



Revised Exemplification of Patriotism

United States
Master Guidebook
(For use in the United States)

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Notice

The ceremonial is to be conformed to strictly in every particular: language and ceremony. Additions, omissions, changes, or innovations of any kind are absolutely prohibited; any such should be reported to the Supreme Master. *All degree team members are encouraged to memorize their parts but at a minimum should be thoroughly rehearsed in reading said part to add to the solemnity and dignity of the ceremony.*

Worn or tattered books will be replaced at no charge provided the old books are returned to the Supreme Secretary.

1354-E-USA – APPROVED – October 12, 2024

Revisions adopted by the Board of Directors: October 11, 2024.

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Exemplification Personnel

Faithful Friar/Expositor of the Faith
Supreme Master (when available)
Vice Supreme Master
District Master
Historian
Expositor of the Constitution
District Marshal
Cantor
Color Corps*
Audio/Visual Specialist

**Color Corps consists of the Honor Guard, Color Guard and/or Color/Flag Bearers.*

The Flags

National flag with eagle finial on staff; Papal (Vatican) flag with cross finial on staff; State or Province flag and Knights of Columbus flag with finial on staff.

Conducting the Patriotic Exemplification

Host Assembly Checklist

1. Working with the District Master, the host assembly will first contact the chancery of the diocese where the exemplification will be held, as the preferred setting is the sanctuary of the local cathedral (or a local parish if the cathedral is unavailable or if geographically inconvenient). When the cathedral is unavailable, the host assembly should contact the parish office to confirm availability.
2. Conducting an exemplification in a sanctuary is not mandatory but merely preferred. When unavailable, the host assembly will select a location that is conducive to the dignity of the ceremony, such as a parish life center or hall that can accommodate the class. To curtail expense, the host assembly should only rent space for an exemplification when absolutely necessary.
3. Meet with your Faithful Friar or pastor beforehand to obtain his recommendations on conducting a Revised Exemplification of Patriotism. Ideally, select a date when he can attend and lead the prayers during the ceremony and conduct the Faithful Friar's role. (If no Faithful Friar is available, the Expositor of Faith may lead the prayers.) Each team should have an Expositor of the Faith ready to perform when a Faithful Friar is not available.
4. Order materials. Order a sufficient supply of Fourth Degree lapel pins (PG-113) from Supplies Online - *the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.*
5. Select an Honoree. Inform the Honoree well in advance and invite him to attend, if living.

6. Secure the participation of an Audio/Visual Specialist who can competently run the slides and recorded audio for the Exemplification. Their attention should be dedicated to this role on the Exemplification day, having tested all displays and microphone systems prior to ensure they work. Ensure they have downloaded the PowerPoint File before the day of, to help prevent lag issues with videos and slide images.
7. Promote. Build public interest for the upcoming exemplification in the parishes of your assembly and larger community. Include mention of the Honoree. Use multiple methods of communication: bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements, assembly and council websites, parish websites, district and state council websites and appropriate social media platforms.
8. Plan a Mass to follow the Exemplification, followed by a reception and banquet. Arrange for a keynote speaker. The speaker should touch on themes of patriotism while avoiding politically charged topics that might create division or controversy. Keeping with the Order's practice, political candidates for partisan offices should not be invited to speak.
9. Degree Team: Each District Master should have at least one certified exemplification team. Geographically large districts should certify additional teams to curtail traveling demands and expenses. The District Master is responsible for the planning and execution of the degree, ensuring the degree team is prepared and in contact with the host assembly.
10. Color Corps. It is the responsibility of the host assembly to arrange for a Color Guard to present the colors, and to provide an honor guard for the exemplification. The color guard and honor guard should be well-rehearsed. Members must maintain proper bearing and comply with the requirements of the Fourth Degree Drill Manual. Extra effort should be made to ensure that swords are properly carried, and the flags presented and posted accordingly. ***The only acceptable uniform for participating in the Color Corps is the official Fourth Degree uniform.***
11. Encourage all candidates to invite their spouses, family, and friends to attend.
12. Invite all assembly members, their families, State Council Officers, District Deputies, and both your General and Field Agents to attend.
13. Practice. Conduct rehearsals and walk throughs so that all degree team members are comfortable in skillfully presenting their parts in a solemn and dignified manner.
14. Plan to conclude the Exemplification with a Knighting Ceremony prior to Mass. *(See page 55 for further information.)*
15. Report your success. Following the degree, the District Master shall complete a *Fourth Degree Exemplification Report* and submit the form to SupremeMaster@kofc.org with a copy to their Vice Supreme Master.

Uniform Guidelines

The preferred attire for candidates is the current Fourth Degree uniform. An appropriate alternative is a dark suit with a conservative tie or a dress uniform for military members, law enforcement or firefighters without a firearm. It would be inappropriate for law enforcement officers to open carry a firearm at the Exemplification.

Candidates may no longer wear a tuxedo for the exemplification.

Social baldrics will no longer be given to candidates in the revised exemplification, nor should it be worn with the current uniform. Members admitted prior to June 30, 2024, may continue to use the social baldric when wearing a tuxedo. Additionally, in a formal setting requiring a tuxedo, members who join after June 30, 2024, may purchase a social baldric for wear with the tuxedo.

Ceremonial Materials/Ceremonial Baldrics

- The Degree Team and attending officers and dignitaries shall wear the official Fourth Degree uniform with the service baldric and sword corresponding their respective rank ***or role*** on the Degree team.
- A large ***Cross of the New Evangelization*** shall be used when available. Otherwise, a small, handheld version will be used. The cross shall be processed during the processional and recessional of the degree. *The Cross of the New Evangelization is available from the Official Ceremonial Suppliers.*



- An ***Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe*** shall be used and in position on an easel at the front of the sanctuary/chamber, facing the candidates. (If no icon is available, the image has been included in the slide deck for the degree.)
- A ***large, ceremonial rosary*** shall be used.
- ***Two scrolls*** representing the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, parchment in appearance, tied with red ribbons.

Exemplification Chamber

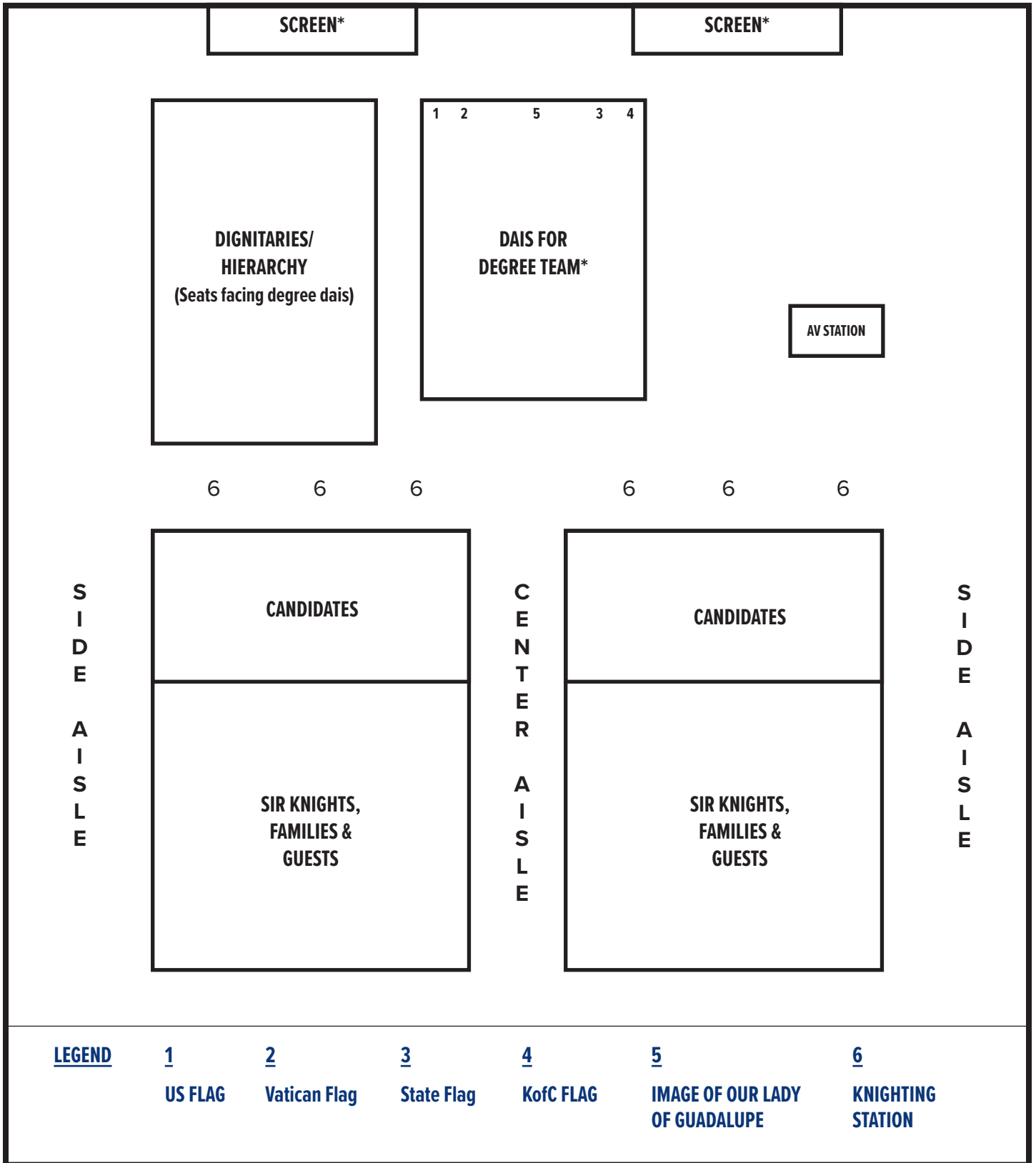
Arrangements should be made for colors to be posted according to established protocol and in accordance with the *Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual*. The host assembly will coordinate with local musicians/choirs to provide music for the degree to add to the dignity of the ceremony. When live music is unavailable, music will be provided via electronic file. Prerecorded music shall be set up and at the ready, using speakers to ensure all can hear.

Seating will be reserved for candidates on opposite sides of the center aisle (nave) closest to the altar. Candidate families will sit in the section(s) immediately behind the candidates, followed by Sir Knights and their families in attendance. Care should be given to reserving seats for state officers, district deputies and other dignitaries. Adjust accordingly when a sanctuary is unavailable.

Guests are expected to wear business dress for both men and women, and the current Fourth Degree uniform shall be worn by Sir Knights in attendance. (When a current Fourth Degree member does not own the official uniform, he shall wear a dark business suit with a conservative tie or a black tuxedo with social baldric.)

AV Screens will be secured and set up in the chamber.

Exemplification Setup



*Adjust dais and screen locations accordingly when set in a sanctuary.

Music of the Revised Exemplification of Patriotism

(Music may be played on loops to adjust for the size of the processions.)

Entrance of the Honor Guard

- Track #01 *The Battle Hymn of the Republic (Instrumental)* – 1:48. U.S. Army Band & Chorus

Entrance of the Degree Team and Dignitaries

The Marshal will lead the degree team followed by dignitaries. Once in place, the Marshal will return to the antechamber to lead in the candidates.

- Track #02 - *The World Turned Upside Down* – 1:07.

Entrance of the Candidates

- Track #03 “*Yorckscher Regiment Marsch*” Ludwig van Beethoven - *TIME* (Instrumental) – 1:28.

Posting of the Colors

- Track #04 – Bugle call *To the Flag/Officers Call* - :42.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance

- Track #05 – *America the Beautiful* (Verses 1 & 2 - projected on screen) – 2:35.

Between 1st Expositor of the Constitution & Historian

- Track #06 – *Faith of Our Fathers* – 1st Verse - 1:38.

Between 2nd M & 3rd H

- Track #07 – *Taps (Instrumental)* – 1:02.

During F.F. (Guadalupe)

- Track #08 – *The Star-Spangled Banner* - 1:14.
- Track #09 – *Salve Regina* (Background sotto voce) - 1:55.

End of Exemplification

- Track #10 – *America the Beautiful* (Verses 3 & 4 - projected on screen) – 2:35.

Knighting Ceremony

- Track #11 – *Hail Columbia* - :43.
- Track #12 – *Faith of Our Fathers* – All Verses – 3:37.

Lowering Colors

- Track #13 – *Retreat (Instrumental)* – :48. U.S. Army Band & Chorus

Recessional Hymn

- Track #14 – *Oh, God Beyond All Praising* – 5:47

Antechamber

Candidates will gather in a room in the cathedral or adjacent to it, where they will be given instructions for the exemplification and prepared to process into the cathedral (or church). The District Master or his Marshal will use the time in the antechamber to review the Fourth Degree oath with candidates ahead of the exemplification.

While in the antechamber, the Fourth Degree lapel pin will be distributed and properly positioned on the candidates' lapels.

While candidates are being readied for the exemplification, the Marshal will assess the seating arrangement to determine if it will be possible to easily allow the candidate to be joined by family members for his knighting. As such, the Marshal will line up family members in the antechamber according to their respective candidate's position in the procession. The Marshal will then seat them in the chamber prior to the beginning of the opening procession. Although it is desired that family members join the candidate for the moment of his knighting, **it is not mandatory and where the layout does not allow a seamless flow without disrupting the dignity of the ceremony, the District Master will make the final decision whether to include family.**

Antechamber Script

Master – Candidates, as the Master of the (District Name) District, I welcome you to this Exemplification of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Permit me to offer you this brief history of the Fourth Degree. The idea of adding a new degree to the Order's original three: charity, unity and fraternity, was first discussed in 1886.

When Edward L. Hearn was elected Supreme Knight in 1899, he immediately appointed a committee to establish a patriotic degree. The first exemplification was held in New York City in honor of George Washington's birthday on February 22, 1900.

At this first exemplification, 1,000 candidates stood to take their Fourth Degree. With a choir of 283 and 100 New York City police acting as section guides, the total number taking their degree on that day was 1,383. The Fourth Degree, today, has more than 350,000 Sir Knights belonging to some 3,000 assemblies.

(Pause.)

It is now my privilege to introduce to you the emblem of the Fourth Degree

(The Master shows the Fourth Degree lapel pin.)

Master – The Fourth Degree lapel pin consists of the triad emblem of the cross, the dove and the globe. The dove is the classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and of peace and is shown hovering over the Earth. Both are mounted together on a variation of the Crusader's Cross, often referred to as the Cross of Isabel. These spiritual and sacred symbols exemplify the union of the Three Divine Persons in one God, the most Holy Blessed Trinity.

The colors of the symbols are significant: a red cross represents the stouthearted courage of the valiant knight; its gold knobs represent the eight beatitudes which aid him in his quest. The white dove signifies truth and purity and is representative of God's gift of freedom to mankind. The blue of the earth represents the eternal hope provided by God the Father.

Master - Candidates, we will now invest you with this emblem.

(Candidates are given the Fourth Degree pin and assisted with its proper placement on their lapel.)

Master – It is now my privilege to review with you the patriotic Oath of the Fourth Degree that you will take today. Please listen to the words and upon completion please let me know if you have any questions pertaining to the oath.

“I swear to support the Constitution of the United States. /
I pledge myself, /
as a Catholic citizen /
and a Knight of Columbus, / fully to enlighten myself / upon my duties /
as a citizen /
and conscientiously perform them / entirely in the interest of my country, / regardless of all personal consequences. / I pledge myself /
to do all in my power /
to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot /
and to promote respect for law and order. /

I promise /
to practice my religion consistently and faithfully /
and to so conduct myself /
in public affairs /
and the exercise of public virtue /
as to reflect nothing but credit /
upon our Holy Church, /
to the end that she may flourish /
and our Country prosper /
to the greater honor and glory of God.”

Master – Having reviewed the oath, I will now review the schedule for today.

(Here the Master may make any pertinent announcements to the candidates regarding the scheduling or functions of the day. The Master should then promptly return to the chamber with the Marshal to begin the ceremonial.)

Revised Exemplification of Patriotism

🖱 - Slide 1 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree 🎵 The Battle Hymn of the Republic



Opening Procession

Procession of Honor Guard

🎵 The Battle Hymn of the Republic 🎵

Honor Guard moves into position along the center aisle prior to the procession of Hierarchy and Dignitaries

Order of March

Degree Team*

Faithful Friar/Expositor of the Faith

Cantor

Expositor of the Constitution

Historian

Master

Dignitaries (lowest to highest rank)

Hierarchy/Priests

*Faithful Friar processes holding up the Cross of the New Evangelization

🖱 - Slide 2 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree 🎵 The world turned upside down

Procession of Hierarchy & Dignitaries

🎵 The World Turned Upside Down 🎵

Once the team, dignitaries and hierarchy are in place, the District Marshal will return to the antechamber to process the candidates into the chamber.

Procession of Candidates

**Led by Marshal*

 Yorckscher Regiment Marsch (Beethoven) 

Candidates will remain standing as they fill their seats. Once the procession is concluded, the Marshal shall remain at the foot of the altar, awaiting the command from the Master to call the color guard forward from the rear of the chamber, joining the color guard. The Master will move to the podium.

Master

Worthy District Marshal, present the colors!

(Marshal – [Salute] – [About Face] – and there remains directly in front of the Master, facing the rear of the chamber, and from that position gives commands to those in the chamber and to the Color Corps Commander) IN RED

Marshal – Color Corps – Atten - - tion

(Pause) Draw - - Sword *(Pause)*

Marshal – Color Corps – Present - - Sword – Sir Knights and Candidates – Hand over your heart. *(Pause)*

Color Guard Commander – Present the Colors.

Master – With love for our Country, let us recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Master – “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

(CG there remains facing the class during the bugle call.)

Marshal – Color Guard - - Colors - - - Post.

Marshal – Color Corps - - Carry Sword. *(Pause)* *(Cue for Flag Bearers to return into line.)*

Marshal – Color Guard - - Retire.

Marshal – Color Corps - - Return – Sword.

Master

Please remain standing as I now call upon our Worthy Faithful Friar *(or the Expositor of the Faith in his absence)* to offer an opening prayer.

- Slides 5-6 – Blessed Michael J. McGivney



God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church.



Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithful Friar or Expositor of the Faith

Let us begin the Exemplification of Patriotism in prayer, invoking the intercession of our Blessed Founder.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present **(here make your request)**.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please remain standing.



The Faithful Friar relinquishes the podium to the Master, returning to his seat.

Master

Having seen the majesty of our colors and having offered prayer to our Heavenly Father, let us pause a moment further to reflect upon the beauty of this great nation that He has so generously bestowed upon us. I call upon our cantor to lead us now in the first two verses of *America the Beautiful*, found in your song book.



Cantor

Leads all in singing verses 1 & 2 of America the Beautiful.

🎵 America the Beautiful (Verses 1 & 2) 🎵

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

- Slide 9 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Master

Please be seated.
My brother Knights, yes, America is beautiful.
Beautiful in her natural wonder.
Beautiful in the aspirations of her people
and in what they have accomplished.
She is equally beautiful in the diversity of her people
which resembles the very face of God's Holy Church on earth.

We are grateful for the many ways that
God has blessed America
and has shed His grace on our land.

As faithful Catholics and patriotic Americans
we pledge to make America more beautiful still.

By praying that the Lord will crown our Nation
with a new sense of brotherhood where
we know that on this earth the Lord's work
must also be our own.

And so, as the foremost Catholic brotherhood
in the history of America,
we strive as Knights of Columbus,
through our dedication to charity and unity,
to offer our fellow Americans
a genuine witness to a brotherhood —
that will bring us closer to the day
when America will truly be
“One Nation under God,
indivisible with liberty and justice for all.”

Here, today, we embark as Brothers upon an odyssey to discern
our patriotic duties by recognizing
that patriotism comes from the Greek word “*patris*”
— meaning the place of one’s ancestors —
and from the Latin word “*patria*”
— meaning one’s fatherland.

For the citizen of Christian faith,
it is also related to the commandment
to honor one’s father and mother
— to honor the way of life that has been achieved
by the sacrifices of those who have come before us.

It is more than an attachment to land.

To be an American patriot is to be committed to certain principles
regarding liberty, equality, individual rights, and limited government.
Principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence
and the Constitution.

To be a Catholic American patriot
is to understand that these principles
ultimately come from an authority higher than the state
and that loyalty to one’s country
is to be tempered by reason, judgment, and faith.

Patriotism is a love for everything that is great and good about our native land: its history, its traditions, its language and its natural beauty. Every danger that threatens the good of our Nation becomes an occasion to demonstrate our love of country.

Throughout our history, Americans have made great sacrifices to protect the common good of all our citizens.

History teaches us that defense of our Nation is a serious duty — a duty that demands heroic courage.

As we resolve today to “bear any burden” and “meet any hardship” to defend the land we love, we affirm that there is one risk that must be avoided — the danger of seeing only the good of **one’s own** Nation without regard for the rights of others.

The true patriot guards his Nation against this danger as well.

He does so through an authentic patriotism that, while expressing love for one’s country, recognizes the equal right of citizens of all other nations to do the same.

In this way, our patriotism is a natural expression of our brotherhood and arises from our commitment to charity, unity, and fraternity. Now, for a greater understanding of the ideals upon which our nation was established, I turn to the Expositor of the Constitution.

Expositor of the Constitution

My brother Knights, in countries ruled by dictators or totalitarian regimes, a citizen may be required to take an oath of loyalty

to an individual or to a political party.

Not so in America.

Here, those entering military or government service
and those being welcomed as new citizens
are asked for something entirely different:
they are asked to take an oath to support and defend
our form of free and democratic government —
they are asked to support and defend
the Constitution of the United States.

Brother Knights, I hold in my hands *(Holding up scrolls)*
two of the most precious documents of which this world can boast,
namely, the Declaration of Independence and
the Constitution of the United States.
The first is the prelude to the second.

- Slide 10 – Trumbull's *Declaration of Independence*



This Declaration of Independence *(Holding up the Declaration)*
by which the signers pledged their lives,
their fortunes and their sacred honor,
embodies the declaration of the self-evident truth
that the rights we are endowed with by our Creator are inalienable.

- Slide 11 – John Fitzgerald Kennedy



In other words, as our first Catholic president and Fourth Degree Sir Knight, John F. Kennedy, affirmed - the rights for which our Forefathers fought come not “from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.” And we so affirm that truth today.

Slide 12 – Christy’s *Signing of the Constitution*



This Constitution with its Bill of Rights *(Holding up Constitution)* is the bulwark of our liberty.

Listen to the preamble explaining its purpose:

“We the People of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defense,
promote the general Welfare, and
secure the Blessings of Liberty
to ourselves and our Posterity,
do ordain and establish this Constitution
for the United States of America.”

The blessings of liberty which this Constitution guarantees to us are unprecedented in the history of the world.

Yet, how often do we stop to think
of what these rights and liberties consist?
How often do we consider our awesome responsibility
to preserve and transmit these blessings of liberty
to our children and our children’s children?

We are the beneficiaries of a *written* constitution.
It is a constitution of *enumerated* rights,
ensuring to each of us the enjoyment of personal liberty.
Most important is that protection which we enjoy at this
very moment. The First Amendment's right to peacefully
assemble in the free exercise of our Catholic faith.

Worthy Cantor, I call on you to lead this body,
assembled here in the exercise of our First Amendment rights,
in recalling this precious faith so nobly safeguarded by generations past.
Please refer to your song book.

🖱️ - Slide 13 – Adoration of the Trinity 🎵 *Faith of our Fathers – 1st verse*



Cantor *Motions for all to stand then leads in singing verse 1.*

🎵 Faith of Our Fathers 🎵

*Faith of our fathers, living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!*

Expositor of the Constitution

My Brothers, please be seated and join me
in welcoming the Worthy Historian
as he presents to you the history of the
Catholic exploration of our nation.

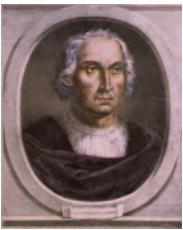
- Slide 14 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Historian

Now, we shall consider the Catholic heritage in this land.
It is a noble legacy of which you should be
knowledgeable and proud.
It begins with the name Christopher Columbus.

- Slide 15 – Christopher Columbus



At the beginning of the 20th century, the Knights of Columbus
proposed to Congress a memorial to Christopher Columbus
in the nation's capital. A brother knight drafted the bill and
Supreme Knight Edward L. Hearn served on the Columbus
Memorial Commission.

- Slide 16 – 1912 Dedication



More than 20,000 Knights marched in the parade
that concluded with the memorial's dedication in

front of Union Station. President William Howard Taft addressed the vast assembly with these words:
“The history of the voyages of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries is as full of courage, enterprise and daring as that of any century in which civilized man has taken part, and there is no voyage of any of the brave navigators that involved greater faith, greater self-sacrifice and the overcoming of greater and well-founded fears than the voyage of Columbus in 1492....

- Slide 17 – 1912 Dedication March



“The Supreme merit was his, to do first that which, until he did it, presented unknown terrors to the adventurer. Nonetheless we recognize that Christopher Columbus was much greater as a mariner than as an administrator and governor of native peoples.

- Slide 18 – Columbus Monument



“His failure in this regard was doubtless due to a lack of preparation for the difficult problems

which an assumption of control over the natives involved.
He little understood [their] nature.
He had but few resources, and he was beset
by jealousies and treachery at home and in the islands.

- Slide 19 – Columbus Monument Today



“The story of his life reveals defects of temperament
and the existence of some motives
under temptation that show him human,
but the impression left after a study of his character,
leads to a full recognition of the greatness and dignity of the man,
the high ideals that prompted his almost superhuman efforts,
the patience and tenacity that attended every discouragement,
the loyalty to his sovereigns when put to grievous test,
and the final resignation to the will of God.”
So said President Taft in 1912.

- Slide 20 – Columbus Circle in New York City



But perhaps the achievement of Christopher Columbus is best summarized
at the base of New York City’s Columbus Monument: “To the world he gave
a world.”

- Slide 21 – Pope Saint John Paul II



When Pope Saint John Paul II visited Santo Domingo in 1992 the Holy Father bid Christians to remember the most important legacy of this extraordinary man, saying: “Admiral Christopher Columbus, with his three ships, arrived in these lands and planted the cross of Christ. That is the beginning of the sowing of the precious seed of faith. And how can we not give thanks for that?”

America can give thanks to Catholics for her discovery, her exploration, her very name.

Catholics baptized this continent:

our rivers, our lakes, our mountains, our valleys, and our hearthstones.

They gave to them the names dearest to our faith.

Consider this map of the old world —

that world known at the dawning of the sixteenth century.

- Slide 22 – Map of the New World



Let us pause now to consider the contributions of Catholics to the discovery, exploration and settlement of these United States.



Worthy Expositor of the Constitution,
I return the podium to you.

Expositor of the Constitution

Brother Knights, the free exercise of religion
was the very first right to be protected in our Bill of Rights.



We are justly proud, therefore, that not only was Maryland
a haven for Irish and English Catholics
under Lord Baltimore, but its early Catholic leaders
made of Maryland a “land of sanctuary”
and toleration in the New World — for both Catholics and Protestants.

There in 1649, the Maryland General Assembly
enacted the following law: “No person whatsoever
within this province professing to believe in Jesus Christ
shall from henceforth be anyways troubled or molested
for his or her religion, nor in the free exercise thereof,
nor anyway compelled to the belief or exercise
of any other religion against his or her consent.”

- Slide 26 – Colonel Thomas Dongan



In 1683, the Catholic Governor of New York Thomas Dongan oversaw the enactment of the Charter of Liberties which proclaimed the right of religious liberty for New York.

These two oldest and grandest monuments to religious liberty in the world are to be credited to sons of the Catholic Church in America. And for those who would seek the American roots of those cherished words of our First Amendment, that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” they once again need look no further than Catholic Maryland.

- Slide 27 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Expositor of the Constitution

Having reviewed these words from the founding of our nation, please welcome back our Historian to tell you of those valiant Catholic men who, by their courage, made these sacred rights a reality.

Historian

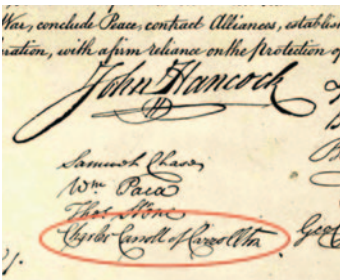
What of the role of Catholics in the founding and preservation of our Nation? Although there were few Catholics living in the thirteen colonies at the time of the American Revolution, every Catholic of social or financial importance in America stood for the cause of Independence.

- Slide 28 – Charles Carroll



The Carrolls of Maryland – Charles, John, and Daniel — epitomized the role of Catholics at the time of the Nation’s founding. Fittingly enough, their family’s motto was “Strong in Faith and War.” Charles Carroll added the words “of Carrollton”

- Slide 29 – Image of Carroll’s signature



to his signature on the Declaration of Independence so that the pledge of his fortune to the cause of liberty would be beyond question.

His proudest boast, however, at the close of his noble, patriotic life was that he had faithfully practiced the duties of the Catholic religion.

- Slide 30 – Archbishop Carroll



His cousin, John Carroll, joined the Jesuits in 1755 and later became the first Archbishop of Baltimore, America's founding diocese.

- Slide 31 – Daniel Carroll



Daniel Carroll signed the Constitution and went on to serve in the First Congress.

The United States Capitol building today stands on land once owned by the Carroll family.

- Slide 32 – Capture of the Hessians at Trenton



Who were other Catholic patriots that fought or assisted in the American War of Independence?

Chief Joseph Orono of the Penobscot Tribe; General Stephen Moylan; Colonel John Fitzgerald, Dr. Joseph Cauffman, Colonel Francis Vigo, Timothy Murphy, and Commodore John Barry.

George Meade and Thomas Fitzsimons, giving two thousand pounds to the relief of Valley Forge.

🖱 - Slides 33-39 – Montage of American Revolution Patriots



From overseas came

Major General the Marquis de Lafayette, 🖱

Lieutenant General the Comte de Rochambeau, 🖱

Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, 🖱

Brigadier General the Count Casimir Pulaski, 🖱

Major General the Baron de Kalb 🖱

Admiral the Comte D'Estaing 🖱

and Admiral the Comte de Grasse.

These were brave men. Now, listen to the Worthy Master, as he speaks of men braver still.

🖱 - Slide 40 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Master

From our founding,

Catholics have fearlessly stood in the arena of history,
contributing their fibers of faith that wove
our national destiny.

As heroes who have valued liberty more than life —
Catholics stepped forward to be guardians of freedom
and of our American way of life.

We hold these heroes in our hearts,
we do so with a sense of pride and yet of humility —

pride for what *they* have sacrificed and
humility for what we have yet to accomplish,
if we would be, like them,
faithful custodians of our Nation's liberties.

They have rightly been called
among the world's noblest figures, and so they were.
They have given the last full measure of devotion
to bequeath to their posterity peace with liberty.
Their standard is surely the one to measure
that devotion by which we too strive to preserve
both peace and liberty.

- Slide 41 – Joyce Kilmer



Let us now honor the sacrifice of these patriots by listening to the words
of the American poet and brother knight, Joyce Kilmer, written during the
First World War in honor of his fallen brothers-in-arms.

- Slide 42 – Rouge Bouquet Video

***Following the video, the Master simply pauses for a brief, unannounced
moment of silence***

- Slide 43 – Kilmer's Grave



Master continues:

Soon after Kilmer penned these words,
he too was struck down on the battlefields of France. *Deliberate Pause*

- Slides 44-50 – Montage of Chaplains in Action



Among the countless assembly of our Nation's wartime heroes
there is one group
whose sublime example and sacrifice
is deserving of special mention and everlasting gratitude:
men who time and again came unarmed into the valley of death
with a ministry of peace, reconciliation and salvation —
our beloved Catholic military chaplains.
who minister to those who have suffered
and borne the deepest wounds and scars of war.

- Slide 51 – Fr. Pierre Gibault



During the Revolutionary War,

soldiers drew strength from the example of Father Pierre Gibault,
the Jesuit “patriot priest”
who suffered the spurn of his fellow priests
who had remained loyal to the crown.

- Slide 52 – The Irish Brigade Gettysburg



In the Civil War,
on the second day at Gettysburg,
the Irish Brigade raised their eyes
to their chaplain, Father William Corby,
future president of the University of Notre Dame,
as he gave general absolution
to those brave immigrants
about to die in the defense of the Union.

- Slide 53 – Most Rev. Francis Clement Kelley



Even today,
the Bishop Kelley Province of the Fourth Degree
reminds us of the service of then
Father Francis Clement Kelley,
who during the Spanish American War,
ministered to our soldiers in the Philippines.

🖱 - Slide 54 – Venerable Emil Kapaun



Many are the Catholic chaplains who gave the last full measure of devotion in ministering to American military personnel. Among them were Medal of Honor recipients

🖱 - Slides 55-59 – Medal of Honor Chaplains



Father Joseph O'Callahan, 🖱
Venerable Emil Kapaun, 🖱
Father Vincent Capodanno 🖱
Father Charles Joseph Watters, 🖱
and Father John Washington who received the Chaplains Medal for his selfless sacrifice aboard the USS Dorchester.

All these heroic chaplains lived their lives according to the words of Father Henry Timothy Vakoc

🖱 - Slide 60 – Image of Chaplain Vakoc



who prior to his death
from injuries in Iraq
had told his sister:

*“The safest place for me to be is in the center of God’s will,
and if that is in the line of fire, that is where I will be.”*

Please stand.

In the silence of our hearts,
Let us pause to recall their sacrifice.
resolving to emulate their patriotism.

Pause momentarily then show slide 57 while playing Taps.

🖱️ - Slide 61 – Arlington 🎵 Taps



🎵 Taps 🎵

All stand through conclusion of taps. After a deliberate pause, the Master departs the podium in silence and the Historian assumes the podium.

🖱️ - Slide 62 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Historian

Please be seated.

Brother Knights, Catholics have indeed made extraordinary contributions in the exploration and settlement of our nation. Likewise, Catholics have stood steadfast in defense of our first freedom: religious liberty. But there is still another field of endeavor in which the contribution of Catholics is second to none.









Put simply: No other religious community in our country's history has so personified the Good Samaritan as have American Catholics, who with unparalleled devotion have rushed to the aid of their suffering neighbors.

At a time when many were celebrating a new-found affluence during America's so-called "Gilded Age," Catholics were building hundreds of hospitals and orphanages to care for tens of thousands in need. Thousands of parish schools were built, as were some of our nation's most respected institutions of higher education. Thousands of Catholic laymen rallied to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as our own Order to address both the material and spiritual needs of poor families, especially the widow and the orphan.

Heartfelt words of gratitude are due to the countless heroic and holy women whose courage, determination and compassion braved hardship, poverty, and disease to bring a mother's heart and hands to those in need.

- Slides 63-71 – Montage of Catholic Women Religious



Women religious such as Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and  St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who together founded approximately 100 hospitals and medical institutions throughout the country; 
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of our nation's parochial school system; 
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne; 
St. Mother Theodore Guerin, 
St. Marianne Cope; 
St. Katharine Drexel; 
Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange; 
Sister Thea Bowman.

🖱️ - Slide 72 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Worthy Expositor of the Constitution,
the podium is yours.

🖱️ - Slide 73 – Great Seal of the United States



Expositor of the Constitution

E pluribus unum. “Out of Many, One”

this is the *de facto* motto of our Nation from its earliest history.
Today it appears proudly on the Great Seal of the United States.
Its thirteen letters are symbolic of the thirteen original states.

🖱️ - Slide 74 – Thirteen Colonies



How clearly the first citizens of the United States
understood national unity to be the pillar
upon which the tranquility, prosperity, safety and, yes,
the liberty of our people would rest.
How ardently did they oppose those who would seek
to alienate any portion of our people or of our country.

- Slide 75 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



No religious faith has embraced this ideal of unity to a greater extent or contributed to its realization in America more than has our Catholic Church.

No church has embraced more people from throughout the world and has celebrated their faith in so many different languages as has the Catholic Church in America.

And none has done more to bring so many people together through the bonds of fraternal affection.

As Catholics, we know the Lord calls his disciples to unity — to be a sign of unity within our Nation and in the world.

As Knights of Columbus,
through countless acts of charity and unity,
we have helped to build a fraternal bond of fellowship throughout our Nation. **[Pause]**

- Slide 76 – *The Fourth of July*



It has been said that when one sees the American flag one sees not only a flag, but the Nation itself — its principles, its truths and its history. It is the very symbol of unity not only in appearance but in its very design.

Now listen to the historic meaning of our flag as set forth in this 1986 Presidential Proclamation, by President Ronald Reagan, whose father was a Knight of Columbus:

“There is no greater, more beautiful, and instantly recognizable symbol of our Nation and its ideals, traditions, and values than the flag of the United States. The thirteen stripes of red and white remind us of the courage and steadfastness of those who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to found this great experiment in republican government.

- Slide 77 – Yorktown Monument Flag



The white stars on a field of blue stand for the 13 original colonies that formed the nucleus of the new Nation and the 37 states that have become part of our Nation since then. Those many stars recall the saga of our growth as we spanned a continent.

- Slide 78 – Arlington Flag Presentation Ceremony



*The colors of our flag signify the qualities
of the human spirit we Americans cherish:
red for courage and readiness to sacrifice;
white for pure intentions and high ideals;
and blue for vigilance and justice....
We as a people commemorate our flag
as the proud banner
that the winds of freedom lovingly caress,
for which generations of patriots have fought and died —
the sign and symbol of a people ruled by a constitution
that protects all and enshrines our hopes and our history.”*

- Slide 79 – Fourth Degree Flag Presentation



These words should stir the heart of every American.
And every Sir Knight should take special pride knowing
that it was the determined advocacy of the Knights of Columbus
that led the United States Congress to add
the crucial words “under God” to the Pledge in 1954.

We did so in order to contrast the American cause
with that of despotic regimes that insist

government encompasses and controls all aspects of life.
To the contrary, we affirm that the role and authority of government
is not absolute, but that it is limited.

Under the fatherhood of God, we affirm a brotherhood of man
and the equal dignity of every person to life and liberty.

Please stand, as I now call upon our Cantor to lead us in our national anthem,
found in your song book:

Cantor comes to podium to lead the singing.

🖱️ - Slide 80 – Fort McHenry - 🎵 The Star Spangled Banner



🎵 The Star Spangled Banner 🎵

O say, can you see
By the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming
And the rockets' red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave



Expositor of the Constitution

Please be seated. Worthy Historian, before these candidates can be called ‘Sir Knights’, they require a deeper understanding of this title. For that reason, we now turn to you.

Expositor of the Constitution leaves the Podium

Historian

Brother Knights, for centuries our Church has recognized one very special kind of layman, a man of integrity, of purpose and of faithfulness, a man willing to defend the widow and the orphan, a man of fortitude in the defense of his Nation and of his Church and a man who devoted himself to the cause of justice and the common good. These men they call knights.

It was with the intention to revive these virtues in our own time and place that the first members of our Order chose the title “knights” for our brotherhood.

- Slide 82 – Early Fourth Degree Members



Less than a century from the ratification of the Constitution and mere decades from the devastation of a terrible civil war, Americans were still striving to sustain a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Into this new democracy Blessed Michael McGivney

- Slide 83 – Blessed Michael McGivney



and the men from St. Mary's Church established a new knighthood — one that would bring the Catholic virtues of charity, unity and brotherhood more fully into American society. These men — these knights — made, their own, the words of the great American President, Abraham Lincoln:

- Slide 84 – Abraham Lincoln



*“With malice toward none with charity for all
with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right*

*let us strive on to finish the work we are in
to bind up the nation's wounds,
to care for him who shall have borne the battle
and for his widow and his orphan —
to do all which may achieve and cherish
a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."*

- Slide 85 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



My brother Knights, moments from now you will be asked to take the pledge regarding the Patriotic Degree of our Order. Like knights of centuries ago, we cannot remain idle or on the sidelines, in the cause of justice.

For centuries, Catholics have brought the richness of our faith into the life of their societies.

Father McGivney and the first Knights overcame the anti-Catholic bigotry of their time.

We must now do the same.

We do not seek to promote a narrow or sectarian interest.

Instead, we seek the common good by affirming the equal dignity and rights of all persons.

We do so out of love of our neighbor and of our Nation and in recognition of our identity as followers of Jesus Christ — the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for those given into his care and who showed the world the love that gives its life for others.

What of the patriot's duty to guard against sectarian interests by adherence to moral and religious foundations? Through the centuries, the father of our nation, George Washington, reminds us still of this sacred trust:

- Slide 86 – Prayer at Valley Forge



*“Of all the dispositions and habits
which lead to political prosperity,
religion and morality are indispensable supports.
In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism
who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness,
these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.
The mere politician, equally with the pious man,
ought to respect and to cherish them.”*

Words as wise today as when our first president wrote them to Congress.

Now, to lead you
in the time-honored Pledge of the Fourth Degree
I call upon the Worthy Master.

- Slide 87 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Master

Candidates for the Fourth Degree, you have reviewed the pledge in the antechamber and have subsequently been instructed in the virtue of Catholic Patriotism.

Therefore I invite you to join me and all the Sir Knights here present by taking the pledge now. Candidates and Sir Knights only, please stand. Candidates, please turn and face your family and friends, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

The Master leads the pledge.

“I swear to support the Constitution of the United States. /
I pledge myself, /
as a Catholic citizen /
and a Knight of Columbus, /
fully to enlighten myself /
upon my duties /
as a citizen /
and conscientiously perform them /
entirely in the interest of my country, /
regardless of all personal consequences. /
I pledge myself /
to do all in my power /
to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot /
and to promote respect for law and order. /
I promise /
to practice my religion consistently and faithfully /
and to so conduct myself /
in public affairs /
and the exercise of public virtue /
as to reflect nothing but credit /
upon our Holy Church, /
to the end that she may flourish /

and our Country prosper /
to the greater honor and glory of God.”

Please be seated.

Brother Knights,
you have also promised to take on
the moral responsibility of a faithful Catholic
to hear, receive, and act upon our Church’s teaching.
This is a lifelong task. You must form your own conscience
in accordance with God’s truth. And in this way, practice our whole Catholic Faith
with consistency
as you strive to be a patriotic American.
From the earliest days of our Patriotic Degree, candidates
have been charged to be men of principle, of conviction —
men directed by conscience.
Have we not principles? ***Then let us stand for them!***
Have we not convictions? ***Then let us declare them!***
Have we not conscience? ***Then let us heed it!***
Let us teach the lesson of patriotism
by the most efficacious method of all,
the force of our own example.

Brother Knights,
as Catholics we have a great and holy mission,
in fulfillment of which we pray that the Lord
may give us peace and prosperity as a Nation,
preserve the liberties of our people,
unite them ever closer in fraternal charity and
in his mercy bring them all closer to himself.

Worthy Expositor of the Faith,
having made these promises,
I commend these candidates to you for the final lesson.

Faithful Friar or Expositor of the Faith

My brother Knights,
let us now contemplate
two images sacred to our Faith.

The first is the cross of Our Savior.

Holding up the Cross of the New Evangelization

🖱️ - Slide 88– Landing of Columbus



It has been represented throughout history in many ways.
I hold in my hand a replica of the Cross of the New Evangelization
carried by St. John Paul II in 1992.
When the Holy Father came to our hemisphere as a pilgrim
to celebrate the 500 years of evangelization
initiated by the historic voyage of Christopher Columbus
in 1492.

It is a replica of what is thought
to be the cross carried by Columbus
and planted on the shore of the island
named by him San Salvador.

As we look upon the Cross, we remember the words:

“In hoc signo vinces”

“In this sign you will conquer.”

- Slide 89 – Vision of St. Constantine the Great



These words recall the miracle at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. There, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great saw a cross in the sky with these words written upon it. With his victory, his conversion to Christianity, and his Edict of Milan which legalized Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, Constantine laid the foundation for the Evangelization of the known world.

- Slide 90 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Brother Knights, every deed of Our Savior is a glory for our Catholic Church, but her greatest glory is Our Lord's holy cross. Because of this, St. Paul tells us in Romans, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ.”

It is here that God the Father
“shows his love for us
in that while we were yet sinners
Christ died for us.” **Lower Cross**

🖱️ - Slide 91 – Our Lady of Guadalupe 🎵 **Salve Regina**



🎵 **Salve Regina** (background – instrumental) 🎵

Gesture to the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Now contemplate the blessed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as we invoke her as patroness of our Order with the Marian anthem, *Salve Regina – Hail, Holy Queen*.

Pause approximately 10-15 seconds to allow the candidates and attendees to hear and recognize the hymn, then continue speaking over the soft music, which is two minutes in length.

Countless images of the Mother of God
have been venerated throughout the world.
But no image is more sacred, more revered, more miraculous
than that image which in 1531 appeared on the tilma of St. Juan Diego.

If in the Cross we find the triumph of the kings of kings, is it not in his mother that
we find our most gracious advocate of mercy, reconciliation, and hope?

Her words to St. Juan Diego
echoing down the ages,
ring true still today,
when she asked:

“Am I not here, I who have the honor to be your Mother?

Are you not in my shadow and under my protection?

Am I not the source of your joy?

Are you not in the hollow of my mantle,

in the crossing of my arms?

Do you need something more?”

Has not her face and her loving embrace through the centuries
changed the face of an entire hemisphere?

Should we not stand in awe that the great promise arising from the landfall of
Christopher Columbus in our hemisphere — the promise that the Gospel might be
preached for the salvation of countless souls — was blessed and so marvelously
advanced by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself on the hill of Tepeyac?

- Slide 92– St. Juan Diego



Should we not also stand in awe that the chosen instrument of her message
would be an indigenous convert, St. Juan Diego, one of the first in a long line of
native people who, like St. Kateri Tekakwitha and the

- Slide 93 – St. Kateri Tekawitha



Martyrs of La Florida, have made an inspiring witness to our Catholic faith?
Does not the Blessed Mother's powerful intercession
and loving presence
have the power to renew our society today?

What lesson are we to learn
from the lives of these two extraordinary laymen?

The one venerated as a saint in the East,
the other a saint in the West.

The one who crossed Milvian Bridge victorious in battle,
the other who climbed Tepeyac Hill as a humble messenger.
Surely the lesson is this:

***No matter how powerful or how lowly,
God has some purpose, some mission, some service
he intends for each of his followers to accomplish.***

As we go forward from this place to do his will,
may his mother ever be our defense,
and may his cross ever be our victory.

- Slide 94 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Pick up Rosary

Brother Knights, as you prepare to take up your new responsibilities
in this Patriotic Degree,
I ask that you once again recall the pledge
you made when first you joined our Order.

Holding up Rosary

At that time, you promised to carry the Holy Rosary of Our Lady
with you always and to pray it as often as you can.

Now, as you prepare to take a more active part in the life of our Nation, I ask you to commit to praying often the Luminous Mysteries, which illuminate the public life of Christ.

May we, through prayer and reflection, more fully emulate Christ in our public lives as Catholic patriots in the loving service of our nation and our neighbors.

Lower Rosary

As Catholics we reflect upon the great achievements of our Nation, that in so many ways make America the envy of the world, of all that we have accomplished and of those things which we have failed to do and that remain still to be done.

***We judge that in the life of every Nation
not every time is as good as another.
But for us there is one time which
is more important than any other.
And that is the time that has been allotted to us.***

Let us use this time wisely, recognizing that in the brevity of time, we must not squander that liberty bestowed from the hands of God and preserved until now by those Catholic patriots that came before us.

Let us endeavor to secure this last experiment in self-government by the people;

 - Slide 95 – Justice Joseph Story




mindful of Justice Joseph Story's warning:
"Never forget that you possess a noble heritage...[that]
may, nevertheless, perish in an hour, by the folly or corruption
or negligence of its keepers, the People."


While the fortunes of time are fleeting.
Our mission is not.

- Slides 96-101 – Fourth Degree History



It is a mission adeptly stated by
our Brother Sir Knight, John F. Kennedy,
in words written but never delivered —
his life cut short by an assassin's bullet,
just hours before he could present them. 

He wrote:

*"We in this country,
in this generation, are,
by destiny rather than choice,
the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. 
We ask, therefore,
that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility,*

*that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint,
and that we may achieve in our time and for all time
the ancient vision of ‘peace on earth [and] good will toward men.’ 🗨
That must always be our goal,
and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength.
For as was written long ago:
‘Unless the Lord keep the city,
he watcheth in vain that keepeth it’” 🗨*

My brother Knights,
let us resolve this day
that the Knights of Columbus will always stand sure and unyielding
in our place on the walls of our nation’s freedom — 🗨
that we will do so in the best tradition of Catholic knighthood,
always guided by the sure beacon of what is just
and by the timeless principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Worthy Master: I have completed my task
and the candidates have been instructed.

🗨 - Slide 102 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Master

Brother Knights and Guests, please stand.
Candidates, the virtue of patriotism has been exemplified.
Our journey through your Catholic heritage ends,
and now, your journey begins!
Replete with the history of Catholic America,
we set sail on the sea of history:
One in faith,
One in patriotism,

One in our resolve to secure the blessings of liberty for all
in this generation and for those not yet born.
For indeed, America, *our America*, is beautiful!

🖱️ - Slide 103 – USS Constitution - 🎵 America the Beautiful (Verses 3 & 4)



Cantor

*Leads all in verses 3 & 4 of America the Beautiful. Gesture to song book.
Please note the introductory prelude to America the Beautiful.*

🎵 America the Beautiful (Verses 3 & 4) 🎵

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!



As the candidates sing the final verses of America the Beautiful, the District Marshal approaches the podium - coming to rest in the position of attention, the Master resumes the podium.

At conclusion of America the Beautiful:

Master

Please be seated.

Worthy District Marshal, the candidates have been exemplified in the patriotic degree, demonstrated their patriotism by administration of the oath, and found worthy for advancement in the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Therefore, I give you charge of these candidates.

Arrange the chamber for their knighting.

The Marshal shall render the Knights of Columbus salute, about face and begin preparations for the ceremony.

Marshal

Worthy Color Corps Commander,
prepare the chamber for the Knighting Ceremony.

Hail, Columbia plays while the CCC begins preparation for the Knighting Ceremony.

🎵 Hail, Columbia (Instrumental) 🎵

Knighting Ceremony

The Marshal in conjunction with the CCC will prepare for the Knighting Ceremony. **The District Master will determine before the exemplification whether family members can join their Knight for his knighting without disrupting the flow of the ceremony.** Candidates will be processed from their seats to the rear of the sanctuary/chamber **by way of the side aisles** and process up the center aisle for knighting. As the candidates begin processing **down the center aisle**, **Faith of Our Fathers (instrumental only)** begins playing until knighting is completed. (As all settings are different, presenting layout challenges, flexibility is allowed in order to facilitate the knighting ceremony.)

•
🎵 **Faith of Our Fathers (Instrumental)** 🎵
Song will continuously loop until the slide is advanced.

Proceeding up the center aisle, the candidates will be directed to a knighting station by the Marshal.

[Officers authorized to knight are: Supreme Knight, Past Supreme Knight, Supreme Officers, Supreme Master, Former Supreme Master, Vice Supreme Master, Former Vice Supreme Master, Master, Former Master, State Deputy, Past State Deputy.]

Knighting Instructions:

Knighting Officer

“By the authority vested in me, I dub you a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, and bid you arise, Sir Knight . . . (First name) . . .”

(On the word “dub” the sword is touched to the candidate’s right shoulder. Bishops & Priests stand to be knighted, all others, if able, kneel.)

(Knighting order: Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Military, Police, Firemen, and/or First Responders in uniform then Knights.)

Upon being knighted, the Marshal will direct Sir Knights (and family if included) to the pews utilizing the side aisles, filling the chamber from front-to- back until all are knighted. (The candidates will return to the candidate pews while family members return to general seating.)

Once all Sir Knights are seated, the ranking officer in attendance will deliver brief remarks **(not exceeding three minutes in duration)**; extending congratulations to the new Sir Knights.

- Slide 107 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree

Master

Please give a round of applause for our new Fourth Degree Knights.

(Pause for applause)

At this time, I would like to recognize our fantastic exemplification team:

Faithful Friar/Expositor of the Faith - *(name)*

Supreme Master (If Present) - *(name)*

Vice Supreme Master - *(name)*

District Master - *(name)*

Historian - *(name)*

Expositor of the Constitution - *(name)*

District Marshal - *(name)*

Cantor - *(name)*

Thank you for your excellent work today!

If Applicable: It is now my extreme pleasure to call upon *(Guest of Honor)* for a few remarks.

Guest of Honor remarks are now given.

Upon completion of remarks, the District Master will introduce the exemplification team then give instructions concerning Mass and banquet, if applicable.

During the Introduction of the Exemplification team, led by the CCC, the Honor Guard will take up position along the center aisle. Once in position, the **Faithful Friar or a designated member of the hierarchy** will give a final blessing.

Master

Worthy Marshal. (Pause)

(Marshal – Approaches the station of the MFD)

Worthy Marshal – Retrieve the Colors.

(Marshal – Salute – About Face – and there remains.)

Marshal – Color Corps - - Atten - - tion

Marshal – Color Corps – - Draw - - Sword (Pause)

Color Guard Commander – Retire the Colors. *Color Guard moves from rear of the chamber to the front.*

Color Guard – Post *Flag bearers move to their flags and prepare to retrieve them.*

 - Slide 108 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree -  Retreat

(While RETREAT is playing, the National Flag Bearer salutes the National Ensign. At conclusion, Marshal continues.)

Marshal – Color Corps - - Present - - Sword - - Sir Knights - - Hand over your heart.

Marshal – Retrieve - - the Colors

(The Color Guard Commander gives appropriate commands to the CG to retrieve colors. The CG will return to the center of the chamber, and, on command face the audience. When in place, the Master continues.)

Marshal – Color Guard - - Retire - - the Colors

(The CG retires in silence and when fully retired, the Master continues.)

Master

I now call upon our Faithful Friar (or designated member of the hierarchy) to offer a final blessing. Following the final blessing, the degree will conclude with a recessional to the hymn of **O God, Beyond All Praising**, as the Honor Guard presents arms.

Cantor

Please join in singing our recessional hymn, ***O God, Beyond All Praising***, found in your song book.

♪ **O God, Beyond All Praising (Verses 1-2)** ♪

🖱️ - Slide 109 – Christ Triumphant ♪ O God, Beyond All Praising



Cantor: please note there is an introductory prelude

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Recessional Order of March

Degree Team

Dignitaries

Hierarchy/Priests

 - Slide 110 – Emblem of the Fourth Degree



Post Exemplification

Ideally, the exemplification should be followed by Mass. When conducted in the afternoon, the degree should be scheduled to conclude just before the Saturday Vigil Mass, with enough time allotted for attendees to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Mass and to allow parish staff to set up and prepare for the Vigil Mass.

Following Mass, the celebration should continue with a reception followed by a banquet in honor of the new Sir Knights. The best practice is to work with the host assembly or council to secure space for the banquet on site and to arrange for assembly/council members to prepare and serve the meal, preventing the District Master from having to incur excessive costs from renting hotel or reception hall space and catering to conduct the banquet.

Efforts should be made to secure a keynote speaker. Additionally, brief remarks by the Vice Supreme Master and ranking State Council officer in attendance are encouraged. When in attendance, the Supreme Master shall serve as the keynote speaker.

