** be firmly united in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Over this symbol of our faith, communicate. *The SKs of the First Division will pronounce the word E-l. The SKs of the Second Division will cross their arms, fingers still interlaced, and give the response, G-w-u. Drop hands to the side.* **Sir Knights**, secure, chapeaux. **Re, -cover. Arise. One step backward, march.** *As SKs arise, each brings his left foot forward into line with his right foot; right foot does not move.*

Forming the Triangle

C Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) form the Triangle preparatory to our devotions.
(†)(H)

CG *Moves to a position in front of the C, faces west, and commands Officers, post. The G returns to station and C and G are seated together.* **First and Second Divisions**, two steps backward, march. **Left and right, face. Forward, march.** *CG marches forward with the divisions.* **Halt. Inward, face. Standard Guard, forward, march. Halt.** *Standard Guard halts between JW and SW so that the Wardens are looking at the sides of the Standard Guards heads.* **First and Second Divisions**, inward wheel, march. **Halt.** *CG checks alignment, issuing corrections as necessary. He then returns to his station.* **Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the Triangle is formed. (†)(H) He returns sword and is seated.**

C *C arises, Commandery, atten, -tion.* **Sir Knights Generalissimo (H)(H), Captain General (H)(H), and Excellent Prelate (B)(H), accompany me to the Triangle.** *They make a formation in the shape of a triangle immediately in front of the dais, with the C at the Apex, the G at the northeast angle, the CG at the southeast angle, and the P in the center of the base and directly behind the C. The C's formation advances until the C reaches the Apex of the Triangle. The formation halts without command, taking cue from the C. The P advances past the right side of the C and proceeds to the center of the Triangle then halts and faces about, so he is facing the east. The G and CG then advance to a position between the C and the SKs in the triangle, completing it.* **Sir Knights, to your devotions, kneel.** *All SKs in the Triangle step back fifteen (15) inches with the left foot and kneel on their left knee, with the body and left thigh erect, the right leg below the knee nearly vertical, the right hand hanging at the side. No hands are to rest on the knee while in the triangle. (If one cannot kneel, none shall kneel.)* **Un, cover.** *P gives prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer. All SKs will respond by repeating the Lord's Prayer with the P.*

All Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

C **Sir Knights, re-, cover. Arise.** *All arise bringing left foot into line. Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) take command. (H)(H) The C, G, and P return to their stations in the same formation as when approaching the Triangle. The C sits while the G and P remain standing.*

CG *Moves to the apex of the triangle, faces west, and draws his sword.* **Reduce, Triangle. First and Second Division, about, face. Outward wheel, march. Halt. About, face.** *CG marches in the most direct route to his station and reports, Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the Triangle is reduced. (†)(H) The CG returns his sword and remains standing.*

C *Stands.* **Sir Knights, together following my lead, attend to giving the signs:**
Companion of the Red Cross, Done.
Knight of St. Paul or Mediterranean Pass, Done.
Grand Hailing Sign of a Knight of Malta, Done.
Grand Word of a Knight of Malta, Done.
Penal Sign of a Knight Templar, Done.
Grand Sign of a Knight Templar, Done.

Divisions, about, face. Officers and SKs take your stations. Be, seated.

Rehearsal of Duties

This section may be omitted at the discretion of the C, continuing with the "Declaration." In the rehearsal of duties, each officer, as he is addressed, will take one pace forward, thirty (30) inches, face the C and execute "sword, salute" and return to a "carry." When in the east, the junior officer may right or left face. At the completion of the exchange, they will again exchange salutes and the junior officer of the exchange will then take two (2) steps back (15 inches each) to his position. When in the east, the junior officer may right or left face. The P executes a hand salute or when in costume, bows.

C **Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) call the officers to attention and have them draw swords. (H)(H)**

CG *CG faces left, draws sword, and commands, Officers, atten, -tion. Sir Knights, draw, swords. Does not report back to the C.*

C **Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(H) are you a Knight Templar?**

G **That is my title.**

C **Where were you created a Knight Templar?**

G **In a regular and duly constituted Commandery of Knights Templar.**

C **How many compose such a Commandery?**

G **There is an Indispensable number and a Constitutional number.**

C What is the Indispensable number?

G Three.

C Under what circumstances may three form and open a Commandery?

G Three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant, may form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar for the dispatch of business.

C What is the Constitutional number?

G Nine, or more.

C When composed of eleven, who are they?

G The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warder.

C The station of the Warder?

G On the left of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Standard Guard when separately formed. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Warder, (†)(H) your duty?

W To sounds the assembly; post the Sentinel; announce the approach and departure of the Commander; and see that the Asylum is duly guarded.

C The station of the Sword Bearer?

W On the right of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Standard Guard when separately former. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Sword Bearer, (†)(H) your duty?

SwB To assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.

C The station of the Standard Bearer?

SwB In the west, and in the center of the Standard Guard. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Standard Bearer, (†)(H) your duty?

StB To display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order.

C Why are you stationed in the west?

StB That the brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding luster upon the Banner of our Order, may animate and encourage all valiant and magnanimous Knights, and dismay and confound their enemies.

C The station of the Recorder?

StB On the left, and in front of the Captain General. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Recorder, (H)(H) your duty?

R Faithfully to record the transactions of the Commandery, collect the revenue and pay it over to the Treasurer.

C The station of the Treasurer?

R On the right and in front of the Generalissimo. (H)(H)

C Sir Knight Treasurer, (H)(H) your duty?

T To receive in charge all the funds and property of the Commandery, pay all orders drawn on the Treasury, and render a true account when required.

C The station of the Prelate?

T On the right of the Generalissimo. (H)(H)

C Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) your duty?

P To minister at the Altar, and to offer up prayers to Deity.

C The station of the Junior Warden?

P At the northwest angle of the Triangle, on the right or in front of the Second Division when separately formed, and on the left of the Commandery when in line. (B)(H)

C Sir Knight Junior Warden, (†)(H) your duty?

JW To attend poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, accompany them on their journey, and in due time recommend them to the Commander.

C The station of the Senior Warden?

JW At the southwest angle of the Triangle, on the right or in front of the First Division when separately formed, and on the right of the Commandery when in line. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) your duty?

SW To attend pilgrim warriors; comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial introduce them into the Asylum.

C The station of the Captain General?

SW On the left of the Commander. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) your duty?

CG To see that due preparation is made for the conclaves of the Commandery, that the Asylum is in suitable array for the introduction of candidates and the dispatch of business; to execute the orders of the Commander, and in his absence and that of the Generalissimo to preside.

C The station of the Generalissimo?

CG On the right of the Commander. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(H) your duty?

G To assist the Commander in the duties of his office and in his absence to preside.

C The station of the Commander?

G In the east, or at the head of the Commandery.

C His duty?

G To distribute alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar; feed the hungry; clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted; to inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality, and govern the Commandery with justice and moderation. *G stands fast.*

Declaration

C Sir Knight Generalissimo, it is my order that _____ Commandery Number ____ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this

magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Captain General, and he to the Knights. (†)(H)

G Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(†) it is the order of the Commander, that _____ Commandery Number ___ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Knights. (†)(†)

CG Sir Knights, atten, -tion. Draw, swords. It is the order of the Commander that _____ Commandery Number ___ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it. Take due notice, and govern yourselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous Order. Present, swords. *G stands fast.* Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(†) the order of the Commander has been executed. (†)(†) *The CG faces west.*

G Eminent Commander, (†)(H) your order has been obeyed. *G faces west. G and CG come to "officer's salute."*

C *Arises, draws sword, comes to "present sword," then extends his right foot as he extends his right arm to its full length at a 45-degree angle, his sword in a straight line with his arm palm down. I now declare* _____ Commandery Number ___ opened in due form. *C comes to "carry swords." P opens the Bible and bows to the C. C does not acknowledge the bow. Sir Knights, carry, swords. Sir Knight Warder, (†)(†) inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(†)*

W *Approaches the Tiled Door by the usual rout, raps *, opens door, Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) the Commandery is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery *** ** * on door with his left hand. S raps *** ** * on outside of door. W returns to his station. Eminent Commander, (†)(†) your order has been obeyed. (†)(†)*

C Sir Knights, return, swords. Be, seated.

Opening with Rehearsal of Duties

C **Officers, take your stations. Sir Knights, be, seated.**

S exits through the Tiler's Door and closes it. The W checks to see that the S has closed the Tiler's Door, returns to his station, and sits down. At this point, the Commander fills all Stations that are empty.

C **Sir Knight Senior Warden, (H)(H) are all present Knights Templar? (H)(H)**

SW *SW draws sword and faces JW and commands: Sir Knight Junior Warden, (†)(†) ascertain if all in the north are Knights Templar. (†)(†) SW & JW face East and march to within two (2) feet of the Prelate's Pedestal. JW executes two (2) Left Faces. SW executes two (2) Right Faces. They both walk toward the west, checking to see that all are Knights Templar.² When they reach a point two (2) feet in front of the Standard Guard, they halt and face each other.*

JW **Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) all in the north are Knights Templar. (†)(†) SW & JW face east, return to their stations, and halt together still facing East.**

SW **Eminent Commander, (†)(H) all present are Knights Templar. (†)(H) SW and JW inward face together, both return swords, and are seated in unison.**

C **Sir Knight Warden, (†)(H) post the Sentinel. Inform him that a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened, and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(H)**

W *W forward marches, executes two (2) columns right to a position in front of the Tiled Door, raps *, opens the door, and says, Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened; you are directed to guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery *** ** * on the door with his left hand. He awaits like raps *** ** * on the outside of door by S. W then returns to his station (there is no eleventh knock). Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the Sentinel is at his post and the Asylum is duly guarded. (†)(H) W returns sword and sits.*

² If any person is unknown to a Warden, the Warden faces the unknown individual and says, "Are you a Knight Templar?" If negative answer, "Please retire." If positive answer, "Can any Sir Knight vouch for you?" If a SK competent to do so, sitting near the visitor, can and does so vouch, the Warden may accept the statement and pass on; the statement being to the effect that the Knight vouches for the visitor as a Knight Templar in good standing. Otherwise, the Warden causes the visitor to rise, faces the East, and reports, "Sir Knight CG," (†)(H) "I find a visitor whom I do not know to be a Knight Templar." (†)(H)

The CG asks, "Can any SK present vouch for this visitor?" Whereupon, any SK present, competent to do so, may arise and say, "SK CG" (H)(H) "I vouch for the visitor as a Knight Templar in good standing" (H)(H). The CG announces "SK Senior (or Junior) Warden," (†)(H) "A SK has vouched for the visitor" (†)(H). If no SK vouches for the visitor, the CG will say "The visitor will retire to the ante-room where an examining committee will wait upon him." The W opens the Tiled Door, sees that the visitor retires, and returns to his station. The Warden proceeds with his inspection. An examining committee should be appointed by the CG and retire to conduct the examination immediately after the Wardens are seated.

C *Stands at attention.* **Sir Knights, atten, -tion; Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) lead our devotions. (B)(H) Sir Knights, un, -cover. All uncover, Commander uncovering last.**

P *Offers a short prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer repeated by all SKs present.*

C *C recovers.* **Sir Knights, re, -cover. Be, seated.**

Rehearsal of Duties

In the rehearsal of duties, each officer, as he is addressed, will take one pace forward (30 inches), face the C, and execute a "sword, salute." The dais officers may just right or left face to face the C. At the conclusion of the exchange, they will take two back steps (15 inches each) to his position.

C *Stays seated until noted.* **Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) call the officers to attention and have them draw swords. (H)(H)**

CG *CG faces left, draws sword, and commands,* **Officers, atten, -tion. Sir Knights, draw, swords. Does not report back to the C.**

C **Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(H) are you a Knight Templar?**

G **That is my title.**

C **Where were you created a Knight Templar?**

G **In a regular and duly constituted Commandery of Knights Templar.**

C **How many compose such a Commandery?**

G **There is an Indispensable number and a Constitutional number.**

C **What is the Indispensable number?**

G **Three.**

C **Under what circumstances may three form and open a Commandery?**

G **Three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant, may form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar for the dispatch of business.**

C **What is the Constitutional number?**

G **Nine, or more.**

- C **When composed of eleven, who are they?**
- G **The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warder.**
- C **The station of the Warder?**
- G **On the left of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Standard Guard when separately formed. (†)(H)**
- C **Sir Knight Warder, (†)(H) your duty?**
- W **To sound the assembly; post the Sentinel; announce the approach and departure of the Commander; and see that the Asylum is duly guarded.**
- C **The station of the Sword Bearer?**
- W **On the right of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Standard Guard when separately formed. (†)(H)**
- C **Sir Knight Sword Bearer, (†)(H) your duty?**
- SwB **To assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.**
- C **The station of the Standard Bearer?**
- SwB **In the west, and in the center of the Standard Guard. (†)(H)**
- C **Sir Knight Standard Bearer, (†)(H) your duty?**
- StB **To display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order.**
- C **Why are you stationed in the west?**
- StB **That the brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding luster upon the Banner of our Order, may animate and encourage all valiant and magnanimous Knights, and dismay and confound their enemies.**
- C **The station of the Recorder?**
- StB **On the left, and in front of the Captain General. (†)(H)**
- C **Sir Knight Recorder, (†)(H) your duty?**

R Faithfully to record the transactions of the Commandery, collect the revenue and pay it over to the Treasurer.

C The station of the Treasurer?

R On the right and in front of the Generalissimo. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Treasurer, (†)(H) your duty?

T To receive in charge all the funds and property of the Commandery, pay all orders drawn on the Treasury, and render a true account when required.

C The station of the Prelate?

T On the right of the Generalissimo. (†)(H)

C Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) your duty?

P To minister at the Altar, and to offer up prayers to Deity.

C The station of the Junior Warden?

P At the northwest angle of the Triangle, on the right or in front of the Second Division when separately formed, and on the left of the Commandery when in line. (B)(H)

C Sir Knight Junior Warden, (†)(H) your duty?

JW To attend poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, accompany them on their journey, and in due time recommend them to the Commander.

C The station of the Senior Warden?

JW At the southwest angle of the Triangle, on the right or in front of the First Division when separately formed, and on the right of the Commandery when in line. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) your duty?

SW To attend pilgrim warriors; comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial introduce them into the Asylum.

C The station of the Captain General?

SW On the left of the Commander. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) your duty?

CG To see that due preparation is made for the conclaves of the Commandery, that the Asylum is in suitable array for the introduction of candidates and the dispatch of business; to execute the orders of the Commander, and in his absence and that of the Generalissimo to preside.

C The station of the Generalissimo?

CG On the right of the Commander. (†)(H)

C Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(H) your duty?

G To assist the Commander in the duties of his office and in his absence to preside.

C The station of the Commander?

G In the east, or at the head of the Commandery.

C His duty?

G To distribute alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar; feed the hungry; clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted; to inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality, and govern the Commandery with justice and moderation. *G stands fast.*

Declaration

C Sir Knight Generalissimo, it is my order that _____ Commandery Number __ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Captain General, and he to the Knights. (†)(H)

G Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(†) it is the order of the Commander, that _____ Commandery Number __ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Knights. (†)(†)

CG Sir Knights, atten, -tion. Draw, swords. It is the order of the Commander that _____ Commandery Number __ be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it. Take due notice, and govern yourselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous Order. Present, swords. *G stands fast.* Sir Knight Generalissimo, (†)(†) the order of the Commander has been executed. (†)(†) *The CG faces west.*

G **Eminent Commander, (†)(H) your order has been obeyed. G faces west. G and CG come to “officer’s salute.”**

C *Arises, draws sword, comes to “present sword,” then extends his right foot as he extends his right arm to its full length at a 45-degree angle, his sword in a straight line with his arm palm down. I now declare _____*
Commandery Number __ opened in due form. C comes to “carry swords.” P opens the Bible and bows to the C. C does not acknowledge the bow. Sir Knights, carry, swords. Sir Knight Warder, (†)(†) inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(†)

W *Approaches the Tiled Door by the usual rout, raps *, opens door, Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) the Commandery is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery *** ** * on door with his left hand. S raps *** ** * on outside of door. W returns to his station. Eminent Commander, (†)(†) your order has been obeyed. (†)(†)*

C **Sir Knights, return, swords. Be, seated.**

Short Opening

The Commandery should always be opened in full form. In an extreme case, the C is authorized to omit portions of the Full Form opening ceremonies. However, under no circumstances shall less than the following be used.

C **Officers, take your stations. Sir Knights, be, seated. Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(H) are all present Knights Templar? (†)(H)**

Ceremony follows as in full form opening.

SW **Eminent Commander, (†)(H) all present are Knights Templar. (†)(H) SW and JW face inward together, return their swords together, and are seated in unison.**

C **Sir Knight Warden, (†)(H) post the Sentinel. Inform him that _____ Commandery Number __ is about to be opened and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(H)**

W *W left faces, marches by usual route to Tiled Door, raps *, opens the door, and says, Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened. You are directed to guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery *** ** * on the door with his left hand. He awaits like raps *** ** * on outside of the door by the S. W returns to his station. Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the Sentinel is at his post and the Asylum is duly guarded. (†)(H) W returns his sword and sits down.*

C *Rises.* **Sir Knights, attention. Un, -cover. Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) lead our devotions. (B)(H) C then uncovers.**

P *Offers a short prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer repeated by all SKs present.*

C *C recovers.* **Sir Knights, re, -cover. C draws sword and extends it as in the full form. Waiving further ceremony, I now declare _____ Commandery Number __ open for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. P opens Bible and bows to the C. C does not acknowledge the bow. C resumes carry sword. Sir Knight Warden, (†)(†) inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(†)**

W *Approaches Tiled Door by the usual route, raps *, and opens door. Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) the Commandery is now open. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly. (†)(†) W closes door and raps with the required battery *** ** * on door with his left hand. S raps *** ** * on outside of door. W returns to his station. Eminent Commander, (†)(†) your order has been obeyed. (†)(†)*

C **Sir Knights, be, seated.**

Closing

C Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) I am about to close this Commandery. See that the Sentinel is informed and that he guard accordingly. (H)(H)

CG *CG draws sword and faces left.* Sir Knight Warder, (†)(†) inform the Sentinel that the Commander is about to close this Commandery and direct him to guard accordingly. (†)(†)

W *Approaches the Tiled Door by the usual rout, raps *, opens door and says,* Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) the Commander is about to close this Commandery. Take due notice and guard accordingly. (†)(†) *The W closes the door and raps with the required *** ** * on door with his left hand. The S returns *** ** * on outside of the door. W returns to his station. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(†) the Sentinel is informed. (†)(†) W returns sword and is seated.*

CG Eminent Commander, (†)(H) your order has been obeyed. (†)(H) *CG returns sword and is seated.*

C Commandery, attention. Un, -cover. Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) Lead our devotions. (B)(H) *C uncovers.*

P *Offers a short prayer; this should not be followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

C *C recovers before speaking.* Sir Knights, re, cover. I now declare _____ Commandery No. ___ duly closed. Sir Knight Warder, (H)(H) inform the Sentinel. (H)(H)

W *Approaches the Tiled Door by the usual route, NO raps, opens door and says,* Sir Knight Sentinel, (H)(H) the Commandery is closed. (H)(H) *The door remains open. W returns to his station. Eminent Commander, (H)(H) the Sentinel is informed. (H)(H)*

C Sir Knights, you are dismissed. *Consummatum est.*

Flag Presentation

C Sir Knights, Attention. Standard Guard, display the United States Flag.

SwB Standard Guard, draw, swords. Forward, march. Left oblique, march. Forward, march. Standard Guard, halt. *Standard Guard halts in front of US flag. Present, swords. StB returns sword, others hold salute, StB approaches dais and grasps flag, does about face, marches between Swb and W, about faces, marches back into line.* Standard Guard, right wheel, march. Forward, march. *In time to march down the center of the Asylum, the Swb commands,* Right wheel, march. Forward, march. Halt. *In the center of the Asylum facing west.* About, face. Present, swords. *Flag does not dip.*

C All Sir Knights who are citizens of the United States of America, join with me in the salute to the flag of our country. Hand, salute. *All SKs face the flag, render a hand salute, drop hand, recite the pledge to the flag, render another hand salute when the pledge is complete, and drop hand to the side.*

SwB Standard Guard, carry, swords. Forward, march. Left oblique, march. Forward, march. Standard Guard, halt. *Halts in front of flag stand. Present, swords. StB returns flag to its stand, others hold salute, StB about faces, marches between SwB and W, about faces, marches into line. StB draws sword and comes to "present" without command.* Standard Guard, carry, swords. Right wheel, march. Forward, march. *In time to line up with the Standard Guard's station,* Right wheel, march. Forward, march. Halt. *In front of their stations, facing west.* About, face. Return, swords.

C Sir Knights, be, seated. *C sits down.*

Commandery Inspection

C **Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) form the lines for inspection. (†)(†)**

CG **Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) form the lines for inspection. (†)(†)**

SW *SW takes position four steps in front of the CG's station, faces west, and then commands, Sir Knights forming lines, attention. Standard Guard stands. StB secures Beauceant. Sir Knights, fall, in. Commandery Officers, post. When the ranks are complete, the JW and Treasurer take positions on the left of the line. The Recorder takes a position on the right of the line. Left, face. Right, dress. Front. Draw, swords. The G and StdGd also obey the command to draw swords. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(†) the lines are formed. (†)(†) SW assumes a position on the left of the line.*

CG **Officers, post. R, T, and P will immediately take a position four (4) feet in front of the left (west) side of line with the R on the west end and going east. Eminent Commander, (†)(†) the lines are formed. (†)(†) CG marches west to three paces in front of the first Knight in the line (north-east). Halts and faces right (north).**

C *After the CG has reported, the C & G rise, take one step forward, and draw swords. G marches to his position immediately to the right of the P. The C follows the G, then halts three paces in front of him and slightly to the right facing north. Upon the approach of the Inspector, the C salutes with sword and the Inspector returns the salute with his hand. After inspecting the C, the Inspecting Officer will address the C: **Prepare your Commandery for inspection and accompany me.** C faces to the left and commands, **Prepare for inspection.** C right faces, returns his sword, and follows the Inspector. If more inspectors are present, they follow the C. The Inspector, when inspecting the G & CG, stops in front of both, and inspects each. Neither the G nor CG execute "Inspection swords" but remain at carry. When the Inspector has passed by the G & CG, both face about simultaneously and "order, swords," then "stand at, ease." All Knights in line execute "Inspection, swords" as the Inspector comes by them.*

The Inspector, after having inspected the front of the Knights in the front rank, proceeds with the inspection of the Standard Guard in the West. StdB dip Beauceant in acknowledgment of the Inspector's salute. If there are enough Knights for a second rank, the Inspector then passes along the rear of the front rank to the right. He then inspects the rear rank in the same manner. The Inspection being complete, the Inspector faces the C (†)(H) and directs the C to proceed (†)(H).

C **Sir Knights in line, prepare for sword drill. The C moves to the head of the line facing west and commands: On, guard; parry, four; carry swords. StdGd will remain at attention and at carry swords. Present, swords. Carry, swords. W and SwB executes present and carry, StB dips Beauceant and recovers. Form arch of steel, cross, swords; carry, swords. W and StB executes present and carry, StB dips Beauceant and recovers. Swords, port; carry, swords. W and SwB execute, StB remains at carry. Salute, swords; carry swords. W and SwB execute, StB dips Beauceant. Sir Knights, return, swords. W and SwB execute, StB executes order and returns Beauceant. Sir Knights, draw, swords. W and SwB execute, StB remains at order, Beauceant. Order, swords. W and SwB execute, StB remains at order, Beauceant. Stand at, ease. Detail, attention. W and SwB execute, StB remains at order, Beauceant. Carry, swords. W and SwB**

execute, StB secures Beauceant. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) dismiss the lines. (†)(H) The C, G, and P return to their respective stations.

CG Standard Guard, post. *StB returns Beauceant. Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) dismiss the detail. (†)(†) The CG returns to his station.*

SW Sir Knights, return, swords. Dismissed. *The SKs return to their stations and are seated. The ritual proceeds normally.*

Reception of Grand Commandery Officers

The following ceremony applies to the Grand Commander and shall be altered in respect to title when any other officer is officially received. In the absence of the GW, the GC will direct someone to act as such officer. The GW, or acting GW, with drawn sword, will proceed to the door of the asylum and announce to the Sentinel:

GW Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(H) the Grand Warder for Right Eminent Grand Commander desires admittance. (†)(†) S knocks *** **

W Eminent Commander, (†)(H) there is an alarm.

C Sir Knight Warder, attend the alarm. (†)(H)

W *Proceeds to the tiled door, raps *, opens door.* Sir Knight Sentinel, (†)(†) what is the cause of the alarm?

S The Eminent Grand Warder for the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

W *Closes the door, about faces, and reports,* Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the alarm was caused by the Eminent Grand Warder for the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

C Sir Knight Warder, admit him. (†)(H)

W *About faces and raps *,* Sir Knight Sentinel, admit the Grand Warder.

S Eminent Grand Warder, (†)(H) enter. (†)(H)

W *Closes door, raps *** ***, returns to his station, returns sword, and is seated.

GW *Marches to the center of the asylum by the most direct route and gives the penal sign. The C acknowledges with a hand salute.* Eminent Commander, I am directed to announce that the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia and his staff are in waiting to be received.

C Eminent Grand Warder, inform the Right Eminent Grand Commander that an escort will immediately wait upon him. *The GW gives penal sign. The C acknowledges with a hand salute. GW about faces and retires by the most direct route. W, without command, rises, draws sword, and goes to the door to permit the GW to leave the asylum, raps *, GW leaves, W closes door, raps *** ***, and returns to his station. *The SW shall have designated the SKs for forming the lines, not exceeding six and preferably PCs and designated the SKS for the escort, not exceeding three and preferably PCs.* Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) detail an escort and form the lines for the reception of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. (†)(H)

CG Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) detail an escort and form the lines for the reception of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. (†)(†)

SW *Marches directly to a position four (4) paces in front of the CG's station, faces west, and then commands, Sir Knights forming lines, fall, in. SKs fall in west of the SW facing east. SwB, JW, and W arise. Left, face. Right, dress. SW checks alignment. Front. Draw, swords. SwB, StB, W, and JW draw swords on this command. Count, twos. All in line except the 1st SK on the right execute eyes right. The 1st SK counts "1." The 2nd SK counts "2" and looks to the front; remaining pairs of SKs count off. Number ones constitute the first division. Number twos constitute the second division. Twos right, march. Divisions, halt. Left, face. Second division, three paces forward, march. Second division about, face. 2nd division should be in line with the G's chair. The SW checks alignment of the 1st Division and gives commands to correct. The SW right faces and stops in front of the 2nd Division, left faces, checks alignment, and gives commands to correct. He then executes about face and reports, Sir Knight Captain General. (†)(†) the lines are formed. (†)(†) SW takes position two paces from the east and one pace north of the south line of seats (behind the 1st division), faces west and commands, Escort, fall, in. The escort which has been designated falls in two paces from and facing the SW. The SW then commands, Left, face. Sir Knights, draw, swords. When the lines are formed, the SW will face the CG and report, Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(†) the escort is detailed. (†)(†) SW left faces and assumes a position in line with the escort.*

CG Eminent Commander, (†)(H) the escort is detailed and the lines are formed. (†)(H) CG assumes position on the right and in line of the first division.

C Sir Knight Generalissimo, (H)(H) with your escort, repair to the apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander and report the lines are formed for his reception. (H)(H)

G G draws sword and commands, Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) march your escort to the apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. (†)(†)

SW Escort, twos right, march. Column left, march. *Marching between the lines and the dais. When he has cleared the 2nd division, the SW commands, Column left, march. The G leaves his station and follows directly in the rear of the escort at "secure swords." The escort is marched to the west, then south, and west through the tiled door (W and SW exchange salutes) to where the Grand Commandery officers have been formed in a company front, with the GC at the right, and in a line to his left according to seniority, as follows: GC, DGC, GG, GCG, GP, PGCs, GSW, GJW, GT, GR, GStB, GSwB, GW. [Grand and Past Grand officers of the Grand Lodge of D.C., the Grand Chapter, or Grand Council may also be received in this manner, changing the titles and under "present, swords"] The Grand Commandery should have been previously counted off in two's beginning with the DGC by the SK designated as the Grand Marshal. The DGC, GG, GCG, and GP comprise the GCs staff and will hereafter be known as such. When the escort arrives in the apartments of the GC, the SW causes it to face the Grand officers by the command, Twos left (or right), march. Escort, halt. Present, swords. SW executing "sword salute."*

G Right Eminent Grand Commander (†)(H), the lines are formed for your reception and the escort awaits your pleasure.

GC **Sir Knight Generalissimo, escort us into the asylum. (†)(H)**

G **Sir Knight Senior Warden, (†)(†) lead on. (†)(†)**

SW **Carry, swords. Twos left (or right), march.** *SW marches the escort through the tiled door to the asylum. The GM will cause the Grand Commandery to follow directly in the rear of the escort.*

GM **Grand Commandery, secure, swords. Twos right (or left), march.**

The G falls in at the left of the GC. When the column approaches, the W, who has remained at the door, faces the east and announces without salute:

W **The Right Eminent Grand Commander approaches.**

C *The C arises, draws his sword, and commands,* **Commandery, attention. Sir Knights, draw, swords. Present, swords.**

The W then faces the line of march and stands at “salute words” until the column has passed, closes the door, exchanges battery and resumes his station. The GC and G march to the foot of the lines followed by the rest of the column, facing east, its center directly in front of the StB. The GC and staff remain in a column of twos. The GM then causes the PGCs to deploy right and left at half step until all have gained facing distance and “halt.” The rest of the column should then be ordered to deploy right and left at half step so as to form a rear rank behind the PGCs and “halt” when all have reached facing distance.

C **Carry, swords. Sir Knights not in line, return, swords.** *The C then returns his sword.*

GM **Grand Commandery, drop, swords. Right and left, face.** *All face the east and give the penal sign. The G, after signs are exchanged gives the introduction:*

G **Eminent Commander, (†)(H)I have the honor to present Sir Knight _____, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia. (†)(H)**

The lines are brought to “present, swords” by the CG and the C passes through the lines at “uncover.” As the SKs execute “present, swords,” the Beauceant will dip and execute subsequent commands with the lines, but from the StB’s station. The C then “recovers” and welcomes the GC. (This introduction to be omitted on annual official visitations.) After the C has passed through the lines the CG commands:

CG **Carry, swords.** *The C will now pass to the GC’s right and to his rear and follow him to the east through the lines. The GC’s staff with the G in the rear shall also follow through the lines directly in the rear of the C. As the GC starts forward the CG commands, **Form Arch of Steel, cross, swords.** In passing through the lines only the GC marches at “uncover.” When the GC and staff have passed through the lines, the CG commands, **Carry, swords.***

The GC now responds to the welcome of the C and welcomes his PGCs and guests. Only the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment or his representative, Past Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanders or their representatives, and Past Grand Commanders are entitled to be received under an "Arch of Steel." All others are received through the lines at "present, swords." As each officer approaches the east, the CG shall order the lines to "carry, swords," and bring them to "present, swords" as the next officer approaches the foot of the lines. Each SK invited to the east shall pass through the lines at "uncover" as an acknowledgment of the honors. Should more than one SK be invited through the lines at one time, only the leading or senior SK will acknowledge the honors. After the GC has passed all whom he wishes to receive through the lines (and it should be stressed this is an honor and not an expectation or granted by default), he will command,

GC Grand Marshall, (†)(H) take command. (†)(H)

*GM On Grand Visitations, the GM comes to "carry, swords" and commands, **Grand Officers, take your stations; Grand Commandery, fall out;** returns his sword and awaits further orders. On other visits, the GM commands, **Grand Commandery, be seated;** returns his sword and ensures they are seated comfortably on the side lines.*

GC Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) dismiss the lines and escort. (†)(H)

CG Sir Knights, return, swords. Divisions, about, face. Sir Knights, be seated. *He then returns his sword and is seated.*

*GC GC makes appropriate comments and conduct what business needs to be conducted. Once concluded, the GC resumes with the command, **Eminent Commander, (H)(H) take charge of your Commandery.** (H)(H) The GC and grand officers vacate their stations if any have been assumed and the Commandery officers resume theirs.*

50-Year Award Presentation Ceremony

Every Knight Templar who has been in regular standing for fifty years in a subordinate Commandery is entitled to be presented with a Grand Commandery Fifty Year Award, supplied by the Grand Recorder. The presentation ceremony may be conducted within a tyled Asylum or at a meeting open to the public. The award should be presented by the Grand Commander or by his appointed representative.

The officers and Sir Knights taking part should be selected for their proficiency in Templar tactics and at least one rehearsal should be held. A lectern should be placed in the center east of the lodge floor, just west of where the dais is. Two rows of chairs should be setup both facing inward, one on the north side of the lectern and one on the south side so that all are seated east to west and facing inward. Seated on the north row are the Grand Commander or his appointed representative, Generalissimo, and Prelate; in the south row are seated the Commander, Captain General, and Recorder. Seated in the southeast corner (normal chairs) is a detail of up to six Sir Knights with two vacant chairs to their right for future use of the Generalissimo and Captain General. Seated in the northeast corner (normal chairs) are the Junior Warden, honored Sir Knight, and Senior Warden.

The Wardens and the honored Sir Knight should enter first and be seated in their chairs. The officers on the dais, and those who will be seated in the two rows, enter in two files. They march directly to their seats, about face as one, and are seated at the signal of the Commander.

C *At the appointed time, arises and goes to the lectern where he offers a brief welcome to those present. He concludes with, We are assembled upon this occasion to pay tribute of respect and esteem to a distinguished Sir Knight of _____ Commandery No. __, Knights Templar. From time immemorial, Knights Templar have been taught proper reverence and veneration for age, particularly so when years of age stand united with years of service and when the recipient is both worthy and esteemed. From the experiences of the past, we of today receive most useful counsel and guidance. It is to our honored Fraters that we look for wisdom, that we may ever continue to build our Valiant and Magnanimous Order of Christian Knighthood.*

It is with great pride and pleasure that we of _____ Commandery No. __ now present our beloved Frater, Sir Knight _____ who, as a Knight Templar, for fifty years has been (title of office and/or awards, if any), a defender of the innocent, the helpless, and the Christian Religion. Sir Knight Captain General and Generalissimo (†)(H), form the lines for our honored Sir Knight. (†)(H)

CG **Sir Knights chosen for detail, attention. Fall, in.** *The detail arise from their seats and march in file to form two lines, facing inward, from the east to west and three paces from the base of the triangle. Bible is open to the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter five and surmounted with crossed swords. Eminent Commander (†)(H), the lines are formed. (†)(H)*

C **Sir Knights Senior and Junior Warden (†)(H), escort our honored Sir Knight to the head of the lines. (†)(H) SW & JW arise when addressed with the honored SK in the center. They march together abreast to the west, then wheel south, then quickly wheel east to be at the foot of the lines.**

CG *As the Wardens and honored SK approach the lines, the CG commands, Sir Knights, present, swords. After they have cleared the lines, he commands, Carry, swords. The honored SK is halted one pace west of the base of the Triangle and SW & JW one pace behind him (west).*

C **Sir Knight (name of honored Sir Knight), you will again kneel at the base of the Triangle.** *If the honored SK is unable to kneel, the words “kneel at” will be replaced with “approach.”*

The honored SK steps forward to the Triangle and the SW & JW assist him to kneel. If he is unable, they bring him to stand at the base of the Triangle. After which, they dress back one pace and draw swords.

C **Sir Knight, after fifty-years, you again find yourself kneeling** *(replace with ‘standing’ as necessary)* **at the base of the Triangle where you learned to “fear God and keep His Commandments.” Kneeling there you pledged yourself to be true to the vows of knighthood and our Order founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues.**

CG *When C finishes with “Christian virtues” CG orders the SKs at the Triangle in a soft voice.* **Carry, swords. Order, swords.**

C **Excellent Prelate** *(B)(H), lead our devotions. (B)(H)*

CG **Commandery, atten-tion. Guests will arise. Un-cover.**

P **Almighty, glorious, and blessed God. Vouchsafe Thine aid to this our beloved Frater who for fifty years has served this Christian Order. Grant, we beseech thee o Lord, to this venerable and faithful Sir Knight continued health, strength, and an abundance of Thy good and all wise providence. Take from him now the strain and stress and let his ordered life confess the beauty of Thy peace. This we ask in the name of Thy Son, the Great Captain of our Salvation who taught us to pray: Our Father** *Everyone else joins in,* **who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven/ Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

C *As the P concludes, the C faces about and returns to the lectern.* **Commandery and guests, be, seated.**

CG **Re-cover. Carry, swords. Right and left, face. Forward, march.** *SKs at the Triangle march to fill the space between the lectern and the apex of the Triangle. Halt. When the head of the lines are two paces west of the lectern. Inward, face.*

C *If the honored SK is kneeling.* **Sir Knight, arise. Sir Knights Senior and Junior Warden, conduct our honored Sir Knight to the head of the lines.**

CG *SW & JW march with the honored SK from the base of the Triangle to the foot of the lines where the CG commands. NB: if the honored SK is a REPGC, then "Form Arch of Steel. Cross, swords" will be used instead of "present, swords." Present, swords. When the SW & JW with the honored SK clear the lines he commands, Carry, swords. Return, swords. About, face. Sir Knights you are dismissed. The SW & JW also return their swords and are dismissed on those commands, although they do not "about, face." At the same time, the G returns his sword and steps to the left of the honored SK when the area is cleared.*

C Sir Knights, ladies, gentlemen, and friends: it is now my happy privilege and distinct honor to present Sir Knight _____, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia *or if his representative is present instead say, "Sir Knight _____, representative of the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia."*, who for and on behalf of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia will present the Fifty-Year Grand Commandery Award of Gold to our beloved Frater. *C leaves lectern to return to his seat with the GC taking his place.*

GC Eminent Commander, distinguished and honored Frater, Sir Knights, ladies, gentlemen, and all friends of Sir Knight (first name). We have heard read the Masonic record of our faithful Frater whom we are honoring now. For half a century, Sir Knight (first name) you have given of your time and substance that this Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple might prosper. Therefore, Sir Knight (first name), in recognition of your record as a Knight Templar for fifty years, the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia has seen fit to prepare and bestow upon you a gold emblem as a fitting reward for your fifty years of Templar service.

C *C arises.* Commandery, attention.

GC Sir Knight (first name), by virtue of the authority in me vested, it is now my happy privilege for and on behalf of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia to present you with this Grand Commandery Award of Gold as a visible token of its fraternal love and grateful appreciation. May you wear this emblem in "health, happiness, and prosperity" always with equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the Grand Commandery, your Commandery, and all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed. *GC hands the honored SK the Award of Gold.* I present you also with this engrossed certificate and corresponding identification card. Sir Knight Generalissimo (H)(H), conduct our honored Sir Knight to a seat on my left. (H)(H) Commandery, be, seated.

The ceremony may be continued by a response from the honored SK, by a special message from a qualified speaker, special music, or a program as desired.

Templar Board

The Templar Board is an ideal setting to honor Sir Knights for their service to the Commandery, to have a festive board, to promote a Templar charity, or have a distinguished speaker. Swords should not be worn as they interfere with sitting as a group at the table so should be removed before this activity, if proceeded by another Templar event.

Note that the tables are arranged to form a triangle. Additional tables may be added around the periphery for additional Sir Knights. The Triangle or a small table covered with a black cloth may be used in the center as an altar. The Bible should be opened thereon to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 28 with the Cross on the right and the Square and Compass on the left. Three tall tapers surround the Bible as in a lodge. Each represents one of the Knight Templar Orders. Four additional candles per table for a total of twelve are to be placed on the tables near the altar.

The Prelate's lectern should be at the peak of the triangularly arranged tables. The Grand Standard and Beauceant may be displayed but they are not required. The former goes behind the lectern and the latter to the left. If the meeting is open to the public, the Grand Standard should not be displayed.

Opening

C Sir Knights, attention. I am about to convene a Conclave of _____ Commandery Number __ at the Templar Board. Sir Knight Sentinel (H)(H), you will attend to the stated duties of your office. (H)(H) *ST closes door and remains inside the Asylum.* Excellent Prelate (B)(H), please off up an invocation to Deity that what we do and of what we partake here this day may be done in His name; remembering those absent from us because of illness and also our departed Fraters. (B)(H)

P *P offers suitable prayer of his own creation or the following, with all concluding "Amen."* Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

C Sir Knights, be seated and enjoy the fellowship of the festive Templar Board until again called to order.

Meal Follows. During the meal, the G may announce wine takings at the pleasure of the C. It is recommended, if they are to be done, that wine be taken with the following guests at minimum and if in attendance: 1) Department Commander; 2) Past Grand Commanders; 3) Grand Commander; 4) visiting Cs; 5) his officers. At the conclusion of the meal and when it is appropriate, the C will resume the ceremony with the following.

C Sir Knights, I call on you again to give attention to the East. I declare that _____ Commandery Number __ is opened in due form at the Templar Board, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this Magnanimous Order. Sir Knight Sentinel (H)(H), be mindful of your duties. (H)(H)

C Sir Knight Generalissimo (H)(H), I call upon you to exercise your duties as Sir Knight Hospitaller. (H)(H)

G The basket of Templar Charity has tonight been designated to _____. Let us attend to Sir Knight _____ as he reviews with us the needs and purposes of this philanthropy. *SK chosen or G will give a very brief resume of the chosen philanthropy, unless it is well known in which case this step may be omitted.* Sir Knights Standard Bearer and Sword Bearer (H)(H), you will serve as the Sir Knights Almoner this evening. (H)(H) Remember, Sir Knights, the words of our Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, who said that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

The StB and SwB will pass the baskets from their positions so that the baskets will arrive at the apex of the tables where they will receive them and hand them to the P at that time at the lectern. A hymn might be sung at this point if there is a musician available and planned for. The P will elevate the baskets and say the following.

P All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. *P hands baskets to JW who gives them to the R as he passes him on the way to his station.*

At this point and before the toasts begin would be the appropriate place for a speaker if one is chosen for the evening. The C may also make brief welcoming remarks before transitioning to the toasts.

Traditional Toasts

C Sir Knight Captain General (H)(H), instruct the Knights in the manner of giving the Toasts. (H)(H)

CG Sir Knights, to make ready, hold the glass at shoulder height, the arm extended. After the Toast is repeated, take a sip from the glass, then raise the glass to the level of the forehead; move it to the right breast; then to the left breast, then to the center of the breast thus forming the sign of the Cross. Bring the glass to rest on the table.

C Sir Knight Captain General (H)(H), you will make ready the Toasts. (H)(H)

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

G Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to our Country and our President. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C.*

C Sir Knights, be seated. *A portion of business may be transacted here if the public is not present and during the Toasts. However, such business should be kept to a minimum. It is generally recommended that slightly*

breaking up the Toasts by dispersing the businesses between them all makes it feel less like a gauntlet. Alternatively, a song or suitable hymn may be sung.

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

SW Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia and the Craft. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C.*

C Sir Knights, be seated. *At this toast a response is appropriate if the GM, his representative, or his aide is present. No additional toast given for the reply. The responder sits and the CG continues.*

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

JW Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to the Sovereign Great Priories of Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, Belgium, Australia, and the Jurisdiction of the United States of America. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C (it's acceptable for the C to lead with "to the several Sovereign Great Priories!").*

C Sir Knights, be seated. *A song usually follows unless a representative of one of those Great Priories is in attendance. "Jerusalem" is particularly appropriate to sing.*

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

StB Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Sir Knight _____. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C.*

C Sir Knights, be seated. *A response may be made by the Department Commander or the GM's personal representative if he is in attendance. No additional toast given for the reply. The responder sits and the CG continues.*

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

SwB Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to our guests. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C.*

C Sir Knights, be seated. *A response may be made by an invited guest at the C's discretion.*

CG Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.

W Eminent Commander, I propose a Toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia, Sir Knight _____. *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C.*

C *If the GC is in attendance, the C uses the following line. Otherwise, he seats the Knights as normal and if a response from the GC's representative is desired, the C invites it.* **Right Eminent Grand Commander, I tender to you command of this Commandery and invite you to make any remarks you care to offer now. GC seats the SKs, makes his remarks, returns command to the C, and is seated. C seats the commandery then if needed and is himself seated.**

CG **Sir Knights, atten-tion! Raise your glasses.**

ST **Eminent Commander, I propose our final Toast to all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed over the face of the earth.** *SKs repeat Toast and partake taking their cue from the C. A song should follow.*

Closing

C **Sir Knights, we have enjoyed the festive Templar Board, we have reviewed our patriotic duty; we have offered the age-old Toasts; we have received instruction; our evening's fellowship and work is nearly done. It remains only for us to observe proper form in closing the Conclave. Sir Knights, atten-tion. Excellent Prelate (B)(H), dismiss us with a prayer. (B)(H)**

P **Now, as we leave this place to resume our labors in the world of men, may ✠ the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.** *The P, if a priest, may bless the people: And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.*

C **This Conclave of _____ Commandery Number __ is now closed. Sir Knight Sentinel (H)(H), your work is complete. (H)(H) Sir Knights, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

All **Thanks be to God.**

Vespers of the Dead

*The following is offered as a suggested form of ceremony suitable either at a funeral home, graveside, or in an Asylum (public or private) for either the occasion of death or to mark a year's mind. The Prelate leads the service and the people reply with the **bolded** verse.*

P Come to their aid, ye Saints of God, come to meet them, ye Angels of the Lord: * Receiving their souls: † Offering them in the sight of the Most High. **V̄**. May Christ receive thee who hath called thee: and may the Angels lead thee unto Abraham's bosom. * Receiving their souls: † Offering them in the sight of the Most High. **V̄**. Rest Eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. † Offering it in the sight of the Most High.

*The Prelate reads the Antiphons and the first verse of each Psalm and of the Magnificat. The People read the alternate verses. All sit at the mark * (denoting a pause) in the first verse of the first Psalm.*

Ant. I will walk * before the Lord in the land of the living.

PSALM 116. *Dilexi, quoniam*

P I AM well pleased, *
that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer;

All **That he hath inclined his ear unto me; *
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.**

P The snares of death compassed me round about, *
and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

All **I shall find trouble and heaviness, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord; *
O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.**

P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; *
yea, our God is merciful.

All **The Lord preserveth the simple: *
I was in misery, and he helped me.**

P Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul; *
for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

All **And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, *
mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.**

P I will walk before the Lord *
in the land of the living.

Ÿ. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

Ṛ. **And let light perpetual * shine upon them.**

Ant. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Ant. Woe is me, * that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech.

PSALM 120. *Ad Dominum*

P When I was in trouble I called upon the Lord, *
and he heard me.

All **Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, *
and from a deceitful tongue.**

P What reward shall be given or done unto thee, thou false tongue? *
even mighty and sharp arrows, with hot burning coals.

All **Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech, *
and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar.**

P My soul hath long dwelt among them *
that are enemies unto peace.

All **I labour for peace, but when I speak unto them thereof, *
they make them ready to battle.**

Ÿ. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

Ṛ. **And let light perpetual * shine upon them.**

Ant. Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech.

Ant. The Lord * shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

PSALM 121. *Levavi oculos*

P I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; *
from whence cometh my help.

All **My help cometh even from the Lord, *
who hath made heaven and earth.**

P He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; *
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

All **Behold, he that keepeth Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

P The Lord himself is thy keeper; *
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

All **So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, *
neither the moon by night.**

P The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; *
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

All **The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.**

V̇. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

Ṙ. **And let light perpetual * shine upon them.**

Ant. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

Ant. If thou, Lord, * wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss; O Lord, who may abide it?

PSALM 130. *De profundis*

P Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; *
Lord, hear my voice.

All **O let thine ears consider well *
the voice of my complaint.**

P If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who may abide it?

All **For there is mercy with thee; *
therefore shalt thou be feared.**

P I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; *
in his word is my trust.

All **My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; *
I say, before the morning watch.**

P O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, *
and with him is plenteous redemption.

All **And he shall redeem Israel *
from all his sins.**

V. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

R. **And let light perpetual * shine upon them.**

Ant. If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss; O Lord, who may abide it?

Ant. Despise not, * O Lord, the works of thine own hands.

PSALM 138. *Confitebor tibi*

P I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

All **I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-
kindness and truth; *
for thou hast magnified thy Name, and thy Word, above all things.**

P When I called upon thee, thou heardest me; *
and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All **All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord; *
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.**

P Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

All **For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly; *
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.**

P Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me; *
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies; and thy right hand
shall save me.

All **The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me; *
yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own
hands.**

V. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.

R. **And let light perpetual * shine upon them.**

Ant. Despise not, O Lord, the works of thine own hands.

All stand for the Versicle.

V. I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me.

R. **Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.**

Ant. on Mag. All * that the Father hath given unto me shall come unto me, and him that cometh
unto me I will in no wise cast out.

MAGNIFICAT – St. Luke I:XLVI-LV

P **✠** My soul doth magnify the Lord,
All **and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.**
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him

throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

℣. Rest eternal * grant unto them, O Lord.
℞. And let light perpetual * shine upon them.

Ant. All that the Father hath given unto me shall come unto me, and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.

All kneel or bow for the following Preces.

P Our Father. *Which words are said aloud, and the rest secretly until*
℣. And lead us not into temptation. **℞.** But deliver us from evil.
℣. From the gate of hell. **℞.** Deliver their souls, O Lord.
℣. May they rest in peace. **℞.** Amen.
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer. **℞.** And let my cry come unto thee.
℣. The Lord be with you. **℞.** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

P O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions for the soul of thy servants, which thou hast commanded to depart from this world: deliver them not into the hands of the enemy, neither forget them at the last, but command them to be received by thy holy Angels, and brought unto the country of paradise; that forasmuch as they hoped and believed in thee, they may not undergo the pains of hell, but may be made partakers of everlasting felicity. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord: who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost God, throughout all ages, world without end. **℞.** Amen.

℣. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. **℞.** And let light perpetual shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace. **℞.** Amen.

Christmas Libation Service

The following is offered as a suggested form of ceremony. The asylum is set up with long tables forming a triangle with a lectern at the apex in the East and chairs along the outside of the triangle. An altar is in the center of the triangle holding a Bible open to the Gospel according to St. Matthew and a sword. The readings are based on Proper I but can be changed to Proper II or III. The guests may be seated in the asylum at their tables by the appointed hour. If hymns are used, designated Knights assemble in the preparation room. When the processional music starts, the knights enter the asylum in single file when the singing commences. The audience also stands and all may sing. The knights process to their assigned seats. If hymns are omitted, they begin in their assigned seats.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

ANGELUS

P ✠The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

All **and she conceived by the Holy Ghost**

P Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee
 Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

All **Holy Mary, mother of God**
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

P Behold the handmaid of the Lord

All **Be it unto me according to Thy word.**

P Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

All **Holy Mary, mother of God**
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

P *All bow.* And the Word was made Flesh

All **And dwelt among us.** *All rise.*

P Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

All **Holy Mary, mother of God**
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

P Pray for us,
O Holy Mother of God

All **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

P Let us pray:
We beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts that as we have known the Incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross ✠ and Passion we may be brought unto the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRECES

Ÿ O Lord, open thou our lips:

Ŕ **And out mouth shall show forth thy praise**

Ÿ ✠ O God make speed to save us:

Ŕ **O Lord, make haste to help us**

Ÿ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

Ŕ **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Ÿ Praise ye the Lord:

Ŕ **The Lord's name be praised.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P ✠ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (*Luke 2:10-11*) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be seated. *The People sit. Words of welcome are offered as needed. If none are desired, skip the invitation to be seated and continue with the Phos Hilaron.* And now, please rise.

INVOCATION

P Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

PHOS HILARON

P O gracious Light,
All **pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

PSALM 96. *Cantate Domino*

The Psalm is read responsively. The presider will read the first verse pausing at the asterisk. The people will respond with the following verse in the same style.

P O sing to the LORD a new song;*
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

All **Sing unto the LORD, and praise his name;***
be telling of his salvation from day to day.

- P Declare his honour unto the heathen,*
and his wonders unto all peoples.
- All **For the LORD is great, and cannot worthily be praised;*
he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- P As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD that made the heavens.
- All **Glory and worship are before him; *
power and honour are in his sanctuary.**
- P Ascribe unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the peoples, *
ascribe unto the LORD worship and power.
- All **Ascribe unto the LORD the honour due unto his Name; *
bring presents, and come into his courts.**
- P O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- All **Tell it out among the heathen, that the LORD is King, and that it is he who hath
made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; *
and how that he shall judge the peoples righteously.**
- P Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; *
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
- All **Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; *
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD.**
- P For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; *
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.
- All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah IX:II-VII

1R *First reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the ninth chapter of the Book of Isaiah, beginning at the second verse.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with

confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Here endeth the lesson.

MAGNIFICAT – St. Luke I:XLVI-LV

All stand

P When the sun is risen, ye shall see the King of kings:
All **who proceedeth from the Father as a bridegroom out of his chamber.**

P ✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord,
All **and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.**
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON – Titus II:XI-XIV

All sit

2R *Second reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the second chapter of the Letter of St. Paul to Titus, beginning at the eleventh verse.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Here endeth the lesson.

NUNC DIMITTIS – St. Luke II: XXIX-XXXII

All stand.

P ✠ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
All **according to thy word;**
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. *All seated.*

THIRD LESSON – St. Luke II:I-XX

All sit

3R *Third reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the first verse.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For

unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All stand

P *P returns to lectern.* I believe in God

All **the Father almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, ✠

and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

CG Sir Knights, un-COVER.

P The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Our Father,
All **who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

Ÿ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R **And grant us thy salvation**
Ÿ O Lord, save the State;
R **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**
Ÿ Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
Ÿ O Lord, save thy people;
R **And bless thine inheritance.**
Ÿ Give peace in our time, O Lord;
R **Because there is none other that fighteth for us but only thou, O God.**
Ÿ O God, make clean our hearts within us;
R **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

COLLECTS

C Sir Knights, on this joyous day we commemorate the Birth of Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose Banner all of us have enlisted.

There was born in Bethlehem of Judea, one who laid aside the god-head, and assumed mortal flesh; one whose glory, worth and grace no language can express; one who was born that our lives might be purified, and who died that our souls might be redeemed from the penalty of sin.

Let us, as true Soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue that struggle let us now accompany our Excellent Prelate to the throne of the heavenly grace. Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions.

P O God, who makest us glad by the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold

him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

P Father in heaven, command your blessings to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed; bestow upon them a spirit of truth, justice, courage, constancy, faith and humility, and make of them valiant defenders of your holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake.

All **Amen.**

P O Lord, command thy benediction to rest upon our Grand Master. Help him to rule over us in love, and with an eye single to thy glory. Save him from error, prejudice, and pride and while giving him firmness of purpose to do right, help him to know the right, for Christ's sake.

All **Amen.**

P Father, let thy choicest blessings be with the President of the United States, the Congress and Supreme Court, our Mayor and Council, and all that are in positions of authority. Endue them with wisdom on high, and may it be their chiefest joy to labor for thy glory, and for the good of the people for whom they legislate, and over whom they rule. We ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

All **Amen.**

CG Sir Knights, re-cover.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

P Almighty God,

All **Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of his life, but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

Hymn: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
All stand

Helmsley

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee,
high on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory;
claim the kingdom for Thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly,
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

THE LIBATIONS

In the following libations will be both necessary and appropriate to flesh out the toasts with the name of the brother being honored as well as give them the chance to respond, if they or their designated representative is present. This is a sketch of the minimum upon which you should hang your ornamentation appropriately.

C Sir Knights and guests, be seated. Let the libations be poured into the goblets on the Triangle and the Pedestal and let every Knight and guest be furnished with a cup. *When all the goblets are charged, the C continues:* Commandery, attention! Guests, please rise. Sir Knight *(first designated SK)*, read the sentiment.

1SK *Insert the text from the current year's toast to the GM.* To our Most Eminent Grand Master!

All **To our Most Eminent Grand Master!**

1SK Partake! *All drink.*

C Sir Knight *(second designated SK)*, read the Grand Master's response.

2SK *Insert the text from the current year's response from the GM. No toast is made to the response. NB: if available, the response should be given by the highest ranking member of the GE or more preferably still, by a designated representative of the GM.*

C Sir Knight (*third designated SK*), read the Toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

3SK *Insert the text from the current year's toast to the GC.* To the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the District of Columbia, Sir Knight _____!

All **To the Right Eminent Grand Commander!**

3SK Partake! *All drink.*

C *If the Grand Commander is present use the following. If not, have a designated (fourth) SK read a response following the earlier format.* Sir Knights, attention. Guests, please rise. For his response, I have the honor of presenting to you Sir Knight _____, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia. Please join me in welcoming our Grand Commander. *The Commander proffers the chair to the Grand Commander, who makes his response to the toast and then is seated.*

4SK To the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia!

All **To the Grand Master of Masons!**

4SK Partake.

5SK To the Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch of the District of Columbia!

All **To the Grand High Priest!**

5SK Partake.

6SK To all Knights Templar, wheresoever dispersed!

All **To all Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed!**

6SK Partake.

7SK To all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of Liberty and Christianity.

All **To all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of Liberty and Christianity.** *No drinking.*

7SK Let us bow our heads in silence, in their honor. *Pause* Amen. Let us recall the hallowed memories of the Fraters of our own commanderies who have gone to rest in the arms of the Lord in this past year, especially *insert names of any fallen Fraters.* We hold their memories dear to our hearts, and we toast their memory. To the memory of our departed Knights.

All **To the memory of our departed Knights.**

7SK Partake.

HYMN: What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring his incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him,
The king of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

C Now let us receive the benediction of our Excellent Prelate.

P *May offer a prayer of his own creation, and then offers the dismissal:* May the Lord bless thee and keep thee; May the Lord cause his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. ✠ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *The P, if a priest, may bless the people: And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.*

Ascension Day Service

The following is offered as a suggested form of ceremony. The asylum is set up with long tables forming a triangle with a lectern at the apex in the East and chairs along the outside of the triangle. An altar is in the center of the triangle holding a Bible open to the Gospel according to St. Matthew and a sword. The readings are based on Proper I but can be changed to Proper II or III. The guests may be seated in the asylum at their tables by the appointed hour. Designated Knights assemble in the preparation room. The Regina Cæli may be sung as the processional music. If used, when the processional music starts, the knights enter the asylum in single file when the singing commences. The audience also stands and all may sing. The knights process to their assigned seats. If no music, they retain their normal office.

REGINA CÆLI

P ✠ Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven,

All **Alleluia:**

P He whom thou wast meet to bear,

All **Alleluia:**

P As he promised hath arisen,

All **Alleluia:**

P Pour for us to God thy prayer,

All **Alleluia.**

P Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia

All **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia**

P Let us pray:

O God, who by the Resurrection of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ hast vouchsafed to give joy unto the whole world: grant, we beseech thee, that through the intercession of his Mother the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

P May the divine assistance remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

PRECES

Ÿ O Lord, open thou our lips:
R **And out mouth shall show forth thy praise**
Ÿ ✠ O God make speed to save us:
R **O Lord, make haste to help us**
Ÿ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
R **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**
Ÿ Praise ye the Lord:
R **The Lord's name be praised.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2:9-11*)

Please be seated. *The People sit. Words of welcome are offered as needed. If none are desired, skip the invitation to be seated and continue with the Phos Hilaron.* And now, please rise.

PHOS HILARON

P ✠ O gracious Light,
All **pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

**Alleluia. Christ the Lord ascendeth into heaven: O come,
let us adore him. Alleluia.**

PSALM 47. *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

The Psalm is read responsively. The presider will read the first verse pausing at the asterisk. The people will respond with the following verse in the same style. People are seated at the half point of the first verse.

P Clap your hands together, all ye peoples: *
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

- All **For the Lord is high, and to be feared; *
he is the great King upon all the earth.**
- P He shall subdue the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- All **He shall choose out an heritage for us, *
even the excellency of Jacob, whom he loved.**
- P God is gone up with a merry noise, *
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
- All **O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; *
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.**
- P For God is the King of all the earth: *
sing ye praises with understanding.
- All **God reigneth over the nations; *
God sitteth upon his holy seat.**
- P The princes of the peoples⁴ are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham; *
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.
- All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: ACTS I:I–XI

1R *First reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, beginning at the first verse.

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same

Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Here endeth the Lesson.

MAGNIFICAT – St. Luke I:XLVI-LV

All stand

P Father, I have manifested thy Name
All **Unto the men whom thou hast given me:
and now I pray for them, not for the world,
because I come to thee, alleluia.**

P ✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord,
All **and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.**

P Father, I have manifested thy Name
All **Unto the men whom thou hast given me:
and now I pray for them, not for the world,
because I come to thee, alleluia.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. *All seated.*

SECOND LESSON – Ephesians I:XV-XXIII

2R *Second reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the first chapter of the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, beginning at the fifteenth verse.

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Here endeth the lesson.

NUNC DIMITTIS – St. Luke II: XXIX-XXXII

All stand.

P ✠ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
All **according to thy word;**
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.** *All seated.*

THIRD LESSON – St. Luke XXIV: XLIV-LIII

3R *Third reader goes to the lectern.* A Lesson from the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the forty-fourth verse.

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped

him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All stand

P *P returns to podium.* I believe in God

All **the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, ✠
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

CG Sir Knights, un-COVER.

P The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Our Father,

All **who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

Ÿ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R **And grant us thy salvation**
Ÿ O Lord, save the State;
R **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**
Ÿ Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
Ÿ O Lord, save thy people;
R **And bless thine inheritance.**
Ÿ Give peace in our time, O Lord;
R **Because there is none other that fighteth for us but only thou, O God.**
Ÿ O God, make clean our hearts within us;
R **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

COLLECTS

P Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so may we also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with Him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.
All **Amen.**

P O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

P We remember, O Lord, and we beseech Thee to remember, all the members of this Order, and all their faithful Brethren and Companions wheresoever dispersed throughout the world. Bless them in their lying down and in their rising up, in their going out and in their coming in. Fill Thou their basket and their store. Go with them in their journeyings. Abide with all whom they may leave behind, so that, in joy returning, they may find their own in peace, remaining, with a grateful sense of Thy mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.**

P We remember, O Lord, and we beseech Thee to remember, all the lawfully constituted bodies of the Order of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and all our Commanderies, grand and constituent. Bless them with peace, prosperity, and piety and direct them in all their doings with Thy most gracious favor, that in all their works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, they may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
All **We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.**

P We remember, O Lord, and we beseech thee to remember all the officers of our Order, and especially the Most Eminent Grand Master and officers of the Grand Encampment of the United States, the Right Eminent Grand Commander and other officers of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, and the Eminent Commander and officers and members of this Commandery here assembled in Thy name and presence. May the words of their mouths, and the meditations of their hearts, and the actions of their lives, be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

All **We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.**

A hymn may be offered here as desired.

CG Sir Knights, re-cover.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

P Almighty God,

All **Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

P Almighty God,

All **who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.**

THE GRACE

P **✠** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

All **Amen.**

Installation of Officers

The incumbent Commander (C) and Installing Commander (IC) go to the East. The incumbent Commander calls the group to order and offers brief words of welcome.

C Sir Knights, I now declare _____ Commandery No. __, called to order for the purposes of installation. *If a distinguished guest is performing the installation, the following section is offered as a brief reception for his office prior to the installation. If no reception is needed, tender command to the Installing Commander and skip to the line, "Let the officers you have chosen..." and proceed from there.*

C Sir Knight Captain General, (H)(H) you will form the lines for the reception of the (title). (H)(H)

CG *Draws sword and commands* Sir Knight Senior Warden (H)(†), form the lines for the reception of the (title). (H)(†)

SW *Draws sword and with sword in 'Carry Swords' position to a point four paces in front of the CG's station, faces W and then commands* Sir Knights chosen for detail, draw, swords. Form the lines for the reception of the (title). Into line, march. *At the command "march," officers chosen for detail form double lines facing inward with the JW at the NW point of the line, facing south. SW verifies that lines are straight. Present, swords. Sir Knight Captain General, (†)(H) the lines are formed. (†)(H) SW does a "Right Face," and moves to position at left end of line (south-west), executes "About Face," facing N and comes to "Present Swords."*

CG Carry, swords. Eminent Commander, (H)(H) the lines are formed. (H)(H) CG draws sword and goes to position at the right end of line (SE). The Generalissimo also draws his sword and goes to his position on the right end of line opposite the CG (NE).

C (Suitable officer) (H)(H) Example: "Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders" to escort the Grand Master. Otherwise, the C should send the G to escort the presiding officer into the Asylum, retire to the Grand Master's apartment and escort him into the Asylum. (H)(H)

The officer(s) chosen to escort retire(s).

Escort (Title of Knight being received), (H)(H) the Asylum is in suitable array for your reception.

Guest (Title of Knight-Escort), escort us into the Asylum. (H)(H)

KT-Escort does an "about face" and marches into the asylum followed by the KT being received.

W *When he observes the SW and MEGM approaching, he immediately faces the REGC, and without salute, announces in a clear, distinct voice. The (title of KT being received) approaches. W comes to "Present Swords."*

C Commandery, atten-tion.

The received guest follows the escort single file. The escort executes a "Column Left" in front of the StG

stations. Escort then executes a "Column Right" in front to the StB Station. Immediately after the received guest has entered the Asylum, the W executes "Carry Swords," returns to his station, and executes "Present Swords" on the command to form arch of steel. Guest, after executing "Column Left" in front of the StG stations, executes a "Column Right" in front to the StB station. The guest then uncovers as he nears the base of the lines and proceeds through the lines.

SW Form Arch of Steel. Cross, swords. *After the guest has cleared the lines he commands Carry, swords.*

Escort **Eminent Commander (H)(H), I have the honor to introduce to you Sir Knight _____, (title of received guest). (H)(H)**

C descends from his station and greets the guest, then escorts him to the Commander's Station.

C Sir Knights and guests, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Sir Knight _____, (title of received guest).

SW Immediately after introduction Present, swords. *Immediately after "present, swords" he orders, Carry, swords.*

The C offers words of welcome to the guest and tenders the chair to him. The guest may make such remarks as he desires. At his pleasure, the guest may say "Sir Knights, return swords. Sir Knights not to be installed and guests, be seated."

IC The IC invites the officers to be installed to retire. The Marshal also retires. Let the Officers you have chosen, and desire to have installed now enter. Commandery and guests, attention.

The M escorts the officers chosen into the Asylum. The officers enter with swords at carry. Chairs may be provided for the officers to be installed, placed in a line running North to South and facing East.

M Officers chosen, right, face. Present, swords. (Title of IC), (†)(H), I present to you for installation the duly chosen officers of this Commandery. (†)(H)

IC Officers chosen, carry, swords. Order, swords. Sir Knights, before engaging in this important ceremony, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. Sir Knights, uncover. Sir Knight Prelate (B)(H), lead our devotions.

(B)(H) The Prelate offers a prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer, in which all join. All respond, "Amen."

IC Sir Knights, re-cover. Officers chosen, carry, swords. Return, swords. Sir Knights not being installed, be, seated. Sir Knight Marshal, present the Eminent Commander-Elect for installation.

The M conducts the Commander-Elect to the altar.

M (Title of IC) (†)(H), I have the honor to present Sir Knight (full name), who has been elected to the office of Commander in this Commandery. I find him well-skilled in our

sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name only), are you ready to subscribe to the Vow of Office? *The Commander-Elect says, "I am." The IC extends his sword horizontally towards the Commander-Elect, who will grasp the end with his left hand, and place his right hand on his left breast.* Commandery and guests, attention. Sir Knights, draw, swords. Present, swords. You will say "I," pronounce your name, and repeat after me:

Do promise and vow | that I will support and maintain | the Constitution, | Statutes, | Rules | Regulations and Rituals | of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, | the Constitution, | Laws, | Rules and Regulations | of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, | under whose immediate authority | I act, | and the By-Laws of the Commandery, | and that I will | to the best of my knowledge and ability | faithfully discharge the various duties | incumbent upon the office | to which I have been elected.

The IC withdraws his sword and the C drops his hands.

IC Sir Knights, carry, swords. Return, swords. Be, seated. Eminent Sir, having been elected to the honorable and important station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with unfeigned pleasure that I enter upon the duty of installing you in that exalted office. As head of a Christian institution you are charged with important duties and responsibilities. It is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon your Commandery. It now becomes my duty to propound to you certain questions to which your unequivocal answers are required:

I. Do you solemnly promise, upon your honor as a Knight Templar, that you will endeavor to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this magnanimous Order?

II. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order?

III. That you will not confer the Orders upon any one who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition nor upon anyone who has not attained a reasonable proficiency in Masonry?

IV. That you will seriously endeavor to promote the general good of the Order and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instruction, particularly from the Grand Officers?

V. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies and behave in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your brethren?

VI. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Commandery that does not work under a constitutional Dispensation or Charter?

VII. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery unless he has been knighted in a lawful Commandery?

VIII. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the General and Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign your station to them when any visit your Commandery?

IX. That you will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act?

X. That you will bind your successor in office to the observance of these rules?

Do you confirm all these promises and do you agree to observe them faithfully? *C Assents.*

Eminent Commander, having been chosen by the Knights of your Commandery to fill the most exalted station in their power to bestow, I congratulate you upon being the recipient of such honorable preferment, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Passion Cross surmounted by rays of light. The rays of light are symbols that suggest to you the humility, love, and pure benevolence that emanate like rays from the religion of the Blessed Emmanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order. *The M assists in presenting the following items.*

I present you the Charter of your Commandery. Receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purposes than those expressed in it. It is your duty to safely transmit it to your successor.

I also commit to your keeping the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masons of every degree. It confirms our belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only living and true God, the Creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible remind us that we should be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might,” that we should put on the whole armor of God, to be able to wrestle successfully with principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

I also present to you the “Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America,” the “Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia,” and the bylaws of your Commandery. You should familiarize yourself with them that you may rule your Commandery with justice and moderation.

And now, Eminent Sir, I induct you into the Chair of your Commandery. *Done* I offer you my sincere congratulation on your accession to this honorable station. It will be your special duty to preserve inviolate the laws of the Order, to dispense justice, reward merit, and expound the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation and

finally, my frater, may the illustrious lives of the heroes of past ages whose matchless valor has shed undying luster over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty.

Commandery attention. Draw, swords. Present, swords.

Sir Knights, behold your Commander. Bear ever in mind that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support and obedience as on the assiduity, fidelity, and wisdom of your Commander. Be ye, therefore, diligent and faithful in the performance of your respective duties. Sir Knights, carry, swords. Return, swords. Be, seated.

Sir Knight Marshal (†)(H), prepare the officers chosen, in order of rank, for installation. (†)(H)

M Officers chosen, prepare for taking the vow. Count, twos. *Done* Numbers one, draw, swords. Point swords to, left. Numbers two, grasp blade with right, hand. Un-cover. (Title of IC) (†)(H), the officers chosen are in proper position. (†)(H)

IC Officers chosen, before proceeding to install you into your respective stations it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourselves that vow? *They assent.* You will say “I,” pronounce your names, and repeat after me:

Do promise and vow | that I will support and maintain | the Constitution, | Statutes, | Rules | Regulations and Rituals | of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, | the Constitution, | Laws, | Rules and Regulations | of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, | and the By-Laws of the Commandery, | and that I will | faithfully discharge the duties | of the office in which | I am about to be installed | to the best of my ability.

M Officers chosen, re-cover. Numbers two, relinquish sword, blade. Numbers one, carry, swords. Return, swords. Be, seated.

IC Sir Knight Marshal (†)(H), present the Generalissimo. (†)(H)

M *The M presents the Generalissimo in front of the IC.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name) who has been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The Square is to remind you that friendship and love should forever govern Freemasons and particularly Knights Templar. Your station is on the right of your Commander. You are to assist him in the discharge of his various duties and in his absence to preside. I charge you, therefore, to familiarize yourself with the duties of your office that you may adequately discharge them. Be faithful to the Knights with whom you are associated, put them often in remembrance to those things which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke,

exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine,” ever remembering the promise, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

M *The M conducts the G to his station, then presents the CG.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name) who has been elected Captain General of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been elected Captain General of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Level surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock stimulate him to conquer his energy and fight to the last extremity so should you be stimulated in the discharge of every duty. Your station is on the left of the Commander. Your duty among other things is to see that due preparation is made for the various Conclaves of the Commandery and that the Asylum is prepared for the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines all orders issues by the Commander. You are to assist in council and, in the absence of the Commander and Generalissimo, to preside over the Commandery. I exhort you that with fidelity you perform every duty; and “Whatsoever ye do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men; continue in prayer,” ever bearing in mind the promise, “Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season, ye shall reap if ye faint not.”

M *The M conducts the CG to his station, then presents the SW.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name) who has been selected Senior Warden of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a mailed arm and hand grasping the Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the children of Israel march in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle and upon the right of the first division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”

M *The M conducts the SW to his station, then presents the JW.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name) who has been selected Junior Warden of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is an Eagle with wings spread holding in its talons a Flaming Sword. It suggests to you the performance of your duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle and on the left of the third division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrim traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and in due time recommend them to the Commander. Impress upon them the

motto of our Order: “Magna est Veritas et Prevalebit,” and that although the path of life may be thorny, crooked, adverse, and forlorn, yet by faith and fidelity, courage and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to carry on the high labors begun here below. Finally, “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

M *The M conducts the JW to his station, then presents the P.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been selected Prelate of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Prelate of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triple Triangle with a red Passion Cross in the center of each triangle. It is also an emblem of Deity. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the altar and offer up prayers to Deity. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you. May “He, who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from falling into error, improve and strengthen, establish, and perfect you” and finally greet you with “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

M *The M conducts the P to his stations, then presents the T.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been elected Treasurer of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been elected Treasurer of this Commander. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Keys. Your station is in front and on the right of the Generalissimo. The qualities which recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity – accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements – fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands and rendering a just account of the same whenever called upon for that purpose. I am sure that your attachment to the Commandery and your earnest solicitude for a good name which is better than riches will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

M *The M Conducts the T to his station, then presents the R.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been elected Recorder of this Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been elected Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Quill Pens. Your station is on the left of the Captain General. The essential qualities of a Recorder are promptitude in issuing notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the conclaves of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Treasurer. The possession of these qualities, I presume, has led to your selection for this important office. I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with benefit to the Commandery and honor to yourself.

M *The M conducts the R to his station, then presents the StB.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been selected Standard Bearer of his Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Standard Bearer of your Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order. Your station is in the West and in the center of the second division. Your duty is to display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order, which I now confide to your keeping. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger. When unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will defend it as long as life endures.

M *The M conducts the StB to his stations, then presents the SwB.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been selected Sword Bearer of his Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (full name), you have been appointed Sword Bearer of your Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triangle with Crossed Swords. Your station is on the right of the Standard Bearer and on the right of the second division. Your duty is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.

M *The M conducts the SwB to his station, then presents the W.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been selected Warder of his Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Warder of your Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet thereon. Your station is on the left of the Standard Bearer and upon the left of the second division. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, post the Sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and tireless in the discharge of your important duties.

M *The M conducts the W to his station, then presents the S.* (Title of IC) (†)(H), I present Sir Knight (full name), who has been selected Sentinel of his Commandery for installation. (†)(H)

IC Sir Knight (first name), you have been appointed Sentinel of your Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Sword thereon. I present you this sword, badge of your office. The Sword is place in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are qualified. It morally serves as a constant admonition to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, or deed. As applications of visitors for admission into the Commandery are generally made to the Sentinel, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers. It is therefore essential that he who holds this office should be a frater temperate, affable, and discreet, of good morals, steady habits, and strict discipline. I am sure that a due regard for the honor and reputation of this institution will ever impel you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you.

The M conducts the S to his station, returns to his own seat, and sits.

IC Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the concerns of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity, and skill which the institution demands, requires the exercise of all the talents and perseverance of its officers and members. Are any of you solicitous that your equals and inferiors should conduct themselves toward you with deference and respect? You will be sure to let no opportunity pass without furnishing them an example in your own conduct. The officers will recollect that those moral and religious duties and precepts which they, from time to time, so forcibly impress upon the minds of others, should by no means be neglected by themselves; and the most effectual way to insure success is to let precept and example go hand in hand.

I would therefore urge you to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South, and see that the entering avenues are strictly guarded, and that you suffer no one to pass the threshold of your Asylum but the worthy children of humility; and, at the same time, that you suffer no one to walk among you disorderly without admonition or reproof. While such is the conduct of the officers and members, you may rest assured that this valiant, magnanimous Order will forever flourish like the green bay tree.

And now, Sir Knights, I would address you in the language of David to his beloved city, "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee." *(Psalm 122:7-8)*

Marshal, proclaim the installation of the officers of this Commandery.

M Commandery, attention. Draw, swords. Present, swords.

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple! In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia and by order of the (title of IC), I proclaim that the officers of _____ Commandery No. __, Knights Templar, have been duly installed in their respective stations. This proclamation is made to the North; to the South; to the East; and to the West. Let all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly. Sir Knights, carry, swords. Return, swords. Be, seated.

The newly installed C makes his remarks, thanks, presentations, and recognitions then invites the IC to make any conclusory brief remarks. He may also invite anyone else appropriate to make brief comments, keeping in mind the usual speaking order and rules.

C And now, having concluded what we came here to do, we are about to dismiss this Commandery. Commandery and guests, attention. Sir Knights, uncover. Sir Knight Prelate *(B)(H)*, lead our devotions. *(B)(H)* The P offers a benediction. All respond, "Amen." Sir Knights, uncover. I now declare this installation closed. Commandery and guests, you are dismissed.

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross

Officers & Paraphernalia

Sovereign Master	SM
Prince Chancellor	PC
Prince Master of the Palace	PMP
Master of Cavalry	MC
Master of Infantry (also Companion Conductor)	MI/CC
Excellent High Priest	HP
Master of Finance	MF
Master of Dispatches	MD
Standard Bearer	StdB
Sword Bearer	SwB
Warder	W
Sentinel	S
Guards (three or more)	Gd

These officers should wear the ceremonial robes or in lieu thereof: Green Sash, belt and sword, cap with the Red Cross of the Order on the front of it. If a Commandery is unable to furnish such attire, then a business suit or tuxedo is to be worn. The Grand Council, the Companion Conductor, the Warder (while guarding the Grand Council), and the Jewish Guards, must not appear in the Red Cross uniform detailed above.

The SM, PC, and PMP are seated on the dais; the MI, MF, and W are seated in a line going east to west in line with the PC's chair in the order named; the MC, MD, and SwB are in a similar line going east to west in line with the PMP's chair; all six officers facing inward. The StdB is seated in the center west, facing East. The HP is seated in the west but only for his scene.

Paraphernalia

1. Robes and suitable head gear for the officers of the palace.
2. Robes for the High Priest and members of the Grand Council.
3. An Altar; Bible; swords; Square and Compasses; cushion; fetters; garb of slavery; robe and coronet for Zerubbabel; portable writing stand; decree and writing quill.
4. Commanderies shall also provide Jewish and Persian Banners, designed as follows:
 - a. Jewish Banner: The Banner of Judah has a white background with lion rampant thereon.
 - b. Persian Banner: white background with the blazing sun in the upper half and three crescents or half-moons in the lower half, all designs in gold.
5. A practical bridge which can be walked over.

Opening

SM Prince Master of the Palace, *PMP bows to SM* see that the Audience Chamber is in suitable array for my reception. Prince Chancellor and Excellent High Priest, *both bow to SM* accompany me to my apartment. *Leaves through the S's door.*

PMP Companion Warder, *W bows to PMP* sound the assembly. *PMP goes to his station in the east.*

W *Goes to the S's door. Companions assemble. Closes door and returns to his station.*

PMP Officers, take your stations. Companions, be seated. Companion Master of Cavalry, (B)(B) Companion Master of Infantry, (B)(B) are all present...? *MC examines those on the south; MI will report to the MC; both proceed to their stations; then the MC reports,*

MC Prince Master of the Palace, (B)(B) all present...*(both seated).*

PMP Companion Warder, (B)(B) post the Sentinel...

W *W goes to the door, informs the S, closes door, gives *** ** raps, S answers with same, W resumes station and reports, Prince Master of the Palace, (B)(B) the Sentinel...W is seated.*

PMP Companion Master of Cavalry, (B)(B) form the lines...

MC *Draws his sword. Officers, attention. Officers, draw, swords. Form the lines for the reception of the Sovereign Master, into lines, march. Officers take one step forward and stop without command.*

When the lines are formed the SM enters and proceed between the lines to his station.

W *When the SM enters, the W will announce, The Sovereign Master.*

MC *When the SM is at the foot of the line, the MC will announce, Officers present, swords.*

SM *When the SM has reached his station in the east, he will command, Carry, swords. Let the Words be communicated. SM takes his seat while these tests are being made by the PMP.*

PMP First Division, communicate...guard. *Word given.* Carry, swords. Second Division, communicate...guard. *Word given.* Carry, swords. First Division, communicate...guard. *Word given.* Carry, swords. Second Division, communicate...guard. *Sign, Grip, and Word given.* Carry, swords. *Faces the SM and bows. Sovereign Master, your order...Faces west.*

SM *Rises.* Companions, attention. Return, swords. Un-cover. Excellent High Priest (B)(B), lead our devotion.

HP Almighty and Eternal...Amen. *All Companions replying "amen."*

SM Companions, re, cover. Companions, be seated. Prince Master of the Palace, (B)(B) it is my order...(B)(B)

PMP Companions, atten-tion. It is the order... Sovereign Master, *faces SM and (B)(B)* your order has been executed. *Faces west.*

SM *Rises.* I now declare...

W *Goes to door, opens, and says to S, Companion Sentinel...W closes door, gives *** ** raps, S answers with same, W resumes station and reports,* Sovereign Master, (B)(B) your order has been obeyed.

SM Companions, be seated.

Full Ceremonial

Beginning

SM Companion Warder, *W stands and gives sign* ascertain...

W *Goes to tiled door and raps * Companion Sentinel, are...*

S Companions _____, Royal Arch Masons, are...

W *Closes door and raps *** ** Sovereign Master, (W gives sign) Companions _____, Royal Arch Masons, are in... Gives sign and is seated*

SM Companion Master of Dispatches, *MD stands and gives sign* have the candidates complied...

MD They have, Sovereign Master. *MD gives sign and sits.*

SM Companions, if there be no objection... *Pause* There being no objection, Companion Master of Infantry, *MI rises and gives sign* retire and prepare Companions _____ for reception into this Order. *MI retires through West Gate without ceremony.*

SM *After MI retires* Let the Grand Council be formed in the Council Hall under the direction of our Excellent High Priest.

Clear East; set up Council in West. MI becomes CC. CC addresses candidates.

Jewish Council

CC **Companions, I am about to become your conductor. I will, therefore...**

CC signals the W, who informs the HP. HP begins.

HP ***** Companions, by virtue of the power in me vested, I now declare this Grand Council open. Companion Warder, *W rises and bows* you will so proclaim.**

W *W bows, goes to tiled door and opens it* **By order of the Excellent High Priest, I proclaim the Grand Council now open. *W closes door and resumes station.***

HP **Companions, the Grand Council is in session. * *Council is seated.***

CC *Outside the tiled door with candidate clothed as RAM *** ** **

W *W rises* **Excellent High Priest, there is an alarm.**

HP **Companion Warder, attend to the alarm.**

W *W opens tiled door* **Who comes here?**

CC **Companions _____, who, having...**

W **How does he expect...**

CC **By the benefit of the...**

W **Await the order of the Excellent High Priest. *W closes door* Excellent High Priest *bows*, the alarm...**

HP **How does he expect...**

W **By the benefit of the...**

HP **Admit them.**

W *W opens door* **You have permission to enter. *Candidates and CC enter and are arranged at the foot of the Council, facing West. W closes door and resumes station.***

HP **Companions, the Council here assembled...Are you willing to assume...?**

Cand **I am.**

HP **Zerubbabel, you will then be seated...** *Candidates are seated. HP stands and reads from Ezra, chapters 3 and 4. Now in the second month... HP sits at the conclusion of the readings. You see, Companions, how our ... let him now speak.*

CC *CC and candidates stand.* **Excellent High Priest, our sovereign lord, Darius... or impeded in our noble and glorious work.**

HP **Companions, you have heard the generous offer of Zerubbabel. Do you accept?**

CM *Council rises and cheerfully says* **We do!**

HP *HP stands* **Companion Zerubbabel, this Council with joy accepts your noble and generous offer... answer me truly: Do you...?**

Cand **I do.**

HP **Do you...?**

Cand **I do.**

HP **Having knowledge... I will invest you with a sword. Let Zerubbabel be girded.** *CC places sling on candidate. HP descends from dais and presents candidate with a bare sword. Receive this sword... HP gives sword to candidate; candidate places sword in sheath. I will now invest you with this green sash. HP places sash over the head of the candidate, on his right shoulder. Accept it... HP returns to dais and sits.)* **The Companion Warder will now... CC moves exemplar in front of other candidates.**

W *W joins them and draws his sword. CC assists the exemplar.* **Draw, sword. Companions, the pass... Communicate. Carry, swords. CC brings candidates back to position before the HP. W resumes station.**

HP **Zerubbabel, you are now...**

CC **Zerubbabel, follow me.** *CC and candidates exit through tiled door. Before returning the CC instructs Zerubbabel what answer to give when challenged.*

HP ***** I now declare this Grand Council closed. ***

HP and Council exit; set is change for Journey scene. W signals CC when all is ready. CC and all candidates enter through West Gate. They are challenged by the 1JG in the North.

1JG **Halt! Who comes there?**

EX **A friend.**

1JG **Advance...** *Jewish Pass given.* **Correct. Pass on.**

CC and candidates continue and are challenged by the 2JG in the East.

2JG **Halt! Who comes there?**

EX **A friend.**

2JG **Advance...** *Jewish Pass given.* **Correct. Pass on.**

CC and candidates pause at the bridge in the South.

CC **Zerubbabel, you now have reached the river ... On this side, you perceive ...**

The two JGs go to the tiled door and prepare to assist the Persian guard. The exemplar and all candidates cross the bridge. Once all have crossed, the PG makes his challenge.

PG **Halt! Who comes there?**

EX **A friend.**

PG **Advance...** *EX gives the Jewish pass.*

PG **What?** *EX repeats the Jewish pass.*

PG **Ho, guards! ...** *Two JGs seize exemplar and remove his sword, sling, scabbard, and sash, and give them to PG. CC moves up alongside EX.*

CC **Why treat me thus? ...**

PG **Who are you, then?**

CC **A prince...**

PG **You, a prince...?**

CC **Jerusalem.**

PG **What is your name?**

CC **Zerubbabel.**

PG **What do you desire?**

CC **An audience...**

PG **Only as a...**

CC **Then lead me...**

PG **Guards, clothe... *Guards do so.* Captive and slave, follow me. *All exit through tiled door.***

Scene change from Journey to Audience Chamber. W signals PG when all is ready.

Audience Chamber

PG ***** ** ***

W ***W rises and gives the sign.* Sovereign Master, there is an alarm.**

SM **Companion Warder, attend to the alarm.**

W ***Raps * and opens tiled door.* Who comes here?**

PG **A detachment of His Majesty's guards who...**

W **Who is he?**

PG **He claims...**

W ***To Zerubbabel:* Where...**

CC **Jerusalem.**

W **What...?**

CC **Z...**

W **What is your desire?**

CC **An audience...**

W **Your request... *W closes the door and raps *** ** *. He returns to his station and gives the sign to the SM.* Sovereign Master, the alarm was caused...**

SM **Who is he?**

W **He claims...**

SM **Where...**

W **J...**

SM **What...?**

W **Z...**

SM **Z...! What does...?**

W **An audience...?**

SM **Companion Master of Cavalry, *MC stands and gives sign* you will repair ...**

MC *MC goes to tiled door. W raps * and opens door. Is he ...?*

PG **He is not.**

MC **Then, follow me. *MC, EX, and guards enter, followed by other candidates, PG, and CC, go to center of room, and face SM. PG deposits sword, sling, and sash near the station of the PC. Sovereign Master, gives sign I have brought... MC returns to station and sits.***

SM *Scrutinizing exemplar.* **This is no enemy! It is indeed Z...**

CC **Oh, King: live forever. The tears and complaints...**

SM **Zerubbabel, I have often reflected...**

CC **Sovereign Master, when our...**

SM **Zerubbabel, your virtue...are free. Guards: strike off those chains! *Done* Remove that garb of slavery! *Done* May these never again disgrace so pure a Mason, so noble a Prince. *Guards sit on sidelines.* Prince Master of the Palace, *PMP rises and bows* bring forth a...**

PMP *PMP gets robe and coronet and places them on exemplar. Thus shall it be done... This may be chanted.*

SM **Z..., we... *PMP conducts CC and EX to chairs near the dais, then seats the remainder of the candidates in the North. He returns to his station and sits.* From time immemorial...Which is the greatest? The strength of w...? The power of the K...? Or the influence of w...? Prince Chancellor, what...?**

PC *PC rises and bows.* **Sovereign Master, it is the opinion...**

SM **Prince Master of the Palace, what is your opinion?**

PMP *PMP rises and bows.* **Sovereign Master, it is the opinion...**

SM **Prince Zerubbabel, have...**

CC *CC and exemplar rise and bow.* **I have, Your Majesty. In my humble opinion...**

SM **Sayeth thou that... If so, begin.**

PC *PC rises and bows.* **O ye princes and rulers, how exceedingly...**

SM **Prince Chancellor, your...**

PMP *PMP rises and bows.* **It is beyond dispute...**

SM **Prince Master of the Palace, your argument is both...**

CC *CC and exemplar rise and bow* **O princes and rulers, the...**

PC & PMP *PC and PMP rise and exclaim:* **Great is ...!**

SM *SM rises and lifts his crown* **Blessed... SM, PC, and PMP sit.** **Zerubbabel, ask...**

CC **O King, remember thy vow...**

SM **Prince Zerubbabel...**

MD *MR rises and reads decree from a scroll.* **Moreover, I make a decree...I, Darius, have made a decree; let it be done with speed. MD is seated. CC now becomes MI.**

SM **Princes and rulers, to perpetuate...***MF rises, gets altar, and places it in the center of the room, with a Bible open to Ezra 6:8-12, square, and compasses as in MM lodge.* **Prince Zerubbabel, you will now...**
CC and exemplar go to West side of altar, facing SM. Other candidates are placed in a line behind them, or kneeling at altar, if room. **You will kneel upon your left knee, your right knee forming a square, your left hand resting upon the Sacred Writings, square, and compasses, and your right hand upon your heart. All candidates will place their right hands over their hearts. Princes and rulers, arise and witness this vow. SM, PC, and PMP stand and go to the altar. All candidates will say ...So help me God, and keep me steadfast. SM, PC, and PMP return to dais. Arise and approach the throne. EX moves to stand in front of the SM. All other candidates move to line behind the EX. And, now, Zerubbabel, we will ... You will kneel on your left knee. Raises scepter.** **By virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia, and in the name of St. John the Baptist, the patron of the order, we now create and constitute you a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, which we now**

found, and we do hereby create and constitute...*SM takes EX by the right hand...*Princes and rulers, be seated. *SM takes green sash.* This green sash...*MI and MC put sash over right shoulder of exemplar. SM takes Red Cross jewel.* I now present you with this Red Cross jewel, to be worn on your civilian or commandery jacket, whenever you attend a meeting. *MI and MC distribute jewels to other candidates.* Companion Master of Infantry, gird Companion Zerubbabel. *MI places sling over head and on exemplar's right shoulder. SM takes sword.* This sword...*SM, PC, and PMP return to dais and sit.* You will now be instructed...These are:

The Jewish Pass, in which you have already been instructed.

The Persian Countersign, which is that of the realm.

The Red Cross Word.

The sign, grip, and word of a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.

Companion Master of Cavalry *Rises, faces SM, bows,* you will communicate these as we direct. *MC positions exemplar so he can see the SM, then faces EX. Candidates should be able to see both the MC and exemplar.* Draw swords. The Persian Countersign...*Done.* Carry, swords. The Red Cross Word...*Done.* Carry, swords. The sign, grip, and word...*Done.* Carry swords. Return swords. *MC resumes his station, bows to SM, and is seated.* On entering or retiring...

Banner of the Order

The banner of this Order...And now, Companions, we bid... *MI and MC take EX and candidates to seats.*

Companions, you will now hear the historical lecture of this Order.

Historical Lecture

L *Lecturer goes to podium, facing the candidates.* The scriptures inform us...*Lecturer takes his seat.*

SM This ends the conferral of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.

Closing

SM Prince Master of the Palace *PMP bows to SM,* I am about ...

PMP *Faces left.* Companion Warder *W rises and bows to PMP,* Inform ...

W Prince Master of the Palace *(B)(B),* The Sentinel ... *W seats himself.*

PMP *PMP faces right.* Sovereign Master *PMP bows to SM,* the Sentinel is informed.

SM **Prince Master of the Palace, prepare for our devotions.**

PMP *Faces left.* **Companions, attention. Un, cover.**

SM *Rises.* **Excellent High Priest (B)(B), lead our devotions. HP offers suitable closing prayer.**
Companions, re-cover. I now declare this Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross closed. Companion Warder (B)(B), inform the Sentinel.

W *Goes to door, opens it, and says,* **Companion Sentinel, the Council is closed. W returns to his station and reports. Sovereign Master (B)(B), the Sentinel is informed.**

SM **Companions, you are dismissed.**

Degree of Knight of St. Paul & the Order of Malta

Officers & Paraphernalia

Prior	PR
Lieutenant Commander	LC
Captain General	CG
Marshal	M
Captain of the Outposts	CO
Chaplain	CH
Banner Guards (five)	BG
Guards (three)	G
Guards in the West (eight; seven are optional)	GW

The Order of Malta is conferred in a place designated as a Chapel and the entire setting is extremely sacred and Christian. In the ritualistic work, the military feature should be subordinate to the religious aspect. The ritual states, "No loud military commands should be heard, either in the opening or closing or during any part of the ceremony." The conferring of the Order of Malta approximates and honors a Mass setting and gives an opportunity for the display of beautiful church pageantry.

During the opening and closing ceremonies, salutes will be made and acknowledged with the sword, because all officers are standing at attention at their respective post with swords drawn. However, during the ceremony proper and because of the religious nature of the Order of Malta, it is recommended that the ceremonious formal bow be used for the Salute (and will be so indicated). This consists of the following: when addressed, an officer will arise, come to attention, cross his arms on his breast (right arm uppermost) and bow ceremoniously from the waist. The addressing officer answers this in like manner. The same bows are exchanged at the close of the conversation.

The apartment is furnished with an altar in the center of the room covered with a black cloth, on which is a sword, a black cross, and a Bible open to Acts, chapter 27. In front of the altar is placed a kneeling stool or cushion. At one side, in the East, is the chaplain's reading desk, on which is a Bible and light, and near it is a small stand with a silver salver, a cup of water, and two or three small pieces of bread upon it. The Malta tables and banners must not yet be displayed.

Five chairs should be in the East for the PR, LC, CG, M, and CH. A chair should be near the tiled door for the CO.

The officers and cast should be attired in their own all-black clothing, black boots (or shoes), and swords with belts/slings. They may wear their Red Cross and Malta jewels affixed to their left breast pocket area. Black gloves will be provided. Malta surcoat, mantle, and cap will be added once the Degree of St. Paul is completed.

The candidates should be asked to dress in dark clothing. An exemplar is chosen who is dressed in a white mantle with the red cross of the Order of the Red Cross on the left breast, fastened about the neck with a white cord and tassel. EX does not wear a hat and is girded with a sword and belt.

Paraphernalia for the Degree of St. Paul

1. Silver Salver
2. Small Table
3. Cup of water (one for each candidate)
4. Small pieces of bread (one for each candidate)
5. Towel
6. White mantle with red cross and sword (with belt or sling) for candidate

Paraphernalia for the Order of Malta

1. Square table in the West with a red cover surmounted by a black octagon containing a white Maltese cross with points extending to the edge of the octagon, at each point of the Cross are the following letters: M, H, A, C, B, T, C, and T. A quartered circle is at the center of the cross. The quarters contain: 1) an ancient galley or ship; 2) a speaking trumpet and a ladder of five steps, each step having one letter – B, L, D, R, A; 3) a human hand and a serpent; 4) a human skull cloven with a two-edge sword and a spear beneath it. Four candles for this table.
2. Table 6' by 3' (preferred) in the East with red cover decorated with the upper and transverse arms of the Latin cross.
3. Five chairs at the table in the East – three for the Prior, Lieutenant Commander, and Captain General behind the table and one on each end for the Chaplain and Marshal.
4. Sword to be placed at the Chaplain's station as he does not carry one.
5. Lectern and additional chair for Chaplain.
 - a. Bible
 - b. Candle for candidate
 - c. Black Maltese mantle
 - d. Black cushion with Malta jewel
6. Banner of Malta and St. John with a chair at each for the banner guard.
7. Two high candles.
8. Altar with black cover.
 - a. Bible (New Testament only also acceptable)
 - b. Black cross
 - c. Crucifix
 - d. Naked sword on east side, grip to the North
 - e. Kneeler
 - f. Two high candles
9. Five stations for ceremonial banners with chairs, banner stands, and candelabra.
10. Chair for Captain of the Outpost.
11. Sufficient Maltese costumes (red surcoat with Maltese cross, black Maltese mantle, black gloves, black round cap with Maltese cross) for the: Prior, Lieutenant Commander, Captain General, Marshal, Captain of the Outposts, Five Banner Guards, and 8 Guards in the West.
 - a. The three guards may be arrayed in either the standard Maltese uniform or they may replace the cap for a helmet. Either way, the three should be the same.

- b. The Chaplain shall wear: an underrobe of white, sleeves plain, standing collar; overrobe of long, flowing black material, white Maltese cross on left breast, fastened with a white twisted cord with heavy tassels; stole of white satin lined in white, made of single piece, with circular collar, fastened behind, edged in white gilt lace, lace with gilt fringe on bottom, three black Maltese crosses graduated in size on the front; biretta of black material with black tassel and white Maltese cross on front.
- c. Extra Maltese mantle for candidate

Opening the Priory

The PR, LC, CG, MR, CH, and CO, at the appointed hour, sits at their stations.

PR Captain General (H)(H), what is the first and most essential care of Knights of Malta when about to open a priory?

CG To see that the brethren in arms are secure from interruption from the opposers of the Gospel of the Savior of fallen man.

PR Captain General, see that this assembly is properly guarded and inform the Captain of the Outposts that I am about to open this priory. (H)(H)

CG *CG remains at his station, draws his sword, and faces the CO.* Captain of the Outposts (†)(†), the Prior is about to open a priory. You will station the guards and direct them accordingly. (†)(†)

CO *CO goes to and opens tiled door.* Guards (†)(†), the Prior is about to open a priory, take your posts, and guard accordingly. (†)(†) *CO closes tiled door and G raps *** *** *CO replies *** *** *then returns to his station and reports,* Captain General (†)(†), the guards are stationed; we are in security. (†)(†) *CO returns his sword and is seated.*

CG Eminent Prior (†)(H), the guards are stationed; we are in security.

PR Captain General, what is your next duty?

CG To see that every Christian warrior present proves himself a legitimate soldier of the cross and brother of the order.

PR Captain General, you will make the inspection. (†)(H)

CG *CG returns his sword, moves west to a position in front of the CO, faces east, and gives the Grand Hailing Sign of a Knight of Malta.* Do you come in peace?

All *All stand.* We come in peace.

CG *Holding sign.* Then come in peace. *All drop sign and CG returns to his station. All remain standing.* Eminent Prior, (H)(H) I am satisfied that all present are legitimate soldiers of the cross and brothers of our order. (H)(H)

PR Brothers, let us lay our arms at the foot of the cross and implore a blessing upon our present meeting. *Knights will lay their swords on the floor, points toward the east.* Reverend Chaplain, (B)(B) lead our prayers. Brothers, un-cover.

All stand at their places and uncover with the left hand, arms crossed left over right, upon their breasts. PR uncovers last. CH remains in his place and prays.

CH Let us pray. O thou Great Immanuel, the God of infinite goodness, look down upon this Priory with an eye of tender compassion, and incline our hearts to Thy Holy will in all our actions, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Amen.

PR Brothers, re-cover. Resume, arms. *Knights take up their swords and return them to their scabbards.* Together brothers.

All in East *Giving the Grand Hailing Sign.* Do you come in peace?

All *Give sign then answer.* We come in peace.

All in East *Holding the sign.* Then come in peace. *All drop the sign and remain standing.*

PR To the glory of the blessed savior, in the name of St. John the Baptist, and by the virtue of the power in me vested, I declare this priory of Knights of Malta duly opened. Captain General (H)(H), inform the guard. (H)(H)

CG *Draws sword and faces CO.* Captain of the Outposts (†)(†), inform the guard that this priory of Knights of Malta is now open. (†)(†)

CO *Goes to tiled door and opens it.* Guard (†)(†), this priory of Knights of Malta is now open. (†)(†) *CO closes door and G raps *** ***. CO replies *** *** then returns to his station and reports.* Captain General (†)(†), the guard is informed. (†)(†)

CG Eminent Prior (†)(H), your order has been obeyed. (†)(H) *CG and CO return swords together and remain standing.*

PR Brothers, be, seated.

The Degree of Knight of St. Paul

It is recommended that The Degree of Knight of St. Paul not be conferred with the same setting as is used in the Chapel in conferring the OM. Unless the setting is changed, there is no meaning to the quotation from the ritual, "retire my Brother." It is recommended that a screen be erected in front of the table in the east and the banners used during the OM must absolutely not be visible. If convenient, the table in the west is moved to the northwest and out of the way. The banner knights and those knights from the table in the west will move their chairs and set them in two parallel lines from east to west, facing toward the center, using the same number of knights in each line.

The altar is placed in the center between the rows of chairs. The station of the PR is in the East behind the altar. The CH, with lectern and table for salver with bread and water is stationed to the right of the Prior.

All officers and degree team have their swords in their scabbards.

*All candidates assemble in the refectory. The Exemplar is clothed in Red Cross mantle, sword, and belt. EX and Cs are accompanied to the tiled door by the Marshal, where he causes them all to make an alarm of *** ** at the door. The CO, inside, responds *** ***, opens the door, enters the anteroom, and questions.*

CO *After sign, grip, and word of Red Cross are given, the CO returns to Guard Room and responds.*
Eminent Prior (B)(B), a Companion...

PR **Captain of the Outposts, far be it...**

CO **I can, Eminent Prior. (B)(B)**

PR *To the priory* **Is it your pleasure** *All voting is done by raising the right hand....***Captain of the Outposts (B)(B), you will admit them. (B)(B)**

CO *CO opens tiled door.* **You have permission...***The candidate, accompanied by the M, enter the tiled door and proceed from there to the east, walking between the two rows of knights seated in the chairs. When there are multiple candidates it is recommended that they march in twos.*

PR **Brother AB...***Candidate replies.* **My brother do you...***Candidate replies.* **Reverend Chaplain (B)(B), you will read a lesson for our instruction (B)(B). Brother Knights, arise. Un-cover. PR uncovers last.**

CH **Here beginneth...here endeth the first lesson.**

PR *PR recovers.* **Brother Knights, re-cover. Be, seated.** *All are seated.* **I will now...Reverend Chaplain (B)(B), you will read another lesson from the Holy Scriptures (B)(B). Brother Knights, arise. Un-cover. PR uncovers last.**

CH **Here beginneth...here endeth the second lesson.**

PR *PR recovers.* **Brother Knights, re-cover. Be, seated.** *All are seated.* **The password...***At this point the CH should bring the salver with sufficient cups of water and pieces of bread for each C to the north side of the altar next to the PR. You will now...PR takes a sword from the altar and places a piece of bread upon the point. EX receives bread and is told to "partake." All C's are served in a similar manner. CH assists as needed. You will now...PR then places a cup of water on the flat of the sword blade. EX takes the cup and is told to "partake." All C's are served in a similar manner. CH assists as needed. M collects used cups and returns them, along with the salver, to the table near the altar. PR returns to his place east of the altar and CH to his at the north. When all are served and the M has cleared the area, the CH gives the blessing.*

CH **May you be...**

PR **This ceremony...***M, EX, and Cs retire out the West gate and are taken to the refectory to wait for the room to be prepared.*

Order of Malta

The apartment is now rearranged for the OM while the candidates are outside the room. The room in which the Knights of Malta ceremonial takes place is called a chapel. Although there is no specific moment to use this, it is suggested, and indeed was traditional, that incense be burnt to give the room the feeling of a chapel.

The dais is a T-shaped table in the East, with the flat side of transverse bar to the west, on floor level. It has a red tablecloth designed per GE ritual. There should be five chairs at the table, for the prior, lieutenant commander, captain general, marshal, and chaplain.

The banners of St. John and of Malta are placed in the East, on the right and left (respectively) of the PR.

A square table is placed in the West and covered with a red tablecloth, having painted upon it a large black octagon, with a white Maltese cross, as per GE ritual. There should be eight chairs around the table for the eight Knights at Table.

If available, the banners for the eight languages of the Order are displayed behind the table in the West. They are for Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon, Germany, Castile, and Anglo-Bavaria (England).

The five historical banners should be placed evenly along the north side of the chapel, with a chair for the banner guard to the east of the banner.

- 1. White, having upon it "Palestine, 1099", and the letter B*
- 2. Red, having upon it "Cyprus, 1287", and the letter L*
- 3. Black, having upon it "Rhodes, 1310", and the letter D*
- 4. Purple, having upon it "Candia, 1523", and the letter R*
- 5. Yellow, having upon it "Malta, 1530", and the letter A*

At the altar, the Bible is adjusted to the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. Keep the sword and black cross. Add a crucifix.

A lightable candle (and lighter, as needed), the black mantle of Malta, and the jewels of the Order (one jewel for each candidate) should be placed near the CH's station convenient for use in the ceremony. The silver salver, bread, and water are cleared.

The officers, attired as for Knight of St. Paul, above, change into their Malta surcoats and mantles, the black Malta cap.

The chaplain shall wear a white underrobe, black overrobe, white stole with Maltese crosses, and black biretta with Maltese cross.

If there is to be a different EX for this Order, he should be dressed as was the EX in Mediterranean Pass.

*The officers take their respective stations at the tables in the West and East, with the SO seated by the door. The MR is signaled, then the MR, EX, & Cs make an alarm of *** ** at the door.*

CO **Eminent Prior (B)(B), ...**

PR **... the alarm. (B)(B)**

CO *CO goes to door and raps *** ** *, opens door, enters anteroom and ascertains the qualifications of the candidate. EX gives the CO the Sign, Password, and GW of the Degree of Knight of St. Paul in view of all the Cs. CO returns to priory, closes door, and reports to PR. Eminent Prior (B)(B), ... Mediterranean Pass.*

PR **Admit them.** *At this point, the five Ceremonial Banner Guards rise, take one step forward, draw swords, all watching the No. 5 or Yellow Banner for their cues so all can work in unison. When challenging the C, each BG should use the position of "On Guard." After they allow the C to pass, the BG should return to "carry." When the C passes the fifth BG, all return swords, take the normal two half steps back, and are seated. When the C passes the fifth BG, the PR says, Kyrie Eleison. This is repeated by the Knights in the following pattern: PR "Kyrie Eleison;" Knights "Kyrie Eleison;" PR "Kyrie Eleison;" Knights "Christe Eleison;" PR "Christe Eleison;" Knights "Christe Eleison;" PR "Kyrie Eleison;" Knights "Kyrie Eleison;" PR "Kyrie Eleison." This should be done so that there are three sets of three begun by the PR and alternated with the Knights – this can be set to music but is only recommended with a competent musician and vocalists. The C is conducted west of the altar by the M facing the PR. Brother Marshal...PR remains seated until the C replies "I have this" whereupon he arises but remains at his station. When the C replies "It is" to the following question, the PR advances to the east of the altar. You will draw...Exemplar only kneels at the altar. M will assist the other Cs to kneel near EX and place their right hand on the shoulder of the EX or another C. Priory, arise. Un-cover...PR does not uncover. Cast will cross their arms while uncovered. Priory, re-cover. Be, seated. PR takes up the sword and with it gently strikes the EX three blows on the right shoulder, and then strikes the shoulder of each of the other Cs. When done, PR returns to east side of the altar and lays the sword on the altar. Let this...PR strikes the EX on the left cheek with the palm of his open right hand. PR does not strike the other Cs. Awake...Knight of Malta! PR takes each of the Cs by the right hand and repeats the line, "Arise, Knight of Malta." During the investitures, the CH approaches the PR first with the taper. The CH waits there while the PR describes it and then takes it back from the EX. After the taper is taken from the EX, the M takes the EX's Red Cross mantle. CH brings forward the Knight of Malta mantle and hands it to the PR folded so the Maltese cross is on the top. The PR, pointing to the cross on the mantle, says: My brother... After the C's reply, the Prior begins the Credo with the cast and C (if able) joining after "one God": I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, here the PR and Knights kneel until noted And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, all stand And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come*

again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection ✝ of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *PR alone continues with the following. The cross is...PR put the Malta mantle on the EX and ties the cords. He continues, By this cord...CH approaches the PR again with the Maltese Cross on a black velvet cushion and presents it to him. The PR pins the jewel on the left breast of the EX. M and CH assist in pinning a jewel on each of the Cs. CH returns to his lectern to prepare to read the first lesson. I now invest...Reverend Chaplain (B)(B), you will...Brothers, arise. Draw, swords. Present, swords. PR drawing before the command "draw" and coming to "present" with the knights.*

CH Here beginneth...

PR Brothers, return swords. Be, seated. *PR returns sword with the knights but remains standing. My brother...Reverend Chaplain (B)(B), you will...Brothers, arise. Draw, swords. Present, swords. PR drawing before the command "draw" and coming to "present" with the knights.*

CH Here beginneth...

PR Brothers, return swords. Be, seated. *PR returns sword with the knights but remains standing. I will now invest... M & EX will execute, Cs will observe. For the Sign, left hand is nearest the mouth. All Cs will give the Sign. All Cs will say the Word. Reverend Chaplain (B)(B), you will...Brothers, arise. Draw, swords. Present, swords. PR drawing before the command "draw" and coming to "present" with the knights.*

CH Here beginneth...

PR Brothers, return swords. Be, seated. *PR returns sword with the knights but remains standing. After the PR instructs the Cs in the sacred word, the PR begins the "Agnus Dei" with the Knights replying (this may be done in Latin or English as the director chooses – this may also be set to music but this is not recommended unless in unusually favorable circumstances). PR "O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world," Knights "have mercy upon us." PR "O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world," Knights "have mercy upon us." PR "O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world," Knights "grant us thy peace." PR then returns to his station. After commending the Cs to the M, the PR sits.*

M *M organizes the Cs and proceeds towards the first banner. The BGs should all arise when the M is headed to them, draw their swords, and come to "carry." When the M gets to their banner, they should take one step forward, remain at "carry," and deliver their lecture. After, they take two small steps back to their chair. My Brothers... The M escorts the Cs from the first through fifth banner, stopping at each for the BG of that respective banner to recite their lecture. The M then leads the Cs to the table in the east where he continues his lecture. The M then escorts the Cs to the table in the west where a Knight at that table delivers his lecture. M then escorts the Cs to the east where they can view the banners of St. John and Malta where that lecture is given by the LC. M remains with the Cs in the east while the PR delivers his final lines.*

PR **And now ...**

The Cs are seated in the Chapel. M returns to his station and sits. Remarks may be very briefly made. No speeches. Brief business may be conducted but only if it is required to happen that night. The PR may continue to preside.

Closing the Priory

PR *Stands and draws sword.* **Brother Knights, attention. Draw, swords.** *Cast draw swords and come to carry. The Knights at the tables take their swords from the tables and also come to carry.* **Lieutenant Commander (†)(†), what is the last duty of a Priory of Knights of Malta?**

LC **To close the Prior in peace and goodwill with all brethren in arms and in Christian charity with all mankind.**

PR **How can we best effect that noble and Christian purpose?**

LC **By proving to friends and foes alike, our belief in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Blessed Savior.**

PR **What are we taught by his birth?**

LC **That the great Captain of our Salvation was born to redeem fallen man.**

PR **What are we taught by his life?**

LC **All that is requisite for us to follow, he being the way, the truth, and the life.**

PR **What are we taught by his death?**

LC **That the debt of nature must be paid and the rigor of the law is satisfied.**

PR **What are we taught by his resurrection?**

LC **That he, being the daystar of mercy, has risen to conduct our feet in the paths of truth and peace. (†)(†)**

PR **Thus, brothers in arms, by the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our blessed Lord and Savior, we are taught to live and die as Christians; remembering that in him who made his glorious ascension into heaven, we have a sure and steadfast mediator with the Father, for he hath said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also.”**

Brothers, I am about to close this priory. You will assist me in this ceremony. Let us again lay our swords at the foot of the cross, and invoke a blessing before separating. *The Knights will*

lay their swords on the floor, points to the East. Knights stationed at the two tables will deposit their swords upon the table at their station. Brother Chaplain (B)(B), lead our prayers. (B)(B) Brothers, un-cover. PR uncovers last. The Knights uncover with their left hand, then cross their arms, left over right, upon their breasts.

CH Merciful Redeemer of perishing mankind, who hast promised that Thou wouldst be in the midst of those who assemble in thy holy name, look upon us with an eye of tender compassion, and so direct us that all our labors may be begun, continued, and ended in love to thee, affection to our brethren, and obedience to the principles of our order. Amen.
Response by all: Amen.

PR *PR recovers.* Brothers, re-cover. Brothers, resume your arms, return them to their scabbards, and let peace reign among us. Together, brothers.

All in East *All give grand hailing sign.* You came in peace?

All Knights *All give sign.* We came in peace.

All in East *Hold sign and give reply.* Then depart in peace. *All drop sign and remain standing.*

PR To the glory of our Blessed Savior, in the name of St. John the Baptist, and by virtue of the power in me vested, I declare this Priory of Knights of Malta closed. Captain General (H)(H), you will dismiss the guard. (H)(H)

CG *Moves to his left and faces the CO* Captain of the Outposts (H)(H), you will dismiss the guard. This priory of Knights of Malta is closed. (H)(H)

CO *Moves to tiled door and opens it.* Guard (H)(H), this Priory of Knights of Malta is closed. You are dismissed. (H)(H) *CO leaves the door open, returns to his station, and reports.* Captain General (H)(H), the guard is dismissed. (H)(H)

CG Eminent Prior (H)(H), your order has been obeyed. (H)(H)

PR Brothers, you are dismissed. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The Order of the Temple

Officers & Paraphernalia

Commander	Sword Bearer
Generalissimo	Sentinel
Captain General	Prelate
Senior Warden	Hermit (either three separate SKs or one SK filling three roles)
Junior Warden	Guard x 3
Warder / Sepulcher Guard	Prelate's Escort (four desired)
Standard Bearer	

Candidates should be waiting in the refectory. One by one, they are led by the JW to the Chamber of Reflection. This may be done prior to or contemporaneous with the opening of the Commandery if there are enough candidates to necessitate this.

The Order of the Temple is conferred in an Asylum where peace and spiritual harmony should prevail. The time in which the OT occurs is not specified in the ritual, only that the candidate is a knight on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Care should be given that each scene is different from the preceding to give the candidate a feeling of journey and travel towards a goal. In most scenes, the dais will be unoccupied and those SKs may even leave the room if they wish to increase this illusion.

All cast members must be in full commandery uniform. Exceptional care should be taken to ensure all cast members are uniform. Aside from the costumed roles, if a SK arrives without uniform, he cannot take place in the degree – the same goes for the formation of the triangle.

Paraphernalia

Chamber of Reflection

1. Table
2. Chair
3. Basin of water
4. Towel
5. Hour glass
6. Bible
7. Candle
8. Hoodwink
9. Pen
10. Questions, blank
11. Relics
12. Cover for relics

Asylum

1. Beauceant
2. Grand Standard
3. Questions, blank
4. Pedestal with: bible and black cross
5. Pilgrim's white robe, hat, sandals, staff, bag
6. Water bottle
7. Hermit's robe
8. Hut
9. Stools x 2
10. Table
11. Water in cruet
12. Bread

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13. Altar with: bible, square & compass,
and two swords | 22. Cruets of water and wine |
| 14. Kneeler with: two swords on kneeler | 23. Cups for additional candidates |
| 15. Scabbard & sling | 24. White robe |
| 16. Buckler | 25. Burning taper |
| 17. Triangle | 26. Projector and screen (optional) |
| 18. 12 candles | 27. Cross on necklace |
| 19. 12 cups | 28. White curtain for Tiled door |
| 20. Relics (with cup) | 29. Enough swords in scabbards with
slings for all candidates |
| 21. Black cloth for relics | |

Asylum

C **Sir Knight Warder, (H)(H) Ascertain ... (H)(H)**

W *W does not draw sword, goes to S's station by the most direct route avoiding square corners. W ascertains from the S and returns to his station to report. W does not leave the Asylum. Eminent Commander (H)(H), AB, a knight of Malta... (H)(H)*

C **Sir Knights, AB, a Knight of Malta... There being no objection. Sir Knight Junior Warden (H)(H), retire... questions JW approaches C and takes the blank questions remains at the foot of the dais, to which... (H)(H) JW about faces, marches to the center of the Asylum, gives the penal sign, again about faces and marches to the tiled door and exits.**

Chamber of Reflection

The Chamber of Reflection is equipped with a table, chair, basin filled with water, towel, hourglass, bible opened to St. Matthew 5: 13-16, burning taper, pen and ink, relics, relic cover. JW conducts one candidate to the entrance to the Chamber of Reflection and hoodwinks him. JW then leads the candidate into the Chamber and seats him at the table. JW uncovers the relics and later turns over the hour glass at the appropriate time.

JW **Knight, you are now... JW gives complete address and leaves the Chamber giving *** Knight, have you...**

K **I have.**

JW **Present them. JW examines the questions and if not correct calls attention thereto. Are you able...** *After the ablutions, the JW leaves the candidate in the Chamber if there are no other candidates. If more need to go through the Chamber, the JW solemnly conducts the candidate back to the refectory and repeats this process. When all of the candidates have been through the Chamber, the JW draws his sword and returns to the door of the Asylum and gives the required knocks.*

W *W stands and waits until there is an opening if business is also occurring. Eminent Commander (H)(H), there is an alarm.*

C **Sir Knight Warder, attend to the alarm.** (H)(H)

W *Draws sword and attends the alarm standing in the door. W does not leave the Asylum. Who...*

JW **The Junior Warden...**

W *W closes the door, returns to his station, and says. Eminent Commander (†)(H), the alarm...*

C **Admit him.** (†)(H)

W *W goes to the door and opens it. Enter. W returns to his station, faces east, returns his sword, and is seated.*

JW *At a point representing the base of the triangle with his sword at carry. Eminent Commander (†)(H), AB, a Knight of Malta...*

C **Has he...**

JW **He has...**

C **Present the answers.** (†)(H) *JW returns his sword, approaches the C, ascends the dais, presents the questions, steps back four half-steps west of the foot of the dais and stands at attention facing south. Sir Knights, are there any objections? There being none. Sir Knight Junior Warden JW faces east (H)(H), thus far... (H)(H) JW about faces, does not draw his sword, and retires via the shortest route through the S's door. All officers except the W vacate stations.*

Pilgrimage

Chairs and moved and the hut is set up for the pilgrimage scene. There should be two stools or chairs at the hut with a table which has a cruet of water and a plate of bread. Hermit (or Hermits) robe and take their stations. There can either be one hut in the west which is used by a single or a rotating cast of Hermits or three huts may be placed around the Asylum with three different Hermits. These tactics should be adapted to site for the best benefit of the candidate.

JW **Knight, thus far...** *JW dresses the candidate in pilgrims garb. When the pilgrimage scene is ready, the W will open the door as a signal to the JW. JW then draws his sword and leads the EX, with all candidates following, into the Asylum and make two clockwise circumambulations around the room, being challenged by the Hermit on the second circuit.*

H1 *Hermit is seated at the entrance to his tent. Who approaches?*

JW **A poor...**

H1 **Pilgrim, I greet...** *H does not shake hands with candidate when the candidate enters the tent. JW takes the hate and staff with his left hand from the candidate and returns them as the candidate leaves the tent. H may assist*

the candidate if necessary in entering and leaving the hut. It is highly recommended that the H actually present the candidate with bread and water, per his ritual lines.

JW *JW resumes a circumambulation with all candidates and talks while walking. **Pilgrim, this is...** Same procedure is followed with the second and third H, changing H's while the candidates are walking away, if that is desired. JW leaves the Asylum at the conclusion of the H's. When the JW has departed, all officers resume stations (except the JW). At the door of the Asylum, the JW gives knocks *** ***

W *Rises, steps forward one pace. **Eminent Commander (H)(H), there is an alarm.***

C **Sir Knight Warder, attend the alarm. (H)(H)**

W *Draws his sword and attends to the alarm. **Who comes here? W does not leave Asylum.***

JW **A poor and weary...**

W **What surety...**

JW **The commendation...**

W **Let him...***At his conclusion with the JW, the W closes the door without raps, returns to his station, halts, and faces East. **Eminent Commander (†)(H), there stands...***

C **What surety...**

W **The commendation...***(†)(H) W then returns sword, steps back two half paces, and is seated.*

C **This being true, Excellent Prelate P rises, steps forward one pace, and exchanges salutes (B)(H), you will conduct...***(B)(H) P faces west. **Sir Knight Captain General CG rises, steps forward one pace, faces right, and exchanges salutes (H)(H), form an escort for the Prelate. (H)(H)***

CG *CG left faces, draws sword, and commands, **Sir Knight Senior Warden (†)(H), form an escort ... (†)(H)***

SW *SW faces West and draws sword. Previously chosen SKs will form the escort. **Escort, fall, in. Escort forms single line, facing SW Left, face. Right, dress. Front. Draw, swords. Count, twos. Present, swords. Excellent Prelate, (†)(B) the escort ...***

P **Lead on Sir Knight Senior Warden. (†)(B)**

SW **Escort, carry, swords. Twos, right, march. Column left, march.** *SW will take a position in front of the right column and give necessary commands to move escort out the West Gate. All officers vacate their stations except the W. As they pass the P's station, P joins them, bringing up the rear. W will open West Gate. When escort has exited, W closes West Gate, then goes to tiled door and opens it. Escort continues to march under*

direction of SW, passing by JW and candidates, and marching through open tiled door. SW gives necessary commands to have escort approach West of the altar.

P *When the P reaches the EX he takes him by the right arm and says, **Accompany me.***

SW **Open order, march. Escort, halt. Inward, face.** *The SKs should dress into line without command. SW will be at southwest corner of the altar. P takes charge of EX and leads him, followed by other candidates and JW, to the foot of the lines. JW passes around the north side of the line and takes a position across from the SW, northwest of the altar.*

P **Pilgrim, before you can ...**

SW **Present, swords.** *SW remains at "carry." The P and EX pass through the lines and halt W of the altar. P passes around to the East of the altar. Any additional candidates are placed two or three abreast behind EX with their right hands on the shoulder of the EX or candidate in front of them. If more than five candidates, they should be placed on the sidelines. **Carry, swords.***

JW takes the staff and bat in his left hand from the EX and assists him to kneel. JW does not uncover nor do the sidelines (The P is supposed to be alone in his apartment with his escort.).

SW **Order, swords. Un-cover.** *After the P says, "hands resting upon" and when the EX is kneeling, SW commands, **Order, swords.** SW uncovers after command is given. After the P says, "Pilgrim, arise..." SW recovers and comes to carry. He then orders, **Sir Knights, re-cover. Carry, swords.** JW assists the EX in rising and returns his staff and bat to him.*

P **Pilgrim, thou hast...** *The JW will, at the proper time, receive the staff and garb from the EX and hand them to the W who approaches on the North to take them and carry them to his station. After the P has picked up the sword and buckler, the JW & SW may assist him. **Pilgrim, having laid...** SW takes such steps as to be on the South side of the EX, facing him.*

SW **Pilgrim, right, face. You will raise...** *All candidates raise their arms and repeat the ritual. Sword circles are made at arm's length, above the head, and from right to left, one circle of the sword for each named group. Once instruction has been complete, the SW commands, **Carry, swords. Left, face.** SW remains in this position for the PWW.*

P **Pilgrim, having...**

SW **Pilgrim, right, face.** *The cuts and PWW are given. SW then commands, **Left, face.** SW remains at EX's right facing him.*

P **Pilgrim _____ farewell...**

SW **Pilgrim _____, Follow me.** *W opens the West Gate. SW and candidates pass around the south side of the altar, through the East, along the North, swords held over their heads, making the declarations and*

wielding their swords, and exit via the West Gate. W closes West Gate. JW faces west and assumes command of the escort. P passes along the south side of the altar, stopping on the left of the JW.

JW Escort, return, swords. Dismissed. *All officers stations remain vacated except the W.*

Warfare

After escort is dismissed, remove altar from center of room, push back asylum furniture, and station three guards in the Asylum - One in the north, one in the south, and one in the west. When ready, W opens tiled door as a signal to SW. Meanwhile, SW instructs EX in sword cuts and the PWW. SW, EX, and candidates enter room through open tiled door. They proceed east with the SW on the EX's right, passing between the East and the center of the room, making one complete circuit, before being challenged by 1G. PWW will be repeated by the candidates as they move around the room.

1G 1G assumes "on guard" and challenges EX approximately four paces from him. Halt, who comes here?

SW A Pilgrim Warrior.

1G Advance, Pilgrim Warrior... *EX advances to the 1G and gives cuts. Right, pass on. 1G steps to the side with his sword at carry and remains there until the SW instructs the EX before the 2G. At this point the 1G resumes marching his post. 2G & 3G follow the same pattern.*

SW The EX may be changed between the G's. At the conclusion of the 3G, the SW says, Now let us repair to the Asylum... *W opens West Gate. SW, EX, and candidates exit. Outside, EX may be changed.*

Return to the Asylum and the First Four Libations

*Asylum is set up with triangle in the center of the room. 12 cups should be in place, filled with water and wine. 12 tapers are placed around the triangle. A ewer of water and wine is on hand for refilling, as needed. Relics on top of Holy Bible should be positioned and covered. Officers resume stations. When all is ready, W signals SW to make alarm. SW, at tiled door, sword at carry, raps *** ** * ** **

W Eminent Commander (H)(H), there is an alarm.

C Sir Knight Warder, attend the alarm. (H)(H)

W W draws sword and marches to the door. W raps *. S raps *. W opens door but does not leave the Asylum. Who comes here?

SW A Pilgrim Warrior...

W What surety...

SW **The commendation...**

W **How does he...**

SW **By the...**

W **Advance and communicate...***SW gives word in view and hearing of candidates* **Await the Order...***W exits, closes door, and about faces* **Eminent Commander (†)(H), there stands...**

C **What surety...**

W **The commendation...**

C **How does he...**

W **By the...**

C **Admit him. (†)(H)**

W *W returns to tiled door and opens it. The Commander permits...After all enter, W closes door and raps *** ***. S raps *** ***. W returns to station, returns sword, and sits. SW and EX return swords, enter asylum, and proceed to position about two steps west of the triangle, facing East. Other candidates follow and form a north-south line two paces behind SW and EX.*

C **Pilgrim, having gained...**

SW *Raising right hand. Pilgrim do as I do... All candidates are to participate.*

C **The sentiments...***All candidates answer. Advance to the Triangle. EC goes to apex of triangle, followed by G on his right and CG on his left; JW arises and goes to his place on the triangle. EX will be in the center of the triangle base, with SW on his right and JW on his left. Up to eight additional candidates may be positioned at the triangle, with any other candidates placed in a line behind the triangle. Designated Knights will complete the twelve places around the triangle, as needed. All twelve SKs at the triangle should arrive at about the same time and take care to halt one pace from the triangle. No swords are to be drawn. Candidates placed in line, if any, will also participate in the libations. We will now participate in the first libation.*

CG **Sir Knights at the triangle, un-cover.** *Done with CG uncovering last.*

C **Advance and take a cup.** *All step forward with the right foot, take a cup in the right hand, taking cue from the C, in unison, and step back. SKs on the sidelines do not uncover for the libations and they remain seated for the readings. Repeat after me...All drink, advance, replace cups, step back in unison, and then recover under the command of the CG as soon as the cups have been returned. This form of taking and returning the cups will be observed for the first four libations. When the C commands the P to read a scriptural lesson he will face the P and command, Excellent Prelate (B)(H), you will read...C then faces back to the West. Before the P begins the*

*reading, the CG will order, “un-cover.” At the conclusion of the reading the CG will give the order to “recover.” When the EX extinguishes one of the tapers the Asylum lights are dimmed and remained dimmed until after the taper is relighted. At the conclusion of the second lesson and when the SKs have re-covered, C kneels and uncovers, head bowed. G and CG draw their swords and use the points to remove the cloth covering the relics, carrying the cloth over the kneeling and uncovered C. P, standing behind C, receives the cloth, and returns to his station. C recovers and arises. Pointing to the exposed skull, C continues with second of the two options: **Pilgrim, you here...**In this jurisdiction, the “Ode” is always to be done – after the line “and dwell forever in realms of life and light eternal the skull is replaced on triangle. **Pilgrim, the warfare...**JW removes sword, scabbard, sling, and buckler; SW puts white robe on EX and with...C places skull in EX’s left hand as a symbol...C gives taper to EX as an emblem...*

SW and JW lead EX slowly and penitentially, followed by other candidates, South, then East, around the apex of the triangle, then to the North and thence to the West, exiting by the West Gate.

The Year of Penance

*Officers except P and SG (W) vacate their stations. Change the room to display the Holy Shrine and Ascension scene. Place kneelers across the center of the room, from JW’s to SW’s stations. Place podium. Lights turned as low as manageable. When room is ready, W will signal the Wardens, and they will approach the open tiled door. SW draws sword and raps softly **

SG *With sword drawn, speaking softly.* **Who would here intrude?**

SW **A Pilgrim Penitent...**

SG **Advance and communicate...***SW communicates the word softly in view of the candidates and returns his sword. You have permission...*SW and JW lead EX and candidates into the asylum. They all kneel, facing the Holy Shrine scene.

P **In the end...***When P says, “Come and see the place,” SW, JW, EX, and candidates remain kneeling while the SGd points to the sepulcher. After kneeling a few moments, P continues. And as it is...salvation. SW, JW, EX, and candidates stand and remain in place. And go quickly...into heaven.” P approaches EX and begins his address. Pilgrim...sacred book P displays Bible informs...I now invest you...faith. P suspends a cross around EX’s neck It is...on Calvary.*

SW, JW, EX, and candidates proceed to and stop near West Gate.

SW **Pilgrim, your year...***All exit through West Gate.*

The Return to the Asylum and the Fifth Libation

Holy Shrine and Ascension scenes are cleared and asylum is reset with triangle in the center of the room; ewer of pure wine and skull cup are added. Nine Knights assume positions at the triangle, kneeling on their left knees, heads bowed, resting their hands on the hilts of their drawn swords. It is strongly recommended that although the rest of the

*ceremony may be performed on a group that this scene be done on one candidate at a time up to the command to “partake” of the libation. If this would be too burdensome, the absolute minimum to be performed on each candidate during a class begins with “Take this cup in your right hand” and ends with the command to “partake.” A white cloth is suspended over the tiled door. Lights remain dimmed. When room is ready, W signals SW. SW at carry swords makes a soft alarm with the tip of his sword *** ***

W *At tiled door, kneeling with hands on his drawn sword, rises and answers the alarm softly, so as not to disturb the meditations of the nine SKs kneeling. **Who dares approach...***

SW **A Pilgrim Penitent...**

W **How does he...**

SW **By the Pilgrim Penitent’s Word.**

W **Advance and...Done.** *SW and JW return swords. Let the Pilgrim Penitent...W lifts curtain with his sword and they enter. SW and JW conduct EX to triangle, stop about two feet from the base, followed by other candidates, who line up in a north-south line behind them.*

C *C raises his head **Sir Knights, whom have...**All SKs at triangle rise and come to carry swords.*

SW *SW waits until all SKs have risen. **A Pilgrim Penitent...***

C *C returns his sword. **Pilgrim your year of...**Wardens return their swords after “repentance.” **Pilgrim, in granting...**When the EX arrives at the base of the triangle, the SW and JW take skull and taper from him and assists him in kneeling.*

CG **Sir Knights at the triangle, order, swords. Un-cover.**

P *P may come to base of triangle and place his right hand on the right shoulder of the EX to give the prayer. **Almighty, glorious...**If the P went to the base of the triangle, he returns to his station.*

CG **Sir Knights at the triangle, re-cover. Carry, swords.**

C **Pilgrim, we cannot...this cup,** *C displays cup emblematic...partaken. C uncovers, drinks, and hands cup to kneeling EX. Depending on the size of the triangle, the C may wish to go around to the base of the triangle. If so, he should go to the Southwest corner of the triangle to deliver the cup and remain until the candidate has partaken. **Take this cup in your right hand and repeat after me.***

CG **Sir Knights at the triangle, order, swords. Un-cover.**

If there is a class and a group are waiting, the JW will move EX and place him on the left of the line formed by the candidates. SW takes a candidate from the right of the line, and places him at the triangle, kneeling. Procedure continues, all receiving the libation, and EX is again kneeling at the triangle. Arrange for extra wine and a fair linen.

CG *Immediately after the candidate partakes, the CG orders. The C recovers, receives cup, and places it near the apex of the triangle. Wipe it clean with a fair linen prior to replacing it on anything that might be stained.* **Sir Knights at the triangle, re-cover. Carry, swords.**

C **Pilgrim, you...charge!** *Knights bring their swords swiftly down to a point in front of the breast of the kneeling EX. Behold the swords...assumed. EC waives hand upwards, and Knights elevate their sword points, forming an arch of steel above and in front of the EX's head with a common point over the Bible. But while you...Carry, swords. Let us attend to another Lesson from the Holy Evangelists. Sir Knights, order, swords. Un-cover. Turning to P Excellent Prelate, (B)(H) you will read the fourth lesson. (B)(H) C faces triangle and uncovers. P reads Acts 1:15-26. C recovers and commands, Sir Knights, re-cover. Carry, swords.*

G **Eminent Commander** *Faces the C and salutes (H)(H), the extinguished taper...(H)(H) C faces West and G faces his side of the triangle.*

C **Sir Knights, you have heard...swords.** *SKs at the triangle with drawn swords come to "present." JW & SW come to "hand salute." SKs at triangle remain in this state while C says, Pilgrim, you have...taper. EX relights taper. Asylum lights are raised to full.*

P *C only silently removes chapeau. So may the Lord...After "failing" the C silently recovers.*

EC *Return to East* **Sir Knights, carry, swords. Pilgrim, arise.**

CG **Commandery, atten-tion. Sir Knights at the triangle, right and left, face.** *They face East Forward, march. They march to foot of dais. Halt. Inward, face.*

C **Sir Knights Senior and Junior Wardens (H)(H), remove the...(H)(H) SW & JW remove robe and conduct EX to foot of the lines. They draw swords and take their places at the foot of the lines. C draws sword. I am now...Sir Knights, form arch of steel, cross, swords. Done. Pilgrim, kneel...Done. C passes under arch of steel, stopping before kneeling EX By virtue of the power...Knight, EC gives one blow of sword across EX's left shoulder, and down the back of the EX and create...Temple. Returns sword. C removes glove and takes Knight by right hand. Arise Sir Knight _____ (Christian name only)...benevolence.**

CG **Sir Knights, carry, swords.**

When additional candidates are to be knighted, JW will remove the EX from the foot of the lines, seat him on the left side of the asylum, and return to his position at the foot of the lines. SW will have clothed the candidate on the south end of the line with the pilgrim's robe and placed him at the foot of the lines. With SW and JW at carry swords, the C proceeds as before.

C **Sir Knights, return, swords. To your posts, march.** *When all are at their stations, C sits. Sir Knights, be, seated. A sword and scabbard for each candidate is near the C, plus a baldric and a spur.*

Investitures and Banner Lectures

JW & SW remain with the candidates during the lectures and investiture helping as needed and as common sense dictates. Lecturers step forward and face the candidates as their turn comes, then return to their seat after their lecture.

1L *Putting baldric on knight* **Wear this...star pointing to it...**

2L **You are...spur, Done...**

3L *3L invests EX with sword sling and scabbard, and holds the sword. SW & JW distribute slings and scabbards to other candidates, getting assistance of other Knights, as needed. I now present...3L hands sword to candidate, hilt first over his left forearm. Carry, swords.*

C *C draws sword and moves in front of EX. SW, JW, and other Knights draw swords and move in front of each candidate. You will now...Sir Knights, kneel. Un-cover. Deposit, chapeaux. Interlace, fingers. C, SKs, and candidates kneel, uncover, and deposit chapeaux as directed. Fingers are interlaced, right hand over left. As our...crossed, C crosses arms. I will...crossed, Crosses candidate's arms. you will...faith, C crosses his arms. I communicate...C crosses candidate's arms. Repeat it. Done. C crosses own arms again. The Response...C drops arms. Sir Knights, secure, chapeaux. Re-cover. Arise. C returns to East. New Sir Knights, about, face. Standard Guard, atten-tion. Draw, swords. Carry, swords. Sir Knight Standard Bearer, (†)(H) display the standard. (†)(H) StdGd move so as to not obstruct the view of the GS or B. StB will point at the standard with his sword.*

4L **The Grand Standard...glory.” Sir Knight Standard Bearer, (†)(†) display the Beauceant. (†)(†) StB will point at the B with his sword. The Beauceant...**

C **Sir Knights, atten-tion. Draw, swords. Standard Guard, display the United States flag. The flag will be displayed in accordance with full form tactics.**

SwB **Color guard, draw, swords. Forward, march. Left oblique, march. Forward, march. Standard guard, halt. Halts in the Northeast. Present, swords. StB returns sword, others hold salute, StB approached dais and grasps flag, does about face, returns to place in line. Standard guard, right wheel, march. Forward, march. Right wheel, march. Forward, march. March along south line, at center of asylum. Right wheel, march. Forward, march. Right wheel, march. Halt. In center of asylum, facing East. Present, swords. In this position the flag lecture is given.**

C **Standard Guard...Flag will be returned in accordance with Full Form Tactics, and the StdGd will return to their stations.**

SwB **Color guard, carry, swords. Forward, march. Left oblique, march. Forward, march. Standard guard, halt. Halts in the Northeast. Present, swords. StB returns flag to its stand, others hold salute, StB does about face, returns to place in line. StB comes to present swords. Standard guard, carry, swords. About, face. Forward, march. Left oblique, march. Forward, march to be in line with their stations Halt. In front of their stations. About, face. Return, swords.**

C **Sir Knights, return, swords. Be, seated. C sits. This concludes the Order of the Temple. Explanatory Lecture follows.**

Drill Instructions

All drills are executed at attention. Every movement should be executed with smartness and precision. There should be no talking, laughing or indulgence in any levity, which is sure to divert the attention, not only of the offender, but those who may hear him.

In saluting, the junior in rank address and salutes first, which salute in all cases is promptly acknowledged. The knight addressed, if seated, will arise and step forward one (1) pace. He will face the knight addressing him and give a hand salute. The Commander, if seated, does not rise to acknowledge a salute. If the knight addressed has his sword drawn, he will salute with the sword.

The Prelate, if in uniform, gives a hand salute; if in his official robes, he acknowledges a salute with a bow.

In a Templar body, when a member is addressed by the presiding officer, such member will arise, take one (1) pace forward, and execute the hand salute, but will not repeat the title of the presiding officer. After the conversation, an exchange of hand salutes should be made.

Pledge to the Flag – When called to attention to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, Sir Knights who are in uniform will face the United States flag, execute the hand salute, repeat the Pledge, and complete it by dropping the hand to the side. Sir Knights who are in civilian dress and covered will uncover with the right hand, carrying the head covering to the left chest, repeat the pledge, and recover. Sir Knights who are in civilian dress, and uncovered, will place the right hand over the heart, repeat the Pledge and drop the hand to the side.

A Knight Templar in full Templar uniform with sword drawn should, on all occasions, salute the flag with the sword. A Knight Templar in full uniform without sword or with sword in scabbard, or a Knight Templar in civilian clothes in the asylum should all hand salute. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General salute by the “Officers Present” which is the position of “Salute Swords.” When marching, the salute is executed six paces from the Officer; the “Carry” is resumed six paces beyond him.

Steps and Marching

All steps and marching are executed from a halt, except right step, and begin with the left foot. The length of the full step in quick time is thirty (30) inches, measured from heel to heel, and the cadence is at the rate of 120 steps per minute. When marching, care should be taken to plant the feet properly, successively landing on the heel and shifting the weight to the ball of the foot. Do not “shuffle” nor slide the feet nor “prance.” The command of execution for all movements while marching is given as either foot strikes the ground, except as otherwise prescribed. The movement commences when the following foot is planted.

Manual of the Color: The “Carry” is the normal position of the National Flag, Beauceant, and the State Color when on the march. At the *Carry*, the foot of the staff rests in the socket of the sling,

held as near vertical as possible; the right hand grasps the staff at the height of the shoulder, and the left hand assists the right when necessary. When saluting, slip the right hand up the staff to the height of the eye, then lower the staff by straightening the arm to the front. At the *Order*, the foot of the staff rests on the floor near the right toe, the right hand holding the staff in a vertical position. At *Present*, the Beauceant will salute (dip) and at Inspections will be dipped in acknowledgement of the Inspecting Officer's Salute. A sling must be worn to properly execute the "Carry" and the required color salutes.

An Officer executes his own commands either before or after the commands to the lines. For instance: for *Sir Knights, Draw, SWORDS*, he draws his sword before giving the command. For *Sir Knights, Return, SWORDS*, he returns his sword after the Knights have executed his command. For *Un-COVER*, he uncovers after the Knights have executed his command. For *Re-COVER*, he recovers before giving the command.

At all commands to *Present, SWORDS* when the commandery is at attention, Knights not under arms or not in uniform covered and uncovered will *Hand, SALUTE*.

To revoke a Preparatory command, or, being at a halt, to begin a new movement improperly begun, the command *AS YOU WERE* is given at which the movement ceases and the former position is resumed.

To form a column from a line or to form a line from a column, the twos (2s) or threes (3s) wheel on a fixed pivot. To change direction (Column Right or Left) twos or threes wheel on a moving pivot (thirty [30] inch radius). The Knight on the flank takes a full step and looks toward the pivot. All keep touch of elbows toward the pivot. The Knight on the pivot and the number two (2) knight turn head and eyes to marching flank and regulate their step accordingly. When change of direction is completed, all turn head and eyes smartly to the front.

Attention

- **Command:** 1. Atten, 2. TION
- **Action:** Heels on the same line and as near each other as the conformation of the Knight permits. Feet turned out equally and forming an angle of about 45 degrees. Knees straight without stiffness. Hips level and drawn back slightly; body erect and resting equally on hips; chest lifted and arched; shoulders square and falling equally. Arms and hands hanging naturally; thumb along seam of the trousers. Head erect and square to the front, chin slightly drawn in; eyes straight to the front, weight of the body resting equally upon the heels and balls of the feet.

Hand Salute

- **Command:** 1. Hand, 2. SALUTE
- **Action:** Raise the right hand smartly till the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of the headdress (if uncovered, the forehead) above the right eye, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm to the left, forearm inclined at about 45 degrees, hand and wrist straight; at the same time look toward the person saluted.; (2) drop the arm smartly to the side.

Right Dress

- **Command:** 1. Right, 2. DRESS
- **Action:** At the command *DRESS*, the entire rank dresses into line touching lightly the elbow toward the side of the guide. Each Knight, except the base guide (number one or the Senior Warden) executes *Eyes, RIGHT* without command. The commanding Officer verifies alignment from two paces to the right of the base guide, facing down the line and orders up or back such Knights as are not in line. When the rank is aligned, the Officer commands *FRONT* at which each Knight will turn his head and eyes smartly to the front.

Forward March

- **Command:** 1. Forward, 2. MARCH
- **Action:** At the command *Forward*, the Knights shift the weight of the body to the right leg, left knee straight. At the command *MARCH*, the Knights step off smartly with the left foot straightforward thirty (30) inches, the arms swinging naturally (six [6] inches to the front and three [3] inches to the rear).

Column Left (Right) March

- **Command:** 1. Column Left (Right), 2. MARCH
- **Action:** Being in march, the leading rank wheels on a moving pivot. The other ranks move forward and wheel on the same ground.

Twos Right March

- **Command:** 1. Twos Right, 2. MARCH
- **Action:** Being in line, the twos wheel to the right on fixed pivots, dressing automatically toward each other, and when the wheel is completed continue at march.

Sword Manual

The sword should be carried with a flexible wrist and without grasping the grip tightly. The grip should be held at position of Carry by the thumb and forefinger, as if holding a pen, and covering about two thirds of the grip below the guard. When marching, the left hand may steady the scabbard when necessary.

Draw and Carry Swords

- **Command:** 1. Sir Knights, 2. Draw, 3. SWORDS
- **Action:** Being in line at a halt with swords in scabbards, at the command *Draw*, grasp the scabbard with the left hand, near its mouth, incline the hilt a little forward, seize the grip with the right hand, and draw the blade until the right forearm is horizontal, back of hand toward the breast. At the command *SWORDS*, draw the sword quickly, raising the arm to its full length at an angle of about 45 degrees, the sword in a straight line with the arm, edge down, extending in the same direction as the right foot. (TWO) Bring the back edge of the blade against the shoulder blade vertical back of the grip to the rear, the arm nearly straight down, the thumb and forefinger embracing the grip, the thumb against the thigh (seam of the trousers), and the other fingers extended and joined in the rear of the grip. This is the position of Carry Swords and where all other movements after begin, unless otherwise specified.

Present Swords

- **Command:** 1. Present, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** Raise and carry the sword to the front, cross hilt as high as the chin and six (6) inches in front of the neck, edge to the left, point six (6) inches farther to the front than the cross hilt, thumb extended on the back of the grip, wrist straight, all fingers grasping the grip.
- **Command:** 1. Carry, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** Resume the carry in one motion without throwing the right hand to the front, or the point to the rear.

Salute Swords

- **Command:** 1. Salute, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** Execute present swords. (TWO) Drop the point of the sword, edge to the left, to about fifteen (15) inches in front of and in prolongation of the right foot, arm hanging naturally, the elbow close to the body, the side of the hand down, at the seam of the trousers.
- **Command:** 1. Carry, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** Resume the position of carry swords in one motion. The Salute Swords is the Present Swords used by the Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General. At the command *Present*, they execute present swords, and at the command *SWORDS*, they execute the second motion of Salute Swords. Junior officers execute the Present unless otherwise specified.

Order Swords

- **Command:** 1. Order, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** Drop the sword point to the ground, blade inclined to the rear, back of the blade to the front, cutting edge forward. (TWO) Bring the blade to a vertical position against the right toe, and place the hand on top of the hilt, three fingers in front of the grip, thumb and little finger in the rear, elbow close to the body.

On Guard

- **Command:** 1. On, 2. GUARD
- **Action:** Turn the left foot square to the left, turning on the left heel, and plant the right foot firmly about eighteen (18) inches to the front, feet at right angles, the weight resting principally on the left foot, the shoulders oblique to the front head and eyes square to the front. At the same time, raise the sword hand on a line with the lower part of the torso, the guard three (3) or four (4) inches to the right of center. Drop the sword diagonally to the left, the blade about eighteen (18) inches in front of the left shoulder, edge to the front, thumb on back of grip, the sword held without restraint.

Cuts or Parries

- **Command:** 1. Give, 2. CUTS
- **Action:** First take the position On Guard, keeping the feet at right angles and looking into the eyes of the knight opposite. The flats of the blades should be crossed about ten (10) inches from the points, the sword arm straight. Cuts should be given with spirit, but the swords touching lightly.
- **Command:** 1. Carry, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** At the first command *Carry*, come to the position of On Guard and at the command *SWORDS*, bring the right foot back to the original line and resume the Carry.

Form Arch of Steel

- **Command:** 1. Form Arch of Steel, 2. Cross, 3. SWORDS
- **Action:** The commandery being formed in two lines, facing inward, and about three (3) paces apart, at Carry Swords, the command will be given. At the command *Cross*, execute Present Swords. At the command *SWORDS*, advance the right foot and take the position of Cut One.
- **Command:** 1. Carry, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** At the command *Carry*, bring the sword to the position of Present and replace the feet and at the command *SWORDS*, resume the position of Carry Swords.

Return Swords

- **Command:** 1. Return, 2. SWORDS
- **Action:** At the command *Return*, seize the scabbard near the mouth with the left hand, inclining it a little forward, and keeping the right hand near the body. Drop the sword blade forward and to the left so that the point is about six (6) inches from the floor and pointing to a line which is a prolongation of the left foot. Move the sword hand to the left then raise the hand drawing the sword blade between the first two fingers of the left hand. Insert the point of the blade in the mouth of the scabbard, edge to the front, assisted by the thumb and fingers of the left hand, eyes to the front, thrust the blade into the scabbard until the right forearm is horizontal (first motion of draw). At *SWORDS*, return the blade smartly and drop the hands to the side. Note: In inserting the point, avoid turning the scabbard to meet the sword or looking down.

Uncover and Recover

- **Command:** 1. Un, 2. COVER
- **Action:** At the command *COVER*, take the chapeau by the visor with the left hand, (TWO) raise the Chapeau from the head and place it on the right shoulder, slightly to the front, holding it in that position with the left hand. Note: Uncover is never executed unless the swords are in the scabbard or in the position of Order Swords.
- **Command:** 1. Re, 2. COVER
- **Action:** Extend arm outward with chapeau in hand, (TWO) replace the chapeau on the head, (THREE) use left hand to ensure chapeau is fitted and placed properly, (FOUR) drop the hand to the side.

Kneeling

- **Command:** 1. Sir Knights, 2. KNEEL
- **Action:** Carry the left foot about twenty-four (24) inches to the rear. (TWO) Kneel on the left knee, the body and left thigh erect, the right leg below the knee nearly vertical, both hands hanging at the sides.

Deposit Chapeaux

- **Command:** 1. Deposit, 2. CHAPEAUX
- **Action:** From uncover while kneeling; at the command *CHAPEAUX*, place the chapeau on the floor to the left, rosette up, prow pointed toward the body. Resume position of Kneel.

Secure Chapeaux

- **Command:** 1. Secure, CHAPEAUX
- **Action:** Grasp the visor of the chapeau with the left-hand, move chapeau to the right shoulder.