

# HANDBOOK

*"Serving the Lord is our privilege."*

# The Knights of the Altar Handbook

## Table of Contents

<b>HISTORY OF SERVERS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Altar Server Sodality	
Guild of St. Stephen	
Knights of the Altar	
Knights	
<b>KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR SOCIETY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Purpose of the Society	
Qualifications	
General Rules	
<b>MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Method of Advancement	
Members and Ranks	
Apprentice	
Page	
<i>Squire</i>	
Knight	
Knight Commander	
<i>Chevalier</i>	
Grand Knight	
Senior Knights	
Knights of Honor	
Promotion Ceremonies	
<b>OFFICERS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Leaders	
Pastor	
Knight Director	
Leading Offices	
Supreme Grand Knight	
Vice Supreme Grand Knight	
Business Offices	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Auxiliary Offices	
The Council	

<b>MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Procedure	
Elections	
Installation of Officers	
<b>ADMISSION, PROBATION, LEAVING .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Dismissal	
Suspension	
Leave by Request	
Death of a member	
<b>TREASURY OF PRAYERS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Opening Prayer	I Adore Thee
Closing Prayer	Prayer to St. John Berchmans
Knights' Pledge	To St. John Berchmans
Promise of Commitment	Prayer to Christ the King
Membership Pledge	Prayer for Vocations
Come Holy Ghost	Prayer for Missionaries
Prayer before a special event	Prayer to Mary – Bosco
Prayer for a Deceased Member	Sub Tuum Praesidium
For Several Deceased Members	Prayer to Mary – Savio
Prayer before serving Holy Mass	To Our Lady of the Bl. Sac.
Prayer after serving Holy Mass	To St. Joseph (for Servers)
Spiritual Communion	Prayer for Church Unity
<b>HYMNS .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Holy God	Godhead Here in Hiding
Holy, Holy, Holy	To Jesus Heart All Burning
O Sacrament Most Holy	Immaculate Mary
Faith of Our Fathers	Hail Holy Queen
Come Holy Ghost	Ave Maria
Jesus My Lord	
<b>RECEPTION OF APPRENTICE OR SQUIRE.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>PROMOTION CEREMONIES.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Preliminary Ceremonies	
Page	
Knight	
Knight Commander	
Grand Knight	
Concluding Ceremonies	
<b>PERSONAL DATES .....</b>	<b>43</b>

## **HISTORY OF SERVERS**

At a very important time in Jesus' life, He accepted the services of a young boy. This young boy provided five loaves and two fish for that very momentous miracle with which Jesus launched his teaching on the Holy Eucharist. The Sacred Writers do not tell us the name of the young boy, only his deed, and his act of service. Altar servers also perform a great deed of service.

In past centuries, only priests or those ordained to the office of Acolyte were allowed beyond the Communion rail to assist in the Worship of God. The Order of Acolyte is a step toward the priesthood. It is the highest of the four minor orders, before a man seriously commits himself to the priesthood with the three major orders.

As seminaries grew, the Order of Acolyte became for the seminarian a step to the goal of Priesthood, and thus not as many remained Acolyte to assist priests in the Sacred Services. Therefore the Church allowed lay men to perform the duties of that office.

As it became more necessary for men to work steady hours to fulfill their duties as fathers and breadwinners, and young men were called to serve in war time, boys were taught to take on the responsibilities of assisting the priests in their service of God.



### **Altar Server Sodality – Italy (1858)**

St. Dominic Savio and another boy Joseph Bongiavanni were close companions at St. John Bosco's Oratory. Together they founded the Immaculate Conception Sodality for the purpose of frequenting Holy Communion. He and Joseph exchanged ideas for a special sodality for servers before Dominic's death in 1857. Joseph shortly thereafter formed and served as the first president of an auxiliary of the Blessed Sacrament Sodality, the Knights of the Altar.

Don Bosco recorded in his publication, *Catholic Letters* that the new sodality of the Knights of the Altar served their first Mass on January 31, 1858, on the occasion of the feastday celebration of St. Francis de Sales. January 31 is now the feastday of St. John Bosco himself. Don Bosco celebrated the Mass and officially commissioned the Knights of the Altar in Divine Worship on February 2, 1858.

## **Guild of St. Stephen – England (1905)**

The Guild of St Stephen is an International Organization of Altar Servers founded in England in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London. In 1905, Pope Pius X gave his approbation to the Canonical establishment of the Guild at Westminster Cathedral and in 1906, the Sacred Congregation of Rites made the Guild an Archconfraternity *prima primaria* enabling all the parish branches to be linked with it. The Guild spread, and in 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all Guilds of Altar Servers throughout the British Commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster.

## **Knights of the Altar - The United States (1939)**

A diocesan priest from St. Paul, Minnesota, Reverend Francis E. Benz, formed the Knights of the Altar in the United States in September of 1938. The Archbishop approved it on March 28, 1939.

“The organization known as The Knights of the Altar, with the regulations governing it as set forth in the following draft as submitted by the founder, Reverend Francis E. Benz, has my approval. (signed) +John G. Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul.”

**Note: Much of this handbook is taken directly from the pamphlet *Knights of the Altar*. Copyright, 1939, by Francis E. Benz, published by the Holy Cross Fathers.**

## **Knights**

Why the name Knight? Medieval Knighthood, in the service of manor lords, calls forth such ideals as honor, loyalty, justice, chivalry, and respect for all. In the use of the term *knight*, the Altar Server is reminded of his duty to serve the Lord of lords with fidelity and honor, to treat others with respect and justice, and to live an upright personal life, defending always the rights of God and His Holy Church. In the names *page* and *squire*, the server is reminded again of the years of practice and study that went into the training of a knight and should consider with what devotion and perseverance he should attend to his own training in the service of the Altar. The *chevalier* was a traveling knight, which should remind the server that he should be ever traveling toward his heavenly goal.

# KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR SOCIETY

**\*Note: the term Knight, or Knight of the Altar may refer to all members at any rank including apprentice and page.**

The Knights of the Altar is an organization of boys and men who serve Our Blessed Lord at His altar. It was organized in September, 1938, in response to many requests from priests, brothers and nuns who felt the need of an organization that would aid them in solving the many problems they encounter from time to time in directing an altar boy society. These directors desired a central organization with rules and regulations to which they could conform and which would also serve as a clearing house for their many problems.

In forming the Knights of the Altar, studies were made of various local altar boy organizations. The successful and outstanding features were noted and used as a basis for this national society. Every feature was tried and tested and was found to be quite successful. Local directors may, at their discretion change certain details to suit the customs of their individual parishes. It is recommended, however, that they adhere as closely as possible to the general structure.

## **Purpose of the Society**

- (1) To form a worthy guard of honor to our Divine Eucharistic King in whose service we willingly assume the dignity and honor of becoming Knights of the Altar:
- (2) To render faithful, reverent and edifying service to God by assisting His visible representatives, the Bishops and Priests, in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in all other liturgical and devotional functions;
- (3) To enkindle in the hearts of the faithful whom we represent at the altar, greater piety and devotion by reverently performing the duties of our holy office and by giving good example in our daily lives;
- (4) Finally, to insure the continued and efficient function of the Knights of the Altar as a society by attending meetings and giving of our service to the Church.



## Qualifications

It is of utmost importance to choose the right type of boys to serve at the altar. This fact cannot be stressed too much. Our Lord said to His Apostles, “You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you.” So too with altar servers. The director chooses those who are to become servers. One may offer his services, but the final choice is to be made by the Knight Director. He who desires to become a server should prepare himself and be able to offer those qualifications which are necessary in one who aspires to become a member of the Knights of the Altar.

1. The Knight of the Altar, first of all, should be of superior character, pure of heart and soul. He should have a special love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. He should show this love in a practical way by often visiting Our Lord as He waits in the silence of the tabernacle and by receiving Him frequently in Holy Communion.
2. Secondly, the Knight must be intelligent. He must learn the Latin prayers and be able to recite them from memory. He must know and understand the movements around the altar and be without hesitancy in performing these actions.
3. The Knight must be trustworthy and reliable. When a server is, for example, scheduled to serve Mass, he must be on time. The Knight remembers what his Master sacrificed for him and any sacrifice he may be required to make is small in comparison. “Be on time” is an ironclad rule for any true Knight of the Altar.
4. Then, the Knight should always present a neat and clean appearance when performing his duties. He should never come to serve with casual, recreational clothing or footwear, or with hair long, styled, dyed, or uncombed. No true knight of old would ever appear before his lord in disarray. So, too, a Knight of the Altar is extremely careful of his appearance when he comes into the presence of the Lord of lords.

## General Rules

All members and especially the officers shall be animated with zeal for the spiritual welfare of the whole society and its individual members. They should guard the rules and avoid dangers or abuses. They should strive to excel in piety, humility and fraternal charity—to be all around Christian gentlemen.

That a right order may be observed, all members should pay due respect and reverence to the Knight Director and to the Pastor as spiritual heads of the society as well as to all officers in charge according to their rank and to their fellow members according to seniority in age or in rank. This consideration in regard to seniority in age and membership is especially to be observed in regard to the election of officers.

If any officer should be prevented from fulfilling the duties of his office he must, as soon as possible, give notice to the Director or to the Supreme Grand Knight so that a substitute may be appointed or elected.

The officers and members should now and then converse with one another on the state of the society and either themselves or through the Supreme Grand Knight communicate to the Knight Director those things of which he ought to know. All members should work out differences in a spirit of kindness and charity. When problems arise they should remember to follow the chain of command and refer it to the proper leader. If not sure, the Knight Director should be consulted.

All Knights of the Altar are expected to take an active part and a lively interest in recreational and social activities. Athletics, dramatics, sports, music, singing and various other activities shall be fostered and encouraged, thus giving every Knight of the Altar every opportunity to develop the best qualities of mind and heart. Every Knight of the Altar is, therefore, expected to give this matter due consideration and full cooperation as far as he is able and must learn to pool his individual interests with the interests of the majority, realizing that in unity there is strength, and success is realized only when all work together for the common end.





# **MEMBERSHIP**

Whoever has been received into the Society remains a member even though he changes to another parish, school, or residence. In the latter case, he must try to comply with the rules and exercises of the Knights as well as circumstances permit.

When a Knight transfers from one parish to another where the Knights of the Altar is set up, he becomes a member of that unit upon the acceptance of his transfer by the Supreme Grand Knight with the approval of that Knight Director. A probation period of at least one month shall precede the acceptance of each transferee, which may be prolonged at the discretion of the Knight Director.

A Knight of the Altar retains his respective rank in the Society until he gives it up of his own accord, is promoted to a higher rank, is automatically dismissed by the rules of dismissal, or is dismissed by the Knight Director as unworthy.

## **Method of Advancement**

Advancement to or in the ranks is absolutely in the hands of the Knight Director. Even though a Knight has sufficient service and knowledge entitling him to a higher rank, he must first of all obtain the consent of the Knight Director in writing. In this paper, he should include a) his current rank and the rank he is seeking, b) proof of service within his rank, c) what membership has done for him in the current rank, d) what specific, practical goals he has for himself in the next rank. This application is given to the Supreme Grand Knight who presents it to the Knight Director and to the Pastor (without the applicant being present).

Before advancing, each member must pass a knowledge test (rubrics and responses), as well as show proof of the service they performed in the previous rank. A paper listing the descriptions of service and the date each was performed is sufficient. If an altar serving assignment is done poorly or inattentively, it does not count toward the total of the required service. The Knight Director, or a Grand Knight he assigns, shall see to it that the servers are held accountable in this.

Knights may pass their tests by appearing before the director or someone appointed by him. The director should use caution and discretion in permitting them to advance sooner from one rank to another: age, time, need, etc. He should be careful that it is never used as a reward or bribe. (See also the rules of Admissions, p. 24)

## MEMBERS AND RANKS

### Apprentice

Any boy or man who shows an interest and willingness to serve at the Altar or to become a Knight, may be accepted as a member of the Knights of the Altar. When someone volunteers or is selected to become an altar server and wishes to be enrolled in the Knights of the Altar, he is known as an Apprentice. This signifies that he is not really a full-fledged member but is merely on trial. His subsequent actions will prove to his director whether he is worthy of advancement and to be promoted as a Knight of the Altar.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and received First Holy Communion at least three months prior.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive Knights of the Altar Handbook; Make Promise of Commitment

**During the time of Apprenticeship, the following should be diligently performed or fulfilled.**

**STUDY:** Character of an Altar Server and Latin Responses (as outlined in Learning to Serve by Father Carmody), learn torchbearer, Rubrics for serving 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Acolyte, and serving alone.

**SERVE:** Torch bearer for Stations, funerals, or liturgical ceremonies

**PERFORMANCE:** Learn and practice the following details: **Time:** (a) When serving must arrive 15 minutes before time.[10 min. is considered LATE] (b) Never miss an assignment or appointment without an urgent reason. **Conduct:** (a) In sacristy – silent and respectful. (b) in society—a model Catholic gentleman.

**Personal Appearance:** (a) Hair cut and combed. (b) Neat clothing, dark dress shoes, clean face, hands, and finger nails,.

(c) Cassock and surplice clean and in good repair, and worn neatly. **Responses:** (a) Pronounce all Mass responses well in unison and with devotion. **Altar Presence:** (a) Walk slowly, with dignity and gravity. (b) Genuflect perfectly as a soldier salutes his King. (c) Keep hands folded properly, head and eyes forward. (d) Perform all actions in perfect unity and harmony.

**SPIRITUALITY: Devotion to Jesus** (a) Receive Holy Communion frequently, preferably weekly. (b) Make frequent visits to Jesus in the Tabernacle.

**KNIGHT SERVICE:** attend three meetings with the permission of the Knight Director, serve as torchbearer 3-5 times.

**PARISH SERVICE:** Help out at Parish functions, cleanings, picnics, etc. at least three times in the term.

## Page

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must have completed 4th Grade; have proof of fulfilling the required service as an **Apprentice**; taken and passed the Knowledge Test to become Page; shown sufficient good will in performing the requirements and duties of service; submitted the letter of intent, and been approved for acceptance by the Society.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive cassock and surplice; renew Promise of Commitment

**During the time of service as Page, the following should be diligently performed or fulfilled.**

**STUDY:** Benediction Acolyte, Boat, High Mass, HM with incense acolyte

**SERVE:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Acolyte at Mass, Cross bearer, and all previous

**PERFORMANCE:** Show an ease in performance of details (as outlined in the Performance of Apprentice).

**SPIRITUALITY: Purity:** (a) a Knight must be pure in heart and soul. (b) Read only good, clean, elevating books and magazines. (c) Watch only those movies or TV programs that have been approved for you. (d) Avoid bad companions and bad places of amusement. (e) Think high, speak high, and walk high. (f) Remember that a Knight must be different. **Obedience:** A Knight must be as obedient as a soldier, (a) at home; (b) at school; (c) in church; (d) to all civil authority.

**KNIGHT SERVICE:** Attend all meetings. Altar Serve 10 times.

**PARISH SERVICE:** Volunteer once every two months.

## Squire

**This rank is equal to that of Apprentice but also includes the duties of Page**

**REQUIREMENTS:** At least age 14 or older, no previous membership in the Society.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive Knights of the Altar Handbook; make Promise of Commitment

**STUDY:** All the responses and rubrics for Low Mass; read one book about Serving.

**SERVE:** Torchbearer, Cross bearer; Holy Mass as soon as the Latin and rubrics are sufficiently known.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** Fulfill other observances of Apprentice and Page.



## Knight

The Rank of Knight gives full membership in the Society of the Knights of the Altar. The Certificate of Membership is given and should be framed or kept carefully as a document of importance. The Knight should take seriously the pledge pronounced at the Altar.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must have completed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; have proof of fulfilling the required service as **Page**; taken and passed the Knowledge Test to become Knight; shown sufficient good will in performing the requirements and duties of service; submitted the letter of intent, and been approved for membership by the Society.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive **CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP**, Take Membership Pledge. Receive Scapular Medal - optional

**During the time of service as Knight, the following should be diligently performed or fulfilled.**

**STUDY:** Crossbearer, Thurifer, Holy Week Liturgies, Christmas midnight Mass, etc.

**SERVE:** High Mass, Acolyte at Incense Mass, Benediction Acolyte, boat. Know and practice all foregoing requirements perfectly.

**PERFORMANCE:** Show a proficiency in performance of details.

**SPIRITUALITY: Courtesy:** A Knight Commander must be kind, respectful and helpful to all, especially: (a) to priests and sisters; (b) to the old and young; (c) to ladies. **Sportsmanship:** A Knight Commander must learn to take adversity with a smile, especially: (a) in games; (b) when someone hurts his feelings; (c) when someone teases him; (d) when someone corrects him.

**KNIGHT SERVICE:** attend all meetings (mandatory), eligible to vote, Altar Serve 20 times this term.

**PARISH SERVICE:** Volunteer at least once a month

## **Knight Commander**

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must have completed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade; have proof of fulfilling the required service as **Knight**; taken and passed the Knowledge Test; shown sufficient good will in performing the requirements and duties of service; submitted the letter of intent, and been approved for advancement by the Society.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Renew Membership Pledge

**During the time of service as Knight Commander, the following should be diligently performed or fulfilled.**

**STUDY:** Master of Ceremonies (optional); setting up for Mass and Ceremonies

**SERVE:** Know and practice all foregoing requirements perfectly

**PERFORMANCE:** Perform details and rubrics with ease and devotion.

**SPIRITUALITY: Devotion to Mary:** A Knight Commander must have a love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. (a) He must pray three Hail Mary's every night asking her protection. (b) He must pray the rosary often, every day when able. **Associations:** (a) A Knight Commander will only associate with good honorable boys and girls and thus preserve his dignity as a Knight of the Altar. (b) Persuade others to a higher level by example.

**KNIGHT SERVICE:** attend all meetings (mandatory), eligible to vote, eligible for business offices. Serve 30 times.

**PARISH SERVICE:** Volunteer twice a month. Train pages.

## **Chevalier**

**This rank is equal to that of Knight but also includes some duties of Knight Commander** (eligible to vote, but not eligible for office)

**REQUIREMENTS:** completed three to six months as Squire (or longer as determined by the director), fulfilled necessary requirements and service of Apprentice and Page.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive cassock, surplice, and Certificate of Membership; take Membership Pledge.

**STUDY:** Requirements for the levels Knight and Knight Commander

**SERVE:** Any levels as soon as sufficiently learned

Upon the completion of one term (year) the Chevalier may be received as Grand Knight, with the same service (if high school age) and knowledge requirements. He becomes immediately a Senior Knight or a Knight of Honor as the case may be. After two years, dated from his reception as squire, he is eligible for any office. Time may be lengthened at the discretion of the Director.



## GRAND KNIGHT

### *Highest rank in the Society*

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must have completed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; have proof of fulfilling the required service as **Knight Commander**; taken and passed the Knowledge Test; shown sufficient good will in performing the duties of service; submitted the letter of intent, and been approved for the Knight's Cross by the Society.

**PROMOTION CEREMONY:** Receive **KNIGHT'S CROSS**, Take Grand Knight Pledge

**The Grand Knight should continue in a faithful, diligent service.**

**STUDY:** To perform service with devotion, attention, and perfection.

Read a book on Serving (such as, *Joy to My Youth* by Harold A. Buetow), or other spiritual book on the lives of the Saints.

**SERVE:** Master of Ceremonies (optional), and set up sacristy for Mass. Know and practice all foregoing requirements perfectly.

**PERFORMANCE:** Perform rubrics with ease, precision, and devotion.

**Time, Conduct, Personal Appearance, Responses, Altar Presence.** Above all the Grand Knight should always be a clear example to the other Knights, especially those in the lower ranks.

**SPIRITUALITY:** A Grand Knight should strive to excel by word and example in all areas. **Devotion to Jesus, Purity, Obedience, Courtesy, Sportsmanship, Devotion to Mary, Associations**

**KNIGHT SERVICE:** The Grand Knight should be able to be called on for any service at any time. He should be willing to volunteer his services where needed without being told or assigned. A Grand Knight is eligible for any office, including Leading Offices. He should be willing to give the extra time and attention to fulfill those responsibilities even at the sacrifice of personal interests. Any Grand Knight may train all levels of serving, provided he has been approved by the Knight Director.

**PARISH SERVICE:** The Grand Knight should be exemplary in offering his services at general parish functions, but also to individual parish members, such as shut-ins, the sick, etc.

## **Senior Knights of the Altar** (High school division)

In order to be **SENIOR KNIGHT**, a Knight shall have completed 8<sup>th</sup> Grade or be in his 14<sup>th</sup> year. He shall have attained the rank of Grand Knight, and should pride himself on being able to fulfill those obligations beyond the call of duty. Senior Knights are eligible for any office, and attendance at meetings and activities is required. **They should be the most active members in the society: serving, training, parish service.** The Senior Knight should be someone the parish members can look on with assurance and confidence as their representatives and their future.

## **Knights of Honor** (Men's Division)

In order to be a member of the **KNIGHTS OF HONOR**, a Knight shall have attained the rank of Grand Knight and have graduated from High School, or be in his 18<sup>th</sup> year. A Knight of Honor is expected to be a good example to the younger members and uphold the ideals of the Knights of the Altar. They should actively participate at least once a month (serve at Holy Mass, a Church liturgical function or procession, teach Catholic doctrine, train other servers, set up for Mass, etc.,).

Meetings and activities are important and should not be missed without good reason, with the awareness that the younger ranks look to older members for the example of leadership and commitment. A Knight of Honor should recall that the younger members of the society and of the parish look to him for an example of parish involvement and Catholic Living. Knights of Honor are eligible for any office, including the assignment of Knight Director.

## **Knights of the Altar Promotion Ceremonies**

The Solemn Promotion Ceremonies of new members and the advancement to higher ranks of Knighthood may take place each year on the Feast of Christ the King, or on any appropriate day selected by the Knight Director and the Pastor.

It is well to notify the parish in advance so that as many as are able may attend and share in the graces, show their support, and be edified by the advancement and example of the members.

Medals, Crosses, or pins bestowed are determined by custom, availability, and approval by the Pastor, Council, or Society.

## **OFFICERS**

**THE REVEREND PASTOR** – Leader - The Reverend Pastor, by virtue of his office as Pastor of the parish, is also head of the Knights' Society. He retains his office as long as he remains Pastor. If he chooses, the Pastor may assume the title and duties of the Knight Director.

**KNIGHT DIRECTOR** – Leader – This office belongs to the Pastor or to the one appointed by him, namely, an assistant Pastor, the Sister, or Knight of Honor in charge of the servers.

The Knight Director will attend the meetings of the Knights. At these meetings he shall answer questions asked by the servers, give suggestions and relay the wishes of the Pastor to the servers. It is the duty of the Knight Director to work with the pastor in scheduling meetings, planning activities, approving advancements, and handling suspensions or dismissals. He shall also see to it that Holy Mass and the Ceremonies are served correctly, attentively, and devoutly.

The Knight Director shall also post appointments and assignments, examine the servers for promotion, assist the servers generally and call special meetings when necessary.

**SUPREME GRAND KNIGHT** – Leading Office – The Supreme Grand Knight shall be elected only from those who have attained the rank of Grand Knight. He shall be elected at the beginning of the school year for a term of one year. He shall be a Knight who is distinguished in all of the requirements of the Knights, and who possesses the zeal and qualities of leadership necessary for this office. The Supreme Grand Knight sees that the servers keep their appointments and fulfill them satisfactorily. He presides over meetings, and does all in his power to promote a good spirit among the members. As Supreme Grand Knight, he may also assist the Knight Director in his duties.

**VICE SUPREME GRAND KNIGHT** – Leading Office – The Vice Supreme Grand Knight is elected for the same term as the Supreme Grand Knight. He also must have attained the rank of Grand Knight. He will keep the meetings moving in a regular manner, and preside over them in the absence of the Supreme Grand Knight. He will assist the Supreme Grand Knight in any way designated by the Knight Director. He shall see to it that the servers keep cassocks, surplices and anything else they use in the Sacristy in good order. He also works closely with the Knight Director in planning and preparing all that is needed for the Knights of the Altar Promotion Ceremonies.



**SECRETARY** – Business office – The Secretary must have attained at least the rank of Knight Commander and shall be elected for the same term as the other officers. The office of Secretary requires good organizational skills, as it entails much of the practical paper work. The Secretary shall note the proceedings of each meeting, read the minutes, call the roll, keep a record of various activities and do any clerical work assigned to him by any of the officers named above. He shall also keep the books of the Society: a) the list containing the full names of the Knights and their respective ranks, the dates of their reception and promotions. b) notifications of a member leaving the unit or of a member being dismissed. c) a history of the activities of the society.

**TREASURER** – Business Office – The Treasurer may be chosen from either the ranks of the Grand Knights or Knight Commanders, and shall serve the same term as the other officers. The Treasurer requires good management skills, as well as discretion and accountability. He shall keep an exact record of the funds and expenditures of the Society and shall give a report of the financial status at the meetings, or whenever designated by the Knight Director or Supreme Grand Knight. He shall also assist the Secretary or any other officers in any duties assigned by them to him. If the Treasurer has attained the rank of Grand Knight, he may assist in promoting the Servers.

**ADDITIONAL OFFICES** – Auxiliary Office – Depending on numbers and need, other offices may be established by the Knight Director and the Pastor. Such offices may include (but are not limited to):

**Rubrics Consulter** – one who knows rubrics well and provides a rubric for members to perfect each month. His goal is to work for uniformity, perfection, and precision of rubrics by all members of the Society. He may assist in the training of apprentices.

**Activities Coordinator** – one who schedules the monthly activities after the meetings. All activities must be approved by the Pastor and Knight Director and the members notified in advance.

## **The Council**

The Council is a board of officers which includes the Pastor, the Knight Director, the Supreme Grand Knight, the Secretary, and when needed the Treasurer.

This Board may be called to meet at the instigation of the Pastor or Knight Director, for advice, to handle decisions, to discuss advancement or probation of members, and any other pertinent matters.

## **MEETINGS**

Meetings, classes, and practices are MANDATORY for all ranks from Page up to and including Senior Knights. Knights of Honor are requested to be present at any meetings or activities possible. Apprentices may attend at the discretion of their coach and the Knight Director.

Meetings should be held at regular times, usually once a month. The Council or the Knight Director may decide to have them scheduled more frequently. The Knight Director and the Supreme Grand Knight shall be empowered to call extraordinary meetings or practices when necessary or advisable.

All members as well as the officers are expected to give their opinions freely and candidly, though in a becoming and respectful manner, and never hesitate to propose whatever they consider necessary or useful.

Matters are ordinarily decided by a simple majority of votes but to become final all matters passed must have the approval of the Knight Director. For reasons of his own, the Knight Director, or the Supreme Grand Knight, may in a given case require a two-thirds majority vote instead of the customary simple majority.

It shall be the duty of the Vice Supreme Grand Knight to make sure that order is observed in the points of the meeting. He shall see to it that the time is regulated such that the business and formation sections of a normal meeting will not take longer than one hour. It is recommended to follow the simple rules of order in discussion.

Some form of formation should form a part of each meeting and cannot be dispensed with except by permission of the Knight Director – a spiritual conference (by the Director or an outside speaker, or a report by a member). One or more topics may be taken from the following: rules for correct serving, appointments to be made for various occasions, some study of the Mass prayers, the meaning of certain actions performed at the altar (Liturgy), remarks or pointers concerning the spirit and the service of the Knight of the Altar.

The Knight Director shall do all in his power to instruct the servers in the sacred liturgy, encourage their frequent reception of the Sacraments and even daily attendance at Holy Mass. He shall urge them to carry the ideals of the Knights of the Altar into their daily lives.

The meetings should be divided into three parts, of which the first two should take no longer than an hour.

As far as possible each meeting should be followed by some recreational, social, or community activity.

## Procedure

*\*for a one page complete outline of the meeting see the back page\**

**Call to Order:** by Supreme Grand Knight

**Opening Prayer:** led by the Knight Director.

**Roll Call:** Each member responds in a clear voice, "Ready to serve."

**Knights' Pledge:** said together

### **PART ONE-BUSINESS** *explanation below*

**Minutes:** from the previous meeting are read by the Secretary.

**Reports:** Treasurer, Committees, Auxiliary Officers

**Official business:** elections, and Installation of Officers, voting, upcoming ceremonies, practices, activities, etc.

### **PART TWO – FORMATION** *explanation below*

**Conference:** Address followed by discussion.

**Practice:** practicing a given rubric, responses, or testing time

**Closing Prayer and Hymn:** Led by the Knight Director. This closes the official meeting.

### **PART THREE – ACTIVITIES** *explanation below*

**Activity:** All are encouraged to take part in the activity that follows.

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### **PART ONE – BUSINESS:**

After the pledge the members are seated and the meeting is presided over by the Supreme Grand Knight. The Secretary reads the minutes of the preceding meetings and after these are accepted, the Treasurer gives a brief statement of finances. Any other officers may report as needed or requested. For example: a Rubrics Coach could mention a rubric each meeting for everyone to keep in focus for perfection or uniformity.

Appointments of boys who are to serve on various days may be announced as well as the time for practices, etc. Announcements are made of the boys who have been accepted as apprentices. The names of those boys who will be promoted to Page, Knight, Knight Commander, or Grand Knight may be presented by the Knight Director or by the Supreme Grand Knight for acceptance. Certificates may also be distributed during this part of the meeting.

Other details in regard to business affairs should be discussed and settled. Upcoming ceremonies, athletic events, social activities, and other extra altar server activities may be announced or presented for members to plan ahead. Occasions for Knight Service and Parish Service should also be announced. The Vice Supreme Grand Knight should see to it that the business part of the meeting moves along and is completed in a regulated amount of time.

## **PART TWO – FORMATION**

The second part of the meeting includes two sections:

- a) A talk by the Knight Director or a speaker designated by him. A good practice is for members to take turns giving reports on assigned topics. This talk may be of either a spiritual or practical nature, and should end with a short discussion period, so all have a chance to learn from others and share their insights. It would be a good practice to review occasionally some detail of Service, Performance, or Spirituality expected of the members.
- b) A chance to break into groups and practice particular rubrics or ceremonies. Coaches must be assigned or approved by the Knight Director.

This is a good time for taking tests to advance in ranks. Boys may pass their oral test before the Director, or before anyone who is Grand Knight providing the Director has approved of them.

## **PART THREE – ACTIVITIES**

The third part of the meeting should be given over to an activity. It may be as simple as playing a ball game or a planned group entertainment for a little while after the meeting.

Outside activities should take place periodically. All activities should be planned by the Activities Coordinator or other designated officer, approved by the director, and presented to the members at the meeting. Plan well in advance so the members can schedule it.

**Parish or Community Service or outreach:** Volunteering at a soup kitchen, yard work for the elderly or shut-ins of the parish, parish work...cleaning sacristy, sanctuary, grounds, parish cleaning days, etc.

**Pilgrimages:** Visit a shrine in the area, or Catholic historical place.

**Recreation:** Hiking, recreational centers, and even an annual camping trip when feasible may be scheduled according to the resources of the members and the approval of the leaders.

**Fundraisers:** Apprentices buy or rent books at the decision of the Pastor. Other regular dues or donations may be collected from the members for the purchase and upkeep of the cassocks and surplices used by the members, for Certificates and Crosses (medals, pins) for Promotion Ceremonies, and for any other fitting reason. If they deem them fitting, offerings are determined and regulated by the Director and the Pastor, and collected at each meeting with discretion and consideration.

Other fundraisers may be planned to raise money for charitable works, sacristy purchases, or recreation. All financial business is recorded by the Treasurer who is accountable to the rest of the Council.

## Elections

Voting members are those with the rank of Knight or higher. The Knight Director determines whether non-voters may be present. All offices are held for the term of one year. If an office is vacated during that time, the Knight Director and the Pastor will determine who will fill the role for the duration, whether by appointment or by election.

Before voting or assigning officers, leaders and members would do well to read again the duties and requirements of each office. Members may discuss the abilities or qualities of those eligible, but should safeguard their good names and seek to promote the edification of the Society members. Canvassing for personal gain or through bribery is prohibited and will result in dismissal from the society.

Voting should begin with a hymn or prayer in honor of the Holy Ghost asking His guidance in choosing capable leaders.

The first step in the election of officers shall be the selection of a nominating committee, consisting of three Knights chosen by the Knight Director, to collect and count the votes.

**Supreme Grand Knight and Vice Supreme Grand Knight:** Anyone with the rank of Grand Knight is eligible for nomination to the leading offices. Each voting member submits a ballot to the committee with 2 names on it (not his own). The nominating committee will count the nominations and name the two (or 3 in case of a tie) Grand Knights who received the highest number of votes. If any of the nominees has good reason for not taking the office, he should make that known. From these nominees, the Supreme Grand Knight shall be elected by secret vote. The one receiving the majority of votes becomes Supreme Grand Knight. The other nominee automatically becomes the Vice-Supreme Grand Knight. (If the vote was a tie, another secret vote takes place).

**Secretary:** Anyone with the rank of Knight Commander or Grand Knight is eligible for nomination to the business offices. Several names may be verbally submitted by the electors; they should be Knights who would be fit to carry out the duties that the office entails. If any of the nominees has good reason for not taking the office, he should make that known. From these nominees, the Secretary shall be elected by secret vote. The one receiving a simple majority of votes becomes Secretary.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer is elected with the same procedure as the secretary.

**Auxiliary Offices:** Other Officers may be (a) elected in the same way as the business offices, (b) volunteered for and approved by the electors, or (c) assigned by the Knight Director.

## Installation of Officers

New officers may be installed at the same meeting at which they are elected, provided they are well acquainted with the duties of their respective offices. It may be deferred to the next meeting after the elections. After installation they begin their duties immediately.

First, the Knight Director, or the Pastor, gives a brief talk on the ideals of the Knights and the duties of the officers about to be installed.

The Knight Director then says: "In virtue of my position as Director of the Knights of the Altar of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish, I hereby proclaim the following officers duly elected. I further proclaim that they shall take office from this day and shall have all the powers, duties, and responsibilities granted by the Society."

He reads the names of all offices. They stand while he questions them.

**Director:** Do you promise to abide by the spirit and the rules of the Knights of the Altar as given in the Handbook?

**Officers:** (*All together and loud enough to be heard by the Knights assembled*) We promise.

**Director:** Do you have a sufficient knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of your respective office and of all the rules and regulations of the Knights of the Altar so as to be able to carry them out faithfully?

**Officers:** We do.

**Director:** Do you promise not to allow anything except serious illness or grave reason to keep you from attending the regular meetings of the Knights of the Altar and from attending to your duties in general?

**Officers:** We promise.

**Director:** Will you work earnestly and zealously to further your own spiritual good and that of your fellow Knights, as well as to do everything possible to see that Christ, your Eucharistic King, is served with exactness and honor?

**Officers:** We will.

Each retiring Officer now passes on his office to the newly elected. If the officer has been re-elected or is not available, the Knight Director (or one he appoints) performs the ceremony.

**Retiring Supreme Grand Knight:** (*holding the Book of Membership*): It is with sincere good will that I give you, \_\_\_\_\_, this symbol of the Office of Supreme Grand Knight. You are now responsible for those enlisted. I pray that our Divine Eucharistic King may guide you always, and that under the protection of our Blessed Mother Mary you may draw always closer to Christ and lead every Knight of the Altar

closer to His Sacred Heart in the faithful performance of your sacred trust. I will always cooperate with you to the best of my ability.

**New Supreme Grand Knight:** I humbly accept this symbol of my office and solemnly promise Christ our King and his Blessed Mother that I will fulfill my duties to the best of my ability. I will live up to the spirit and rules of the Knights of the Altar as set forth in the Handbook and will work earnestly to promote the aims and purposes of the Knights in accordance with the wishes of the Directors and the will of the Knights.

**Retiring Vice Supreme Grand Knight:** (*holding the Handbook and Ceremonial*): It is the duty of the Vice Supreme Grand Knight to work closely with the Supreme Grand Knight in fulfilling the purpose of the Society as outlined in the Handbook, and to call attention to the observance of the regularity at meetings, as well as coordinate and prepare for the Promotion Ceremonies. I give you, \_\_\_\_\_, these important documents so that you may know clearly the objects of the Knights of the Altar and so work zealously in cooperation with the Supreme Grand Knight in the service of Christ our King.

**New Vice Supreme Grand Knight:** In accepting these documents, I promise in all humility to do my best to work with the Supreme Grand Knight to improve our spiritual lives and to promote the purposes of the Knights of the Altar for the honor and glory of Christ our King.

**Retiring Secretary:** (*handing over the Minutes, History, and Roll Book*): These are the records of the Knights of the Altar. We now entrust them to you, \_\_\_\_\_, and hope that the activities you inscribe therein will reflect splendid achievement on the part of our Knights and will reflect likewise a series of worthwhile and well conducted meetings.

**New Secretary:** I accept the trust placed in me and will write carefully and keep in good order the records of the Knights of the Altar. I, too, hope and pray that the records of our achievements will be worthy of reward at the second coming of Christ our King.

**Retiring Treasurer:** (*handing over the ledger*): To you, \_\_\_\_\_, we entrust the funds of the Knights of the Altar. Remember to keep the record of expenditures up to date and correct. From this day you become the guardian and dispenser of the Knights of the Altar treasury.

**New Treasurer:** I shall fulfill my responsibility worthily during my term of office to the best of my ability, mindful that I must one day give an account of my stewardship to Christ our King.

The new officers assume the duties of their respective offices directly and continue the meeting. Any Auxiliary Officers are recognized by the new Supreme Grand Knight, and then take their places assuming the duties of their new office. The Pastor blesses the assembly.

## **ADMISSION, PROBATION, LEAVING**

The Supreme Grand Knight will submit names of possible apprentices and all written promotion applications to the Knight Director and to the Pastor; applicants are not to be present. The Director and the Pastor may decide to approve the applications directly, or by vote of the Council, or by vote of all the members. The applicants are not to be present when the application is voted on.

When all the conditions prescribed, shall have been complied with, the Reverend Pastor shall at an opportune time admit the apprentice or confer the promotion according to the ceremonies prescribed.

### **Dismissal**

1. Reasons for dismissal are: grievous faults, scandalous life, continued negligence in complying with the rules of the Knights of the Altar. Such cases may be decided by the Society, by the council of officers, or privately by the Knight Director. It is the decision of the Knight Director and Pastor whether the delinquent is to be dismissed privately or publicly before the whole Society. In either case the dismissed member is entirely cut off from the Society. He must return the certificate and Cross, and his name is taken off the list of Knights.

2. Failure to attend two meetings in succession without submitting a satisfactory explanation of absence to the Knight Director shall by the time of the third meeting subject the Knight to public dismissal according to Rule 1. Between the second and third meeting the absentee shall be notified by the Supreme Grand Knight that he has neglected to give an explanation of absence and that his dismissal is pending.

3. Failure to keep an appointment for serving without having procured a substitute, without having notified the Knight Director previous to the occasion, or without a subsequent explanation of absence to the Local Director shall subject the Knight to dismissal by the time of the second subsequent meeting.

4. A dismissed Knight (at least six months after the date of dismissal) may request re-admittance in writing. A Grand Knight must be willing to speak for him, and seek the approval of both the Supreme Grand Knight and the Knight Director. At their discretion, he is admitted on probation, not to exceed three months. During that time he must attend all meetings and perform Knights and Parish service with good will. After the time of probation, he is either denied, or he is restored to the benefits of the rank held at the time of dismissal, which includes serving at the Altar. Although he may vote, he may not be elected for office at the next election.



## **Suspension**

For smaller faults a Knight may be suspended from the rights and privileges of the Society. In this case the delinquent remains a member subject to all its duties but not allowed to enjoy its privileges, including serving at the altar; nor is he allowed to wear the Cross, until he has given full satisfaction.

The types of faults, and the length of suspension should be determined by the Knight Director (with the approval of the Pastor) having the final say in each given case. He may seek advice of the Council.

If a member is suspended or expelled from school, he should likewise be suspended or dismissed from the society. The length of suspension is determined in each case by the Knight Director.

## **Leave by Request**

Any member may request to leave the Society, stating the reasons in writing to the Pastor or Knight Director. He is taken off the list of Knights and it is announced at the next meeting. The reasons are not announced unless specifically requested by the leaving member. He may keep the Knight's Cross and Certificate.

Should he choose to re-enter, he should request it in writing and await the approval of the Pastor and Knight Director.

## **Death**

When a member of the Society dies, his name should be published in the parish bulletin and announced. Every member of the Society is required to serve one Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased member as soon after as possible. The Knight Director shall pray a public prayer at the next three meetings, and the Treasurer shall give a stipend to the pastor for a Mass to be said in behalf of all the members.



# Treasury of Prayers for Altar Servers



## Opening Prayer

*(may be used before meetings)*

Enlighten our minds, and strengthen our wills so that we may have a right understanding and good judgment in all things and that all our thoughts, words, and actions may be pleasing to God and profitable to our Salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary.

## Closing Prayer *(may be used after meetings)*

Grant us, O Lord, the help of Thy grace to carry out faithfully and successfully all those things which, through Thy inspiration we know ought to be done, always to be loyal to our society, its purposes, and its Constitutions. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father, etc.

## Knights' Pledge (Said at meetings by all Knights of the Altar)

We, the Knights of the Altar, pledge allegiance to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, to His representatives on earth, and to Mary, our Queen Immaculate, whom we will serve faithfully until we attain eternal triumph in heaven.

We pledge ourselves to form a worthy guard of honor to our Divine Eucharistic King in whose service we willingly assume the dignity and honor of becoming Knights of the Altar; to render faithful, reverent and edifying service to God by assisting His visible representatives, the Bishops and Priests, in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in all other liturgical and devotional functions; to enkindle in the hearts of the faithful, whom we represent at the altar, greater piety and devotion by reverently performing the duties of our holy office and by giving good example in our daily lives.

## Promise of Commitment (Apprentice, Page, *Squire*)

I will be faithful to my training as a Knight of the Altar. I understand my obligations and responsibilities, and promise commitment to do my best at all times.

## **Membership Pledge**

(Knight, *Chevalier*, Knight Commander, Grand Knight)

I pledge my service to Almighty God and his holy Church by observing faithfully the rules and obligations of the Knights of the Altar, and I promise to be a loyal member at all times.

(Grand Knights add) I promise as Grand Knight, to serve Christ my King as Lord of Lords with fidelity and honor. Mary, His Immaculate Mother, shall be my Queen and my Lady, and I shall be her devoted champion. I further promise to treat others with respect and justice, to live a good personal life, and to profess and defend the rights of God and His Holy Church.

## **Come Holy Ghost**

V. Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of the faithful

R. And enkindle in them the fire of thy Love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O God, Who dost instruct the hearts of the faithful, by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant that by the same Holy Ghost we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer before a special event**

Direct we beseech Thee, O Lord, our actions by Thy holy inspiration, and carry them on by Thy gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may begin always with Thee and through Thee be happily ended. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

## **Prayer for a Deceased Member**

Hearken, O Lord, to the prayers with which we humbly entreat thy clemency; and do thou bring to a place of peace and of rest the soul of Thy servant \_\_\_\_\_, whom Thou hast called out of this world, and command him to be admitted to the fellowship of Thy Saints. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## **For several Deceased Members**

O God, generous Bestower of pardon and lover of man's salvation, we beseech Thee in Thy mercy to grant, through the intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all the Saints, that the members of our Society, who have passed out of this life, may partake of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Altar Server's Prayer** (Before serving Holy Mass)

Open my mouth, O Lord, to bless Thy Holy Name. Cleanse my heart from all evil and distracting thoughts.

Enlighten my understanding and inflame my will that I may serve more worthily at Thy holy altar. O Mary, Mother of Christ the High Priest, obtain for me the most important grace of knowing my vocation in life. Grant me a true spirit of faith and humble obedience so that I may ever behold the priest as a representative of God and willingly follow him in the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Christ. Amen.

### **Altar Server's Prayer of Thanksgiving**

(After serving Holy Mass)

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, I thank Thee for the privilege of having served at the holy altar of Thy sacrifice. Now, as I put aside the garments of that service, I ask that I may at all times think of Thee, and always act accordingly, as a privileged altar server. May I ever seek Thee and find Thee; may I always follow Thee; may Thy priestly spirit be my guide, and Thy service of love be my example. May Thy Holy Name always be on my lips, and to Thy praise and glory may every work of mine be done. Ever ready in Thy service, may I always know and do Thy Holy Will in all things. May I remain pure and blameless and be found worthy to be Thy servant, and by Thy grace may I persevere to the end. Amen.

### **Spiritual Communion** (*may be said anytime throughout the day*)

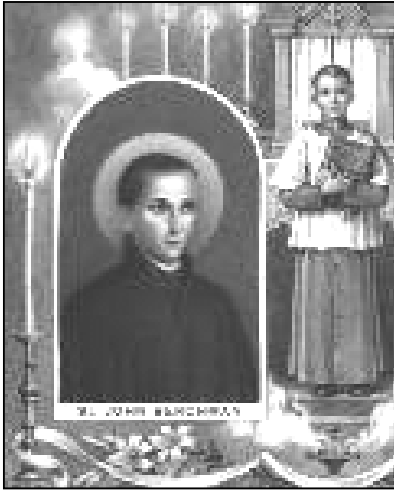
My Jesus, I believe that Thou art truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things and I desire Thee to come into my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart... (*Pause a moment*). I embrace Thee as being already there, and I unite myself wholly to Thee; do not permit me to ever become separated from Thee. Amen.

### **I Adore Thee**

**Morning:** O my God, I adore Thee and I love Thee with my whole heart. I thank Thee for having created me, made me a Christian, and for having kept me this night. I offer Thee the actions of this day according to Thy holy will and for Thy greater glory. Deliver me from sin and danger.

May Thy grace be always with me and with all my beloved ones. Amen.

**Evening:** I adore Thee, my God, and I love Thee with my whole heart. I thank Thee for having created me, made me a Christian, and for having kept me during this day. Forgive me the evil I have done this day, and if I have done some good accept it. Take care of me while I sleep and deliver me from danger. Thy grace be with me and with my loved ones. Amen.



## **Prayer to St. John Berchmans, Patron of Altar Servers**

Dear St. John, who died at a very young age, in that short time you learned to live an exemplary life as a member of the Society of Jesus. Directed by thy Guardian Angel, whom thou didst confidently invoke, thou didst learn to be a most humble server at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Help me imitate thee in my service at the Holy Altar as well as in my conduct with others. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be St. John, pray for me.

### **To St. John Berchmans**

St. John, angelic youth, sweet-scented flower of innocence, stalwart soldier of the Society of Jesus, ardent defender of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, whom the all-wise Providence of God hath set forth as a light and pattern, in order that He might reveal in thee the treasures of that holiness which consists in the devoted and holy fulfillment of the common duties of life, I earnestly beseech thee to make me ever constant and faithful in observing the duties of my state of life, pure in heart, fearless and strong against the enemies of my eternal salvation, and cheerfully obedient to the promptings of God's holy will. By thy singular devotion to the loving Mother of Jesus Christ, who looked upon thee also as her dear son, obtain for me the grace of a fervent love for Jesus and Mary, together with the power of drawing many others to love them in like manner. Wherefore, dear Saint John, I choose thee as my special patron, humbly beseeching thee to make me zealous in the things that pertain to the praise of God, and to assist me by thy mighty help, to lead a life filled with good works. Finally, when the hour of death comes, do thou, of thy loving kindness, cherish in me those motions of humble confidence, which at the moment of thy departure from this world to thy mansion in the skies, as thou didst lovingly clasp the image of Jesus Crucified, together with Mary's rosary and thy book of rules, impelled thee to utter these sweet words: "These three things are my dearest possessions; with these I am content to die." St. John Berchmans, pray for me.

### **Prayer to Christ the King**

O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge Thee to be the King of the universe; all that hath been made is created for Thee. Exercise over me all Thy sovereign rights. I hereby renew the promises of my Baptism, renouncing Satan and all his works and pomps, and I engage myself to lead henceforth a truly Christian life. And in an especial manner do I undertake to bring about the triumph of the rights of God and Thy Church, so far as in me lies. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer Thee my poor actions to obtain the acknowledgment by every heart of Thy sacred kingly power. In such wise may the kingdom of Thy peace be firmly established throughout the earth. Amen.

### **Prayer for Vocations**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst take to Thyself a Body and Soul like ours to teach us the glory of self-sacrifice and service, mercifully deign to instill in other hearts the desire to dedicate their lives to thee. Give us PRIESTS to stand before Thy Altar and to preach the word of Thy Gospel; BROTHERS to assist the priests and to reproduce in themselves Thy humility; SISTERS to teach the young and nurse the sick, and to minister Thy charity to all; LAY PEOPLE to imitate Thee in their homes and families. Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Therese for Priests and Missionaries:**

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, thou hast been rightly proclaimed patroness of Catholic Missions throughout the world. Remember the burning desire which thou didst manifest here on earth to plant the Cross of Christ on every shore and to preach the gospel even to the end of time. We beseech thee, according to thy promise, to assist all priests and missionaries and the whole Church of God. Amen.

### **Prayer to Mary - by St. John Bosco**

O Mary, powerful Virgin, thou art the mighty and glorious protector of holy Church; thou art the marvelous help of Christians; thou art terrible as an army I battle array; thou alone hast destroyed every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our anguish, our struggles and our distress defend us from the power of the enemy and at the hour of our death receive our souls in Paradise. Amen.

### **Sub Tuum Praesidium**

We fly to Thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions and our necessities, but ever deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## **Prayer to Mary – by St. Dominic Savio**

O Mary, I give Thee my heart; grant me to be always Thine. Jesus and Mary, be every my friends; and, for love of Thee, grant me to die a thousand deaths rather than to have the misfortune of committing a single mortal sin. Amen.



### **To Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament**

O Virgin Mary, our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, thou glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church, salvation of the whole world, pray for us, and awaken in all believers a lively devotion toward the Most Holy Eucharist, that so they may be made worthy to partake of the same daily.

### **To St. Joseph (for Altar Servers)**

Happy and blessed art thou, O Joseph, to whom it was given not only to see and to hear that God Whom many kings desired to see, and saw not, to hear, and heard not; but also to hold Him in thine arms, to embrace Him, to clothe Him, and to guard and defend Him.

V. Pray for us, O blessed Joseph.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, Who hast given unto us a royal priesthood, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, that as Blessed Joseph was found worthy to touch with his hands, and bear within his arms, Thine Only-begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, so may we be made fit, by cleanness of heart and purity of work, to serve at Thy holy Altars; that we may worthily receive the Most Sacred Body and Blood of Thy Son, now in this present world, and deserve to attain an everlasting reward in the world to come. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer for Church Unity**

**To be said during the Chair of Unity Octave, January 18 to 25**

That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. (John xvii: 21.)

V. I say unto thee, that thou art Peter;

R. And upon this Rock I will build My Church.

*Let us pray:* LORD Jesus Christ, Who sayest unto Thine apostles, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you;” regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy will. Who livest and reignest God forever and ever.

R. Amen.

# Hymns

## 1. Holy God

1. Holy God, we praise Thy Name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee  
All on earth accept Thy claim  
All in heaven above adore Thee  
// Infinite Thy vast domain  
Everlasting is Thy reign //

2. Hark the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising.  
Cherubim and seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising  
// Fill the heavens with sweet accord,  
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!” //

## 2. Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to  
Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore  
Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness  
hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory  
may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside  
Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name  
In earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## 3. O Sacrament Most Holy

O Sacrament most holy,  
O Sacrament divine  
All praise and all thanksgiving  
Be every moment Thine

## 4. Faith of Our Fathers

1. Faith of our fathers, living still,  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whenever we hear that glorious Word!

*Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.*

2. Our fathers chained in prisons dark  
Were still in heart and conscience free  
How sweet would be their children’s fate  
If they, like them, could die for Thee.

3. Faith of our fathers, Mary’s prayers  
Shall win our country back to Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from  
God,  
Our land shall then indeed be free.

4. Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach Thee, too, as love knows  
how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.

5. Faith of our fathers days of old  
Within our hearts speak gallantly  
For ages thou hast stood by us.  
Dear Faith and now we’ll stand by thee.

## 5. Come Holy Ghost

1. Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,  
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heav’nly aid  
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made,

2. O Comfort Blest to Thee we cry,  
Thou heav’nly Gift of God most high;  
Thou fount of life and fire of love,  
And sweet anointing from above,

3. Praise be to Thee Father and Son,  
And Holy Spirit Three in one;  
And may the Son on us bestow  
The gifts that from the Spirit flow,



## 6. Jesus My Lord

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All!  
How can I love Thee as I ought?  
And how revere this wondrous gift  
So far surpassing hope or thought?

*Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore  
Oh make us love Thee more and more  
Oh make us love Thee more and more*

Had I but Mary's sinless heart  
To love Thee with, my dearest King,  
Oh, with what bursts of fervent praise  
Thy goodness Jesus would I sing.

Thy Body, Soul and Godhead all,  
Oh, mystery of love divine.  
I cannot compass all I have  
For all Thou hast and art are mine.

## 7. Godhead Here in Hiding

Godhead here in hiding  
Whom I do adore  
Masked by these bare shadows,  
Shape and nothing more  
See, Lord, at Thy service,  
Lo, lies here a heart.  
Lost, all lost, in wonder  
At the God Thou art.

On the Cross Thy Godhead  
Made no sign to men  
Here Thy very manhood  
Steals from human ken;  
Both are my confession,  
Both are my belief,  
And I pray the pray'r  
Of the dying thief.

Jesus, Whom I look at  
Shrouded here below,  
I beseech Thee send me  
What I long for so:  
Some day to gaze on Thee  
Face to face in light  
And be blest forever  
With Thy glory's sight.

## 8. To Jesus Heart All Burning

1. To Jesus Heart all burning  
With fervent love for men  
My heart with fondest yearning  
Shall raise the joyful strain

*While ages course along  
Blest be with loudest song  
//The Sacred Heart of Jesus  
By every heart and tongue.\\*

2. O Heart for me on fire with love no man  
can speak  
My yet untold desire  
God gives me for Thy sake

## 9. Immaculate Mary

1. Immaculate Mary  
Our hearts are on fire;  
That title so wondrous  
Fills all our desire

*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria  
Ave, Ave, Maria*

2. We pray for God's glory,  
May His Kingdom come  
Through Thee may we come  
To our heavenly home.

3. We pray for our Mother  
The Church upon earth.  
And bless, sweetest Lady,  
The land of our birth.

4. O Mary, O Mother  
Reign o'er us once more  
Be all lands Thy dow'ry  
As in days of yore.

## 10. Hail Holy Queen

1. Hail, holy Queen enthroned above, O  
Maria!  
Hail, mother of mercy and of love, O Maria!

*Triumph, all ye cherubim,  
Sing with us, ye seraphim,  
Heav'n and earth resound the hymn:  
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!*

2. Our life, our sweetness here below, O  
Maria!  
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!

## 11. Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum,  
benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus  
fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria,  
Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc  
et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

## RECEPTION OF APPRENTICE or SQUIRE

*This is a simple ceremony that may take place at any time alone,  
or directly before the Promotion Ceremony.*

The applicants kneel in the first pew.

The priest comes to the center of the Altar and kneeling recites the following prayers:

**V. Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of the faithful R. And  
enkindle in them the fire of thy Love.**

**V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created R. And Thou  
shalt renew the face of the earth.**

**Let us pray: O God, Who dost instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant that by the same Holy Ghost  
we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hail Mary.....**

The priest turns and very briefly welcomes those who are to learn about serving, and reminds them to remain faithful to their commitment. Then he tells them to come to the Communion Rail.

When all are in place, each applicant says the following, after which the priest gives him the Knights of the Altar Handbook.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, will be faithful to my  
training as a Knight of the Altar. I understand my obligations  
and responsibilities, and hereby promise commitment to do my  
best at all times.**

When all have received their books, the priest says:

**You have made a pledge to study what it means to serve  
at the Altar, to learn the responses and the rubrics, and to take on  
the responsibilities of becoming a Knight of the Altar. May God  
grant you his grace and goodness, so that you may persevere in  
your good intentions. In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The boys return to their places.

Should there follow the Promotion Ceremony, the priest kneels at the foot of the altar for the opening prayer.

*“Serving the Lord is our privilege.”*



# PROMOTION CEREMONY OF THE SOCIETY OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

*Note: All Crosses (pins, medals) may be blessed prior to the ceremony. However, if the priest so chooses, they may be blessed before the opening prayer. Any reference to rank in these ceremonies is the name of the rank to which one is being promoted.*

Two Grand Knights (GK here) are chosen to “sponsor” and assist those being promoted in ranks. All servers take their places in the front pews in order of rank – page, chevalier, knight, knight commander, grand knight – each wear cassock and surplice (except Pages and Chevaliers who have the surplice over their left arm), and each carry a candle in their right hand. The two GK take their places at the center aisle. One of them carries the Certificates of Membership and ceremony cards and presents them to the Knights at the proper time. The other carries a receptacle for the candles. Both have matches to light the Knights’ candles.

## PRELIMINARY CEREMONIES

The priest enters the sanctuary with two acolytes—one carries the book of ceremonies and the list of Knights; the other brings the Knights' Crosses (*and pins or medals*) on a tray, which he lays on the Credence.

All kneel while the priest prays the following:

**Direct we beseech Thee, O Lord, our actions by Thy holy inspiration, and carry them on by Thy gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may begin always with Thee and through Thee be happily ended. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.**

Rising he turns and **addresses** the applicants on the privilege and responsibility of serving Our Blessed Lord.

At the conclusion, the Knights light their candles. Then the priest says:

**“Let them stand and be examined who are to enter or advance in the ranks in the Society of the Knights of the Altar of St. Joseph’s Church, who will serve at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, assist at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and take an active part in other Church functions.”**

Those advancing rise and remain in the pews for the examination.

Priest: **“Do you promise to be present on time for each and every assignment you will have as a Knight of the Altar, and to be neat and clean as this privilege demands?”**

Servers: **“We do so promise.”**

Priest: **“Do you promise to serve so devoutly as to be a help to the devotion and prayer of all who watch you represent them at the altar?”**

Servers: **“We do so promise.”**

Priest: **“Do you promise to conduct yourselves outside the church in a way that will make all proud to have you as their representative in assisting the priest at God’s Altar?”**

Servers: **“With God’s help and the example and prayers of our fellow members, we do so promise.”**

Priest: **“May Almighty God be witness to your intentions.”** All kneel.

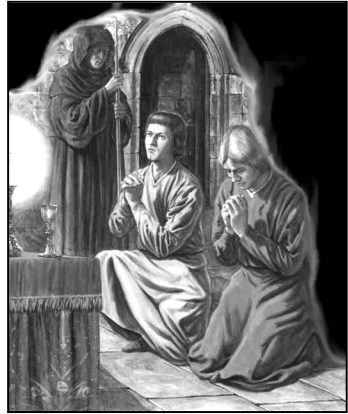
## PAGE

The priest advances to the Communion rail and says:

**Let those come forward who have been approved to enter the ranks of the Knights of the Altar:**

The names of the *Pages* (and *Chevaliers*) are read.

Those advancing stand, and led by the GK (who open the Communion gates, then stand to each side) remain two by two in the middle aisle. The priest and acolytes meet them and the priest says:



**Wear this cassock, in which you are vested, with the greatest respect, for it is part of the armor you shall wear as a Knight of the Altar in the service of your Lord and Master Jesus Christ.**

**May our Lord clothe you with the grace you need for your new dignity as his servant, just as you will now be clothed in this surplice. May you prove yourselves worthy by the proof of your life, and may its whiteness be ever a true symbol of the gleaming purity of your soul.**

The servers come two by two to the middle of the altar rail and kneel. The GK take the candle and assist each server to put on his surplice. [The proper way of vesting should be followed, namely, first the right arm, then over the head, then the left arm]. Each *Page*, after being vested, says:

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, will be faithful to my training as a Knight of the Altar. I understand my obligations and responsibilities, and hereby renew my commitment to do my best at all times.**

Both stand and go to the outside of the GK, and kneel at the Communion rail. The *Chevaliers* do not renew their commitment, but return to the middle aisle. When all have been vested, the priest says.

**May God grant you his grace and goodness, so that you may persevere in your good intentions.**

The *Pages* return by the side aisle to the pews. The *Chevaliers* return and kneel in the middle aisle until called. The GK go to the pews of the *Knights* in front of the *Chevaliers* and stand.



### KNIGHT

The priest goes up the steps of the altar with the acolytes, and says:

**Let those come forward who are to take the Membership Pledge in the Society of the Knights of the Altar.**

The names of the *Knights* (and *Chevaliers*) are read. The *Knights* file out of the pews in front of the *Chevaliers* and, remaining two by two, enter the sanctuary. The GK lead them in and step to the side just inside the communion rail. The *Knights* kneel two by two on the bottom step and the GK take their candles and present the priest with each Certificate of Membership. As each receives his from the priest, he pronounces the Membership Pledge:

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby pledge my service to Almighty God and his holy Church by observing faithfully the rules and obligations of the Knights of the Altar, and I promise to be a loyal member at all times.**

If pins or medals are bestowed they are given to each after his pledge. They rise, turn, and kneel along the inside of the Communion Rail on each side of the GK. When all have made their pledge, the priest says:

**On behalf of the Knights of the Altar, I accept your pledge and exhort you to persevere in your good intentions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The *Knights* and *Chevaliers* leave the sanctuary and return by the side aisle to their pews. The GK lead them out, but go to the center aisle, turning and standing at the pews where the *Knight Commanders* are kneeling.



### KNIGHT COMMANDER

The priest goes up (or remains on) the steps of the altar with the acolytes, and says:

**Let those come forward who are to renew their Pledge of Service as Members in the Society of the Knights of the Altar.**

The names of the ***Knight Commanders*** are read. They stand and file out of the pews and, advancing two by two, enter the sanctuary. The GK lead them in and step to the side just inside the communion rail. The ***Knight Commanders*** kneel two by two on the bottom step and the GK take their candles and present each with the ceremony card. The ***Knight Commander*** renews his Membership Pledge:

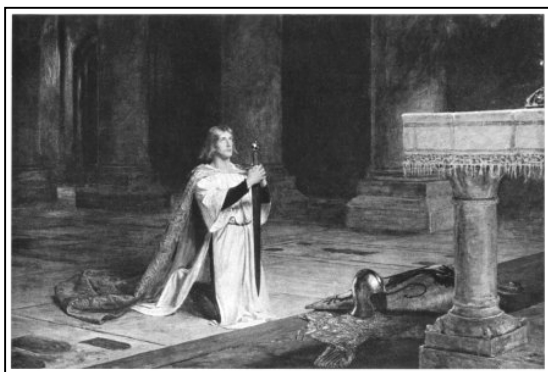
**I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby renew my pledge of service to Almighty God and his holy Church by observing faithfully the rules and obligations of the Knights of the Altar, and I promise to be a loyal member at all times.**

They rise, turn, and kneel along the inside of the Communion Rail on either side of the GK. When all have made their pledge, the priest says:

**On behalf of the Knights of the Altar, I accept your renewal and exhort you to persevere in your good intentions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The ***Knight Commanders*** leave the sanctuary and return by the side aisle to their pews. The GK lead them out, but they go by the center aisle, and turning, kneel at the pews where the ***Grand Knights*** are kneeling

# GRAND KNIGHT



The priest says

**Let us kneel,  
invoking the grace of the  
Holy Ghost on those about  
to be promoted to the rank  
of Grand Knight.**

Kneeling at the foot of  
the Altar, he prays the “Veni  
Creator” alternating stanzas  
with the Knights. It may  
otherwise be sung.

**Priest:** Come, O Creator, Spirit blest,  
and in our souls take up Thy rest;  
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid  
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made

**Knights:** Great Paraclete, to Thee we cry,  
O heavenly gift of God Most High,  
O fount of life and fire of love,  
and sweet anointing from above.

**Priest:** Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are  
known;

Thou, finger of God's hand we own;  
The promise of the Father, Thou  
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

**Knights:** Kindle our senses from above,  
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;  
with patience firm and virtue high  
the weakness of our flesh supply.

**Priest:** Far from us drive the foe we dread,  
and grant us Thy peace instead;  
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,  
turn from the path of life aside.

**Knights:** Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow  
the Father and the Son to know;  
and Thee, through endless times  
confessed,  
of Both, the eternal Spirit blest.

**Together:** All glory while the ages run  
Be to the Father and the Son  
Who rose from death. The same to Thee,  
O Holy Ghost, eternally. Amen.

Veni Creator Spiritus,  
Mentes tuorum visita,  
Imple superna gratia,  
Quae tu creasti, pectora  
Qui diceris Paraclitus,  
Altissimi donum Dei,  
Fons vivus, ignis, caritas,  
Et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere,  
Digitus Paternae dexterae,  
Tu rite promissum Patris,  
Sermone ditans guttura  
Accende lumen sensibus,  
Infunde amorem cordibus,  
Infirma nostri corporis  
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,  
Pacemque dones protinus;  
Ductores sic te praeviso,  
Vitemus omne noxium  
Per te sciamus da Patrem  
Noscamus atque Filium;  
Teque utrius que Spiritum  
Credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,  
Et Filio, qui a mortuis  
Surrexit, ac Paraclito  
In saeculorum saecula. Amen.



The priest stands, goes to the top of the altar with the acolytes and turning, says:

**Let those come forward who have been promoted to the highest rank of Knighthood, and who have shown by their devotion and by their example that they deserve to receive the Knights' Cross, the emblem of their service as a Knight of the Altar.**

The names of the Grand Knights are read. One of the Acolytes brings the tray with crosses from the Credence.

The Grand Knights stand and the GK lead them single file into the sanctuary. The GK, stepping aside at the foot of the altar steps, allow the Grand Knights to advance one at a time, all the way to the top of the steps.

The GK takes his candle, and gives him the ceremony card. One of the Acolytes gives the Crosses to the priest. The priest presents each Grand Knight with the Knights' Cross, saying.

**Receive the Cross of Jesus Crucified, Whom you profess to serve through your dedication as a Knight of the Altar. Let it remind you of your duties in His Service, inspiring you to a chivalrous life of virtue and the profession of your holy Catholic Faith. May His Immaculate Mother be your protection and guiding star.**

The Knight says: **I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby renew my pledge of service to Almighty God and his holy Church by observing faithfully the rules and obligations of the Society of the Knights of the Altar. I promise as Grand Knight, to serve Christ my King as Lord of Lords with fidelity and honor. Mary, His Immaculate Mother, shall be my Queen and my Lady, and I shall be her devoted champion. I further promise to treat others with respect and justice, to live an upright personal life, and to profess and defend the rights of God and His Holy Church.**

The priest says: **On behalf of the Knights of the Altar, I accept your pledge as Grand Knight and I exhort you to persevere in your good intentions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

As each one completes his ceremony, he stands and goes to foot of the steps, taking his place on the outside of the GK.

## CONCLUDING CEREMONIES

When all are lined around the foot of the steps, the priest says:

**All those who have rank will now stand** (pause while they do so) **and recite together their Knight's Pledge as members of the Society of the Knights of the Altar.**

**Knights: We, the Knights of the Altar, pledge allegiance to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, to His representatives on earth, and to Mary, our Queen Immaculate, whom we will serve faithfully until we attain eternal triumph in heaven.**

**We pledge ourselves to form a worthy guard of honor to our Divine Eucharistic King in whose service we willingly assume the dignity and honor of becoming Knights of the Altar; to render faithful, reverent and edifying service to God by assisting His visible representatives, the Bishops and Priests, in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in all other liturgical and devotional functions; to enkindle in the hearts of the faithful, whom we represent at the altar, greater piety and devotion by reverently performing the duties of our holy office and by giving good example in our daily lives.**

All kneel. The priest publicly congratulates the Knights, and encourages them to the faithful practice of their pledges. He then beseeches God's blessing on the Knights and their work.

All stand and sing "Holy God." The two GK lead the new Grand Knights out of the sanctuary to stand along the Communion rail. After the priest and acolytes have left the altar, the two "sponsors" lead the Knights of the Altar out of Church in order of Rank beginning with the Pages.

If there is to be Benediction, it takes place at this time. The Grand Knights leave the sanctuary and kneel along the Communion rail. During the hymn "Holy God," all stand. After the priest and acolytes have left the altar, the two "sponsors" lead the Knights of the Altar out of Church in order of Rank beginning with the Pages.

If there is to be Holy Mass, all sing "Holy God" while the Grand Knights leave the sanctuary in order and resume their places in the pews. The priest and acolytes prepare for Holy Mass. After Holy Mass the two "sponsors" lead the Knights of the Altar out of Church in order of Rank beginning with the Pages.

Certificates of Rank for the Knight Commanders and Grand Knights may be given in ceremony at the next meeting.

This book belongs to \_\_\_\_\_



**A MEDIEVAL KNIGHT'S  
OATH OF FEALTY**

Here do I affirm  
My oath of fealty and  
service  
To

And I do hereby swear  
By mouth and hand  
To be a good and worthy  
Knight  
To be a Lamp of Chivalry  
unto the Populace  
To be ever courteous and  
reverent  
To seek excellence in all  
my endeavors  
To be courageous and  
faithful  
To be always loyal and true  
To temper justice with  
mercy  
To defend my Crown and  
my liege  
To be temperate and  
humble  
To shelter the weak  
To help the needy  
To champion the right  
And uphold the good  
To teach what I know  
To learn what I can  
To be true to my Faith  
And to be faithful to my  
duties  
All this in each area of my  
life.  
So swear I,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Date of Reception  
as Apprentice:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Dates of Promotion in the Ranks*

**Page:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Knight:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Knight Commander:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Knight:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Other Special Occasions*

**First meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Served as torchbearer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Served Holy Mass:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Procedure at Meetings

*“All members as well as the officers are expected to give their opinions freely and candidly, though in a becoming and respectful manner, and never hesitate to propose whatever they consider necessary or useful.”*

**Call to Order:** The Supreme Grand Knight calls the Meeting to Order

**Opening Prayer:** (*led by the Knight Director*). Enlighten our minds, and strengthen our wills so that we may have a right understanding and good judgment in all things and that all our thoughts, words, and actions may be pleasing to God and profitable to our Salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary.

**Roll Call:** As the Secretary reads his name, each member responds in a clear voice, “Ready to serve.” For absent members, who have valid reason, the Knight director responds, “Excused.”

**Knights’ Pledge:** We, the Knights of the Altar, pledge allegiance to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, to His representatives on earth, and to Mary, our Queen Immaculate, whom we will serve faithfully until we attain eternal triumph in heaven. We pledge ourselves to form a worthy guard of honor to our Divine Eucharistic King in whose service we willingly assume the dignity and honor of becoming Knights of the Altar; to render faithful, reverent and edifying service to God by assisting His visible representatives, the Bishops and Priests, in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in all other liturgical and devotional functions; to enkindle in the hearts of the faithful, whom we represent at the altar, greater piety and devotion by reverently performing the duties of our holy office and by giving good example in our daily lives.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting are read by the Secretary and approved by the members.

**Reports:** Treasurer, Committees, Other Officers

**Official business:** elections, installment of officers, voting on new members, upcoming ceremonies, announcement of practices, activities, or upcoming service opportunities, etc. The floor is open for suggestions, discussions, and motions. (Address the Chair by his proper title “Supreme Grand Knight”).

**Conference:** Homily by the Knight Director, the Pastor, or a visiting speaker; or a report by a member, followed by discussion.

**Practice:** practicing a given rubric, responses, or testing time. The Vice Supreme Grand Knight should regulate the time. At the end of that time the Supreme Grand Knight shall adjourn the meeting.

**Closing Prayer:** (*led by the Knight Director*) Grant us, O Lord, the help of Thy grace to carry out faithfully and successfully all those things which, through Thy inspiration we know ought to be done, always to be loyal to our society, its purposes, and its Constitutions. Amen.  
Glory Be to the Father, etc. Hymn.