

Ritual of the Order of the Temple

Iowa

2003

Opening of the Temple

CG draws sword and proceeds to the Commander anywhere in the Asylum.

When CG draws sword, W proceeds to his station, draws, and is seated.

*CG: EC!, *, I report for orders.*

EC: Sir Knight CG, see that the Asylum is in suitable array for my reception. Sir Knight G and EP, accompany me to my apartment.

EC, G, EP leave asylum, C in lead. EP and G one pace behind. G on the right, forming an equilateral triangle.

CG carry sword and proceed in direct line to his station, about faces: Sir Knight W. W rises and salutes, answered by CG: Sound the assembly.

W carries sword: Sir Knights, Attention.

All knights in the Asylum rise.

CG: Officers, take your stations. Officers fall in their stations and remain standing. Draw Swords. All draw except T, Rec. and StB. StB will put on holster. Sir Knights, Be Seated.

*CG: Sir Knights S & JW, *. Are all present Knights Templar?*

SW & JW carry swords, inward face, advance to the center of the asylum, right and left flank together and proceed shoulder to shoulder to the east. At foot of the dais they flank outward and proceed to the sidelines, executing a flanking movement and proceed west down the lines, remaining far enough away from the sidelines to enable a challenged knight to rise.

*SW or JW finding a visitor for whom he cannot vouch, halts, motions with left hand for the visitor to rise, about faces. Sir Knight CG, *, a visitor for whom I cannot vouch. Comes to a carry.*

CG: Will any Knight vouch for the visitor in the South (or North)?

*Frater rises: Sir Knight CG, *. I will vouch for the frater in the south (or north).*

*CG: Sir Knight SW (or JW), *. The Frater is properly vouched for.*

SW or JW carry, motions with left hand for the frater to sit down, about faces and proceeds with duty.

Opposite warden who has halted and remained standing facing west, proceeds also.

If no one can vouch for a visitor the CG will appoint a committee of three to retire and examine the visitor. The first named frater automatically being the Chairman. Committee retires with visitor, no salute, etc.

Wardens then continue with the survey as if the visitor had been vouched for.

SW & JW, arriving at the west of the asylum and all present having been vouched for, execute a flank inward, take one step and execute a flank to the east and proceed east until at a point in the asylum one pace eastward of the Second Division. Both flank inward and proceed toward the center of asylum. SW halting in front of the SwB, JW halting in front of the W, facing each other.

*JW: Sir Knight SW, *. All in the north are Knights Templar. Carry Sword.*

SW & JW advance to center of asylum, flank to the east and march eastward shoulder to shoulder to a point in line with their stations, execute a flank outward and proceed to their stations. Halt and face the CG.

*SW: Sir Knight CG. JW & SW * in unison, answered by CG. All present are Knights Templar. Wardens carry and sit in unison.*

CG: Sir Knight W rises and salutes, returned by CG, post the Sentinel. Inform him that a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened and direct him to guard accordingly.

W carries, right faces and marches south to a point directly east of the Sentinel's door, goes through into Sentinel's room, uses appropriate words to inform him of opening: Sir Knight S, a Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be opened and you are directed to guard accordingly.

*W closes door and gives *** ** with tip of sword. Answered by S. W about faces and proceeds back over same route to his station. Halts, right face and reports: Sir Knight CG (*) The S is at his post and the Asylum is duly guarded. Carries and sits.*

CG: Sir Knights S & JW. Wardens rise and salute, CG returns. Form the lines for the reception of the Commander.

Right face, steps to G's station and halts. Left face.

SW & JW carry swords in unison and move in direct lines toward their posts at the same time.

SW proceeds in direct line to his post three paces west of the foot of the dais, directly west of CG. When satisfied with his alignment, he about faces and commands: Sir Knights, Fall IN. SW about faces and stands facing the CG while the knights fall in.

JW proceeds in a direct line from his station to a point directly west of the CG and SW and halts facing east and leaving enough room between himself and the SW for six Knights to fall in.

Twelve knights rise, six from each side of the asylum and "fall in" in a column of twos, facing east, between the SW and JW. The left rank (south?) being directly behind the SW.

CG, when all knights have fallen in: Left, FACE; Right, DRESS! Steps from post down off dais and halts just east of the SW, left face, inspect rank, step one pace south, inspect rank, about face, half right, proceed to post on dais, halts and about face. FRONT. Open ranks (SW & JW, in unison step back six steps or ninety inches and halt) MARCH. Front rank comes to an automatic right dress. Rear rank steps back until 6" behind the wardens, halt and step forward into line with the wardens and come to right dress.

CG steps off dais and halts a space east of front rank, left face and inspect, marches south and halts beside SW. Inspects second rank. About faces, half right and proceeds to post on dais. Halts, about face. FRONT. Draw SWORDS. Front rank, about FACE.

CG left face and step to new post in front of C's station: Halt; right face. Junior Warden, POST.

JW advances forward until one pace behind the front rank, right flank and proceeds east behind front rank until in line with the SW, right flank, steps into line with the front rank and halts. Front rank now becomes the FIRST DIVISION and the rear rank the SECOND DIVISION for the purpose of communication across lines.

*CG: Sir Knight SW SW half right face the CG and *. With an escort of six, repair to the apartment of the commander, inform him that the Asylum is prepared for his reception and awaits his pleasure.*

SW carries, half left, steps backward 2 steps, left faces and advances westward, halting outward from the interval between the 3rd and 4th knight from the west, drops sword into interval and holds horizontal:

Escort! Carries sword and proceeds west, halting behind the westernmost man of the second division: Right and left FACE. Forward, close order, MARCH.

At command march, W advances to and opens the door to C's apartment, steps back to the side and salutes SE as he passes. SW returns salute. W returns to station and is seated.

SW gives commands necessary to conduct the escort to the apartment of the C, SW is on the left of the first 2 men in line, going to the apartment and must bring the escort up in front of the C in the apartment so that

the command left face will bring them to face the C.

CG when escort leaves the asylum, commands: At ease.

*SW in EC's apartment, brings escort in front of the EC: Escort, HALT. Left, FACE. SW right faces, facing escort: Present, SWORDS about faces EC, * the Asylum is in suitable array for your reception and awaits your pleasure.*

EC: I will attend you, lead on Sir Knight SW.

SW carries, about faces: Escort, carry SWORDS. Left FACE! SW right faces and marches down column, halting at right of the last man in the column: Forward MARCH. SW now commanding from post on the right side of the escort gives such commands as may be necessary to conduct escort back to the asylum. EC falls in directly in rear of escort. G falls in abreast of the EP, one pace in rear of EC and on the right, forming an equilateral triangle.

S takes post in the doorway facing the asylum, when escort with EC approaches he reports in a loud voice: The EC Approaches! Steps back, faces across the doorway, salutes, the C only acknowledges the salute. When the escort with the commander has passed he closes the door.

W hearing S announce the approach, rises and announces: The EC approaches.

CG: Commandery, Attention! All rise.

StB turns to right, passes between his chair and the SwB's, turns and passes behind his station and secures Beauceant, returns to station the same way and executes carry Beauceant.

CG: Sir Knights in line, Present SWORDS

Guards present, SwB and W, officers present, JW in line at present with troops.

SW may have given escort commands of half step or mark time to allow StB & CG time to finish executing commands, now brings escort into asylum: Escort, Incline to the right, MARCH; Forward, Open Order, MARCH

Escort reaches appropriate place at foot of lines and each man halts, inward faces and comes to a present without command.

SW marches eastward behind second division to a point directly south of the JW, left flank and steps into line with the second division, halts, and comes to present.

When C is two paces west of the dais, CG steps to his left into line with the second division, half right, and comes to officer's present.

EC enters asylum behind escort, executes a column right and passes two paces in front of W, uncovering for the Beauceant, executes a column left and passes eastward through the liens, recovering as he passes the head of the lines, steps on dais to station and about faces in unison with G and EP.

G & EP follow EC in an equilateral triangle until he turns eastward to pass down the lines. Follow him in single file down the lines, not uncovering, P behind, and step into their stations, about in unison with EC.

EC draws sword: Carry, SWORDS; Sir Knights not in line, BE SEATED; Sir Knight CG CG right face, and salutes Form the lines for rehearsal. Returns sword and is seated. Other officers sit in unison with C.

CG carries sword after EC is seated, left face and proceeds to post one pace east of the head of the lines, facing west, down the center: Prepare for rehearsal, Officers, POST.

SW & JW, in unison each takes two steps backward, right and left face, pass westward behind the lines to the foot of the lines. Execute a left and right flank respectively and step into line, halt and dress, facing each other.

CG: From the east, take sword intervals, Knights rise swords to the level, pointing right MARCH! Knights give way to the west, executing sword interval.

CG steps to the spot just vacated by the JW, right faces, verifies alignment of 1st Division. Steps south to

the spot just vacated by the SW, verifies alignment of 2nd Division. Left face and step to the foot of the dais, in front of and facing the EC.

*EC, *: The lines are formed. Carries, steps backward 2 paces and one step to the right into the spot vacated by the SW at the head of the lines and stands facing dais.*

EC & G rise and draw swords. Step down from dais, EC halts in center of lines one pace east of the CG.

G advances to point at east of 1st Division, vacated by JW.

CG & G face inward in unison, maintaining sword intervals from the head of the lines, dressed on lines.

*EC: First Division, communicate to the Second Division XXXXXXXXX. GUARD, GIVE CUTS, COMMUNICATE. Carry SWORDS. 2nd Division, communicate to the 1st Division the XXXXXXXXXXXX. GUARD. GIVE CUTS. POSITION. COMMUNICATE. Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS. 1st Division, communicate to the 2nd Division XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. Sir Knights, KNEEL. UnCOVER. *All Knights uncover except StB.* Deposit Chapeaux. Interlace fingers. Sir Knights, as your fingers are thus strongly interlaced, so should the hearts of all Knights Templar be firmly united in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Over this symbol of our Faith, *uncovers* COMMUNICATE.*

SwB, W & Gds return their swords at the command return for the lines before communication, but do not kneel.

StB executes salute with the B at commander's command Communicate, executes Carry at the command Recover.

EC: Sir Knights, Secure CHAPEAUX, Re-cover. Does so himself. Arise.

EC: Sir Knight CG CG steps forward one pace, draws sword, right face to C and salutes. Form the lines for Inspection and Review. EC & G sit down.

CG carries, left face and move in direct line to the spot at the head of the lines vacated by C, facing west down the lines. Close intervals, MARCH! When halted: 1st Division, About FACE! CG right face and march forward until a distance of three men in front of the 1st division, left flank and march westward, halting in the middle of the 1st division. Faces left: Sir Knights in line, Draw SWORDS.

SwB, W & Gds draw swords at the command.

CG: Close ranks, MARCH. SW, POST.

SW steps backward two steps, right faces and proceeds eastward behind the rear rank, left flanks and steps into line at the right of the 1st rank.

CG: Commandery, Backward, MARCH! Moves Commandery back, leaving room enough to open ranks and still have room for the C and Staff to pass on inspection. Commandery, HALT. Right DRESS.

Inspects lines for dress, about face after inspection of rear rank and march to a point two paces in front of and on the right of the front rank, halt, left face and commands: FRONT! Marches forward and halts at half the distance of the front rank, left face. Count THREES. Advances to the center of the front rank and drops sword into the interval between the 1st and 2nd set of threes. On my left 1st Division, on my right, 3rd Division! Carries sword, steps backward to original post: 3rd Division, left step, MARCH! CG moves backward and to his right maintaining a distance from the front rank of one half its width. When the 3rd Division has gained an interval equal to the front of a set of threes, CG commands: Division, HALT.

Commandery, Present SWORDS! Executed by the 1st and 3rd divisions only.

SW & JW execute salute swords.

*CG executes a half right and proceeds in direct line to a point 2 paces in front of the SwB's station. 2nd Division SwB, StB, W and Gds Right, FACE. Forward, Close order, MARCH *clear chairs* Column left,*

MARCH! *CG takes post on the left of the SwB.* Column left, MARCH. Column right, MARCH ... By the right flank, MARCH. *Command of execution given from the middle of command. CG follows along behind halting on his old post in front of the Commandery.* Division, HALT. *When 2nd Division passes through slot between the 1st and 3rd Divisions:* About, FACE. Commandery, carry SWORDS. Right DRESS! Inspects lines, move to 2 paces in front of and on the right of the Commandery: FRONT. *Proceed in direct line to post in front of the Commandery. Right face: Open Ranks! SW & JW take 6 steps backward: MARCH! Automatic right dress by front rank, rear rank steps backward until one step behind Wardens, halts, steps into line and right dress.*

CG inspects dress of lines as before, gives: FRONT and moves in direct line to his station in the middle and one half the distance of the total width of the Commandery in front of it, and stands facing it until the EC, G & P are in their positions.

SW & JW at the command front by the CG, move out at the same time he moves, advancing straight to the front until 2 paces in front of the first rank, right and left flank and step to their new stations in front of the middle man of the 1st and 3rd Divisions, halt and right and left face, facing the front.

EC, G & EP rise, EC & G step down off dais, G one step behind and to the right of the EC, EP crosses over behind the G and falls in one pace behind and to the left of the EC as they pass his station. EC advances in direct line with G & EP forming a triangle to his station, wheels into position and halts 3 paces behind the CG. G & EP still forming a triangle.

CG, hearing EC, G & EP halt: Commandery, present SWORDS

SW & JW execute salute swords. SwB W & Gds present.) StB executes salute with Banner.

*CG about faces: EC * The lines are formed. Carries and about faces: Commandery, Carry SWORDS. Inspection SWORDS. About and stands at attention.*

EC advances straight to the front, inspects front of CG and moves around west side of CG and advances east, inspecting the CG from behind as he does so. He wheels to the right and returns west in front of SW and JW. The CG having fallen in on his right.

When EC advances from his post, G falls in one pace behind him and follows him at this distance through the inspection.

When the EC and G have passed by on his left side, CG returns, wheels to the right and falls in on the right of the EC and abreast of him as he turns to pass west, down the lines in front of the S & JW. CG lengthens or shortens stride to keep position through out the inspection.

SW & JW remain at carry while they are inspected. When inspection party has passed in rear to the east and wheels to pass west in front of the first rank, about in unison and order swords.

Knights in formation execute inspection swords as commander passes.

StB remains at carry Banner.

Inspection party moves down front rank, wheels around behind it and passes eastward. Wheels on east end and passes westward in front of second rank. Wheels around west end of it and passes eastward behind second rank. Reaching the east end of the second rank, the EC wheels to his left and advances forward until passed the line of the wardens.

EC, passing the line of the wardens, advances in direct line to his post and faces the Commandery.

G somehow gets back into his post, forming a triangle with the EP.

SW & JW, when the EC passes their line, carry and about in unison.

CG halts at the line of the wardens and waits for the EC and G to pass, then moves in direct line to his station, halts facing the EC, draws, and stands at attention.

EC: Sir Knight CG () Pass the Commandery in review.*

CG carries, about faces: Close ranks, MARCH.

SW & JW, in union at the CG's command MARCH will right and left face and advance until in line with their posts on the right and left flanks of the first rank. Execute flanking movements and halt six inches past the line of the front rank. About, step into line and dress.

Rear rank steps forward into position and dresses.

CG: Pass in review. Right by threes, MARCH.

At command march SW moves across the front on the first set of threes and takes position twenty four inches in front of the No. 3 man.

CG wheels to the left and falls in on the left of the SW as he marches past: Column left, MARCH. Eyes RIGHT. Each set of three will execute eyes right as they complete execution of the column left, returning to front when 3 paces west of the EC. After giving command eyes right, salutes the EC with sword, carrying immediately. StB executes salute as he passes the EC.

EC returns both the CG & StB's salutes.

CG: Column left, MARCH. Column left, MARCH. Breaks out to his left, turns around and marches backward and eastward toward his post 3 paces in front of the C, giving appropriate commands: Threes left, When the column has reached a point on the floor where the completion of the order will bring them into line so that the StB, CG & EC are in direct line, command: MARCH. Commandery, HALT, Right DRESS Inspects lines as before, about faces, returns to post 2 paces in front of front rank, left face: FRONT. Returns to his post in front of EC, facing Commandery.

If the Commandery has advanced too far toward the center of the asylum, the CG will have to back them up, giving the commands Commandery, backward, MARCH. Commandery, HALT. Right DRESS. And re-inspect lines as before bringing them to present.

CG: Present, SWORDS! About faces and executes salute.

*EC, *: Sir Knight CG, Form the Triangle preparatory to our Devotions. EC and staff return to their stations, EP stepping out of the triangle and halting at his station, facing east. G crosses over behind the EC and halts at his station facing east. EC halts in his station and about face. EP & G about in unison with the EC and are seated in unison with him.*

When C reaches the foot of the dais, CG carries, about face: 2nd Division, carry SWORDS. Forward MARCH. By the left flank, MARCH! Having given way so as not to be run over, he now places himself on the W's right and marches with the division to a point 2 paces in front of the SwB's station, commanding at the proper time: Column left, MARCH. Column right, (halts in front of SwB's station. MARCH. right face. Column right, open ranks, MARCH. Division HALT. Right FACE. Commands are given so as to have men in their stations.

CG about face, returns in a direct line to his post in front of the Commandery, right face and commands: Commandery, Carry, SWORDS. 3rd Division, right step, MARCH! Moves forward and to his left maintaining a post one half the distance of the width in front of the Commandery: Division, HALT! Moves Commandery forward into the center of the asylum by the commands: Commandery, forward MARCH. Commandery, HALT. Commandery, right DRESS. Inspects lines, move to usual position: FRONT! Returns to post in front of and facing the Commandery at half the distance of its width. Form Triangle, Officers, POST.

StB, at command, steps forward 2 paces, Beauceant at carry.

SW at command, takes 3 steps backward, left face, and passes westward behind the rear rank, right flank at the proper time and step into line. Halt. Dress on the rear rank, directly behind the JW.

CG when SW is in position: Commandery, left FACE.

Front rank now becomes the 1st division, under the JW. The rear rank becomes the 2nd division under the SW.

SW & JW, execute command left face and in unison take 1 step outward and one step backward, forming a rank of four at the head of the column.

CG: Commandery, Forward, MARCH! Moves forward until behind Commandery, right flanks and marches westward behind them.

SW, when four paces east of the StB: 2nd Division, incline to the left, MARCH.

JW, when four paces east of the StB: 1st Division, incline to the right, MARCH.

SW, with inclining 2nd Division: Column right, When lead man reaches line of StB: MARCH! SW halts and right faces: Division HALT. As leading file is turning the angle. The first and second knights in line do not obey the order by the SW, but close up on the StB and then halt. This leaves two blank spaces for the SW & SwB to step into line. Right FACE! Steps into blank space in unison with the SwB who steps into the other space.

JW, with inclining 1st Division: Column left, when lead man reaches line of StB: MARCH! JW halts and left faces: Division HALT. As leading file is turning the angle. The first and second knights in line do not obey the order by the JW, but close up on the StB and then halt. This leaves two blank spaces for the JW & W to step into line. Left FACE! Steps into blank space in unison with the W who steps into the other space. CG positions a knight from each division by pointing to a spot on the floor with his sword, leaving space for the EC, G & CG to form the apex of the Triangle.

CG, having positioned knights to his satisfaction: 1st Division Left, 2nd Division Right, 3rd Division Center, DRESS! Dress wider than usual intervals. CG glances down 1st and 2nd Divisions lines from the point of the apex by only turning his head, does not inspect the 3rd Division: FRONT. Return SWORDS. Gds return swords at preceding command.

StB remains at carry.

CG about face and advance in direct line to the foot of the dais in front of his station. EC (). The triangle is formed. Carries sword.*

*EC rises: Commandery, ATTENTION (All rise.) Sir Knights G * CG * and EP *. Accompany me to the Triangle. Moves forward down off the dais and proceeds to the apex of the triangle.*

G falls in one pace behind the EC as he moves off the dais.

CG carries and returns sword. Wheels to the left and falls in abreast of the G, one pace to the C left as they come by him.

EP falls in on the right, abreast of the G and one pace to the C's right as they come by him.

EC reaching the apex of the triangle halts.

EP halts when C does and maintains his position.

G continues forward between the EC and the EP and falls in between the first knight and the C and dresses.

CG continues forward passing the C and falls in between the first knight and the C and dresses.

EC: Sir Knights, to your devotions, KNEEL. Executes his own commands: Un-COVER. EP, lead our devotions.

EP uncovers, bows head, remains standing, does not raise hands.

StB does not Kneel, executes salute B at command Un-COVER and holds till command Re-COVER after prayer.

EP: All present will join in the Lord's Prayer. ... Amen.

EC: Sir Knights, Re-COVER. ARISE. ATTEND TO GIVING THE SIGNS. All Sir Knights in asylum

give except StB and in unison with C.

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross *Done*. The Order of Malta *Done*. The Order of the Temple *Done*.

Sir Knight CG *. Reduce the Triangle. *About faces and returns to his station and about faces.*

G turns left out of line, falls in on the EC's right forming usual triangle and proceeds to his station behind the EC, going up the dais and about faces in unison with the EC.

EP turns right and falls in with the EC & G, dropping out at his station and about in unison with the EC & G.

EC after about face: Sir Knights not in line, BE SEATED. Sits, G & EP sitting in unison. CG takes 4 steps backward. SW & JW take two steps backward.

CG: Officers, draw SWORDS. POST.

SW & JW, at POST, right and left face, advance toward the apex of the Triangle, execute flanking movements and fall in the posts just vacated by the G & EC. StB, SwB & W, step backward into their stations.

CG: 1st Division left, 2nd Division right, FACE. Forward, MARCH. Takes post on the right of the SW and conducts divisions to the foot of the dais, at least 2 paces apart. Commandery, HALT. Inward FACE!

*Faces toward the EC: EC * Your order has been obeyed. Carries sword.*

EC: Sir Knights, BE SEATED. Divisions break out to the sidelines.

CG returns sword and advances toward his station, and about faces. SW & JW, when CG has returned and moves out toward station, about and go to their respective stations and about face. StB returns Banner to the banner stand and returns to his station. CG, noting everyone is in position, sits. All officers sit in unison with CG.

EC: Sir Knight G, G rises, steps forward 1 pace, draws sword and salutes. Are you a Knight Templar?

G carries sword: That is my title.

EC: Where were you made a Knight Templar?

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

EC: How many composes such a Commandery?

G: There is an indispensable number and a constitutional number.

EC: What is the indispensable number?

G: Three

EC: Under what circumstances may three form and open a Commandery?

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

EC: What is the constitutional number?

G: Nine or more.

EC: When composed of eleven, who are they?

G: The EC, G, CG, SW, JW, P, Treas, Rec, StB, SwB and W.

EC: The station of the W?

G: On the left of the StB, and on the left of the 2nd Division when separately formed. Salutes, acknowledged by C, carries, right face, returns and is seated.

EC: Sir Knight Warder W rises and salutes, returned Your duty?

W: To sound the assembly; post the sentinel; announce the approach and departure of the C; and see that the asylum is duly guarded.

EC: The station of the SwB?

W: On the right of the StB, and on the right of the 2nd division when separately formed. Carries sword and

remains standing.

EC: Sir Knight SwB *SwB rises and salutes, returned* Your duty?

SwB: To assist in protecting the banner of our order.

EC: The station of the StB?

SwB: In the west, and in the center of the 2nd division. *Carries and remains standing.*

EC: Sir Knight StB *StB rises and hand salutes, returned* Your duty?

StB: To display, support and protect the banner of our order.

EC: Why are you stationed in the west?

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

EC: The station of the Recorder?

StB: On the left, and in front of the CG. *Remains standing.*

EC: Sir Knight R *R rises and hand salutes, returned* Your duty?

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

EC: The station of the Treasurer?

R: On the right, and in front of the G. *Remains standing, facing front.*

EC: Sir Knight Treas *T rises and hand salutes, returned* Your duty?

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

EC: The station of the P?

T: On the right of the G. *Faces front and remains standing.*

EC: Excellent Prelate *EP rises and faces EC, gives hand salute, returned* Your Duty?

EP: To minister at the altar, and offer up prayers to Deity.

EC: The station of the JW?

EP: At the northwest angle of the Triangle, on the right or in front of the 3rd division when separately formed; and on the left of the Commandery when in line. *Faces front and remains standing.*

EC: Sir Knight JW *JW rises and salutes, returned* Your duty?

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

EC: The station of the SW?

JW: At the southwest angle of the triangle, on the right or in front of the 1st division when separately formed, and on the right of the Commandery when in line. *Carries and remains standing.*

EC: Sir Knight SW *SW rises and salutes, returned* Your duty?

SW: To attend Pilgrim warriors; comfort and support Pilgrim Penitents and after due trial introduce them into the asylum.

EC: The station of the CG?

SW: On the left of the EC. *Carries and remains standing.*

EC: Sir Knight CG *Rises, steps forward one step, draws sword, right face and salutes. Returned* Your duty?

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

EC: The station of the G?

CG: On the right of the C. Faces left and remain standing.

EC: Sir Knight G Rises, steps forward 1 pace, draws, left face and salutes. Returned Your duty?

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

EC: The station of the Commander?

G: In the East, or at the head of the Commandery.

EC: His duty?

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

EC: Sir Knight G: It is my order that blank Commandery, No. 999, be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Captain General, and he to the Knights.

*G carries, addresses the CG and answers the CG's salute: Sir Knight CG *, It is the order of the Commander that ... Commandery, No. ..., be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it, requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. This you will communicate to the Knights. G faces front.*

CG carries, left face and addresses the Knights: Sir Knights, ATTENTION! Sir Knight in the front row, Draw SWORDS. It is the order of the Commander that ... Commandery, No. ..., be now opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it. Take due notice and govern yourselves according to the sublime principles of this magnanimous order. Present SWORDS! Right face and salutes

G: Sir Knight G, the order of the Commander has been executed. CG carries, faces front and stands at "salute". G does not salute at order of the CG to present swords.

G: EC salute Your order has been obeyed. Carries, faces front and stands at "salute".

EC rises and draws sword, taking position of the Cross Swords: I now declare ... Commandery No ... opened in due form. Carries Sir Knights, carry SWORDS. Sir Knight W return salute Inform the S and direct him to guard accordingly.

*W goes to Sentinel's door, opens it: Sir Knight S, the Commandery is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly. Closes door *** ***, answered by the S. Warder resumes station and reports.*

*W: EC * Your order has been obeyed.*

EC: Sir Knights, Return SWORDS. We will all join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country.

All Knights will turn toward flag and hand salute. When finished all Knights will face front.

Officers, Draw, SWORDS! Sir Knights, be seated.

Only SW, JW, SwB, W & Gds should draw swords. EC is seated with G CG, EP, T, etc.

Conferral

EC: Sir Knight Warder

W stands and salutes with sword, remaining at officer's present.

EC: Ascertain if any Candidate is in waiting for the Order of the Temple.

W carries sword, right faces and marches to southwest entry and returns by the same route: Eminent Commander salute and wait for return. ..., a Knight of Malta, is in waiting to receive the Order of the Temple.

EC: Sir Knights, ..., a Knight of Malta, is in waiting. If there be no objections, we will proceed to confer

the Order of the Temple upon him.

EC: Sir Knight JW. JW stands and salutes, returned. Retire and conduct the Knight to the chamber of reflection, where, after an admonition, you will place before him these questions, to which you will require his answers in writing, after he has reflected upon them in silence and solitude; and when he has testified to the purity of his intentions, by performing the required ablution, return with his answers.

JW advances to EC's station, receives questions; turns to the right, marches to a point near the SW's stations, then turns right to the center of the Asylum, right face to face EC and exchanges salutes with EC. Left face and march to a point in line with the preparation room, turns left and march out of the room. W, when JW salutes from base of alter, rises and goes to the preparation room and opens doors. Salutes as JW passes, the closes doors and returns to station.

Chamber of Reflection

JW : Knights, you are now seated in the Chamber of Reflection, where in silence and solitude you will have an opportunity for meditation.

The first three degrees of Masonry inculcate the cardinal virtues, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. Charity was taught you as a Mark Master, Moderation as a Past Master, your industry was rewarded as a Most Excellent Master, and when you passed under the Living Arch you received a lesson in humility. When you were created a Companion of the Red Cross you were impressed with the almighty force and the importance of Truth. When you were admitted a Knight of Malta you were instructed to be zealous and vigilant for the honor of Knighthood.

While the world is shut out, meditate upon these things, and prepare your heart for the solemn ceremonies through which you will be called to pass. There lies on the table before you a melancholy memento of mortality.

Beside it is an hourglass, which I now reverse. *Done* As you behold its slowly falling sands, learn that so surely are the wasting sands of your mortal life running out to death.

There is also on this table the Holy Bible, which is opened at the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. I enjoin upon you at this time the reading of the thirteenth to the sixteenth verses inclusive of that chapter.

When you shall have concluded the reading you will discover three Questions, to which your explicit answers are required in writing. Reflect on them, and then answer each with a simple "yes" or "no", according to the dictates of your conscience. Then sigh your name in full, to each of them.

I am now about to leave you alone, and will signal my departure by three knocks upon the door. Hearing them, you will remove the hoodwink, and proceed as I have directed. When you shall have concluded, give three knocks and I will attend you.

JW gives three knocks and candidates proceed as directed. When all have given the required three knocks:

JW: Knight, have you answered the Questions? K replies. Present them.

JW reviews answers suggesting corrections as required. When finished move to center of the chamber: Are you able and willing to make the following declaration? "I now declare in truth and soberness that I entertain no enmity nor ill will against a soul on earth, which I would not freely reconcile, should I find in him a corresponding disposition." *After reply.* Knights, there is pure water. In token of your sincerity, and the purity of your intentions, wash your hands. *Done.* Now, be seated and await the pleasure of the Commander.

*JW, at preparation room door *** ***

W stand: Eminent Commander. *Salute and remain at officer's present until it is returned.* There is an alarm.

EC return salute: Sir Knight Warder, attend to the alarm.

W carry sword, go to preparation room door: Who comes here?

JW: The Junior Warden with a report.

W close door, and return to station: Eminent Commander Salute and wait until returned. The alarm was caused by Sir Knight the Junior Warden, who comes with a report.

EC: Admit him.

W carries sword, goes to door and opens it. Enter. Step back and salute JW as he enters. After JW & K pass, close door and return to station.

JW returns Salute as he enters. JW advances to near his station, then to one step west of the altar, right flanks to the center of the Asylum, halts and left faces: Eminent Commander. *Salutes and remains at officer's present until returned.* ..., a Knight of Malta, is in the Chamber of Reflection, and solicits the honor of being dubbed and created a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple.

EC: Has he answered the necessary Questions?

JW: He has, in writing, and in testimony of the purity of his intentions has performed the required ablution.

EC: Present the answers.

JW: Carries sword, marches to the SW's station, left flank and marches to the EC's station, hands him the questions, left face, and proceeds to his station. Halts, About faces, salutes and is seated.

EC: Do you solemnly declare upon your honor that in seeking admission to this Valiant and Magnanimous Order of Christian Knighthood you are actuated by no mercenary or other unworthy motive? Answered yes, signed

If called upon to draw your sword in a religious cause, will you give preference to the Christian Religion? Answered yes, signed

Does your conscience accuse you of any crime, unrepented of, which would render you unworthy of becoming a member of an Institution founded upon the Christian Religion, and the practice of the Christian Virtues? Answered no, signed

Sir Knights, are there any questions? *There being none:*

EC: Sir Knight JW. *JW stands and salutes. Returned.* Thus far the Knight has proceeded to our entire satisfaction; but as a trial of his patience and perseverance, I now enjoin upon him Seven Years of Pilgrimage, clad in pilgrim's garb, with sandals, staff and scrip, and under you direction.

As soon as EC finishes speaking W proceeds to the preparation room door, opens it for the JW, steps back and salutes as JW passes. Closes door and returns to his station.

JW: Carries sword, turns and marches in direct line from his station to the preparation room door. Returns W's salute as he passes, leaves Asylum and returns sword.

EC waits for JW to depart and W to return to his station.

Posting of the Guards

EC: Sir Knight Captain General

CG rises, steps forward from his station and draws sword. Right faces and salutes, remaining at officer's present.

EC: See that the Guards are posted.

CG: Carry sword, left face. *Sir Knight Senior Warden.*

SW rise and salute, remain at officer's present.

CG, after returning salute: Post the Guard.

SW carry sword, advance in a direct line from station to a point two paces in front of the Sword Bearer's station. Halt: Guards, ATTENTION: Right FACE: Forward, MARCH. Right face after giving command, mark time giving the command Column Left, MARCH at the proper time and on the correct foot. At the command of execution MARCH, step out in half step and fall in on the left side of the column, abreast of the 1st Guard, acting as guide and commanding at the proper time Column Left, MARCH to bring the guards west of the altar in the center of the Asylum, and give the command Guards, HALT In time for the guards to take one step more, necessary to execute and line up with 2nd Guard directly west of the Bible. Command Right, FACE and step into line with the guards before giving command Present, SWORDS. After guards have executed, salute the CG. The CG returns the salute, returns sword and is seated. Carry and command, Carry, SWORDS Step back one step and command Left, FACE; Forward, MARCH post on the left of the 1st Guard, acting as guide; commanding Column Left, MARCH; Column Left, MARCH; Column Left, MARCH Bring guards on south side of the chamber, marching east. When 3rd Guard is several paces from southwest door, gives the command Guards, HALT about face and say: Sir Knight 3rd Guard.

3G steps out of line one step to his left and salutes SW.

SW return and command: POST.

3G carry sword, right face and goes to post, immediate walking post.

SW: Guards, Forward About face, give command MARCH; Column Left, MARCH. When in front of EC give command: Guards, HALT About face and say: Sir Knight 2nd Guard.

2G step out of line one step to his left and salute SW. SW returns and commands

SW: POST

2G carry sword, right face and go to post, immediate walking post.

SW: Guard, Forward about face, then give command; MARCH; Column Left, MARCH, marching west on north side of chamber. When several paces east of preparation room door give command: Guard, HALT.

Do not execute but continue on three or four steps before halting and about face, then say: Sir Knight 1st Guard

1G step out of line one step to left and salute SW. SW returns and commands

SW: POST

1G carries sword, right faces and goes to post, immediate walking post.

SW return to his station in a direct line, face the CG: Sir Knight Captain General. come to salute and hold. CG rise, draw sword and return SW's salute.

SW: The Guards are posted. Remain standing until CG reports. Sit with CG

CG, right face and salute the EC. Eminent Commander, your orders have been obeyed. Carry sword, left face and says:

EC: Guards, put on hermits garb. Return sword and sit.

1G, 2G and 3G will put on their Hermits garb and set up huts with bread and water, appropriate lesson and candle. Hermit is seated on the left side of the hut, facing in direction of the JW's march.

EC, G & CG will leave their stations, along with the EP and SW and move to the sidelines.

Seeing all is ready, W moves to the preparation room door and rattle the knob slightly, informing the JW that the Asylum is set up for the pilgrimage.

JW: Knight, thus far you have proceeded to the entire satisfaction of the Commander, but as a trial of your patience and perseverance he now enjoins upon you Seven Years of Pilgrimage, clad in pilgrim's garb, with sandals, staff and scrip, and under my direction.

Put on this Pilgrim's cloak and these sandals. Take this staff and scrip. These are to be the habit and support of your pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulcher, whither we must journey. And now let us depart.

JW enters with EC and approaches 1G hut.

1G: Who approaches?

JW: A poor and weary Pilgrim traveling from afar to join with those who oft have gone before in offering his devotions at the Holy Shrine.

1G: Pilgrim, I greet thee. Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee. Walk into my humble abode

JW takes K's hat and staff. 1G takes K by arm in a friendly manner and assists him to sit.

1G: Sit thee down, rest and refresh thyself. Here are bread, *Hand plate to K, encourage him to take a piece, and pure water, Hand glass to K* – plain fare, but such as pilgrims need.

Pilgrim eats and drinks

1G: I will now examine thy scrip. *Done.* Thy bread and thy water are well nigh exhausted. I will replenish them. *Add bread to scrip.* Hearken to a lesson to cheer thee on thy way, and assure thee of success.

Read: "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." (John 6: 27)

1G stand and take K by hand: Pilgrim, farewell, God speed thee.

JW replaces K's hat and hand him his staff. They move a few steps and stop northeast of the altar. Says: Pilgrim, this is intended to represent the first year of your pilgrimage. Let us proceed. *Move on to 2G.*

2G: Who approaches?

JW: A poor and weary Pilgrim traveling from afar to join with those who oft have gone before in offering his devotions at the Holy Shrine.

2G: Pilgrim, I greet thee. Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee. Walk into my humble abode

JW takes K's hat and staff.

2G takes K by arm in a friendly manner and assist him to sit. Sit thee down, rest and refresh thyself. Here are bread, *Hand plate to K, encourage him to take a piece,* and pure water, *Hand glass to K* – plain fare, but such as pilgrims need.

K eats and drinks

2G: I will now examine thy scrip. *Done.* Thy bread and thy water are well nigh exhausted. I will replenish them. *Add bread to scrip.* Hearken to a lesson to cheer thee on thy way, and assure thee of success.

Read: "Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said: 'I will never fail you nor forsake you.'" Hebrews 12: 1, 2, 5

2G stands and take K by the hand, Pilgrim, farewell, God speed thee.

JW replaces K's hat and hand him his staff. They move just south of the altar. Pilgrim, this is intended to represent the second year of your pilgrimage. Let us proceed. *Move on to 3G.*

3G: Who approaches?

JW: A poor and weary Pilgrim traveling from afar to join with those who oft have gone before in offering his devotions at the Holy Shrine.

3G: Pilgrim, I greet thee. Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee. Walk into my humble abode

JW takes P's hat and staff.

3G takes K by arm in a friendly manner and assist him to sit. Sit thee down, rest and refresh thyself. Here are bread, *Hand plate to K, encouraging him to take a piece,* and pure water. *Hand glass to K.* – plain fare,

but such as pilgrims need.

K eats and drinks.

3G: I will now examine thy scrip. *Done.* Thy bread and thy water are well nigh exhausted. I will replenish them. *Add bread to scrip.* Harken to a lesson to cheer thee on thy way, and assure thee of success.

Read: Charity shall cover the multitudes of sin.

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in Peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown in life.

Stand and take K's hand, Pilgrim, farewell, God speed thee.

JW replaces K's hat and hand him his staff. They move to just east of the door. Pilgrim, this is intended to represent the third year of your pilgrimage. Let us now approach the Asylum and crave permission to devote the four remaining years to deeds of more exalted usefulness.

*W opens door for JW & K who retire and move to the preparation room. W closes door and turn up Asylum lights, then return to station. The huts are removed, along with glasses, plates, chairs and candles. 1G, 2G and 3G remove hermits garb and don KT uniforms. Altar is positioned, if not in place. EC, G, CG, EP and SW return to their stations. When all is ready W rattles knob to inform JW, who waits about 30 seconds before *** ***

W: Eminent Commander *Salute, come to officer's present until returned.* There is an alarm.

EC returns Warder's salute. When Warder is finished: Sir Knight Warder, attend to the alarm.

W carry, goes to preparation room door and opens it. Who comes here?

JW: A poor and weary Pilgrim traveling from afar, who having performed full Three long years of Pilgrimage now craves, if it so please the Commander, to devote the four remaining years to deeds of more exalted usefulness; and if found worthy, his strong desire is to be admitted among those valiant Knights whose deeds of charity and pure beneficence have spread their fame both far and wide.

W: What surety does he offer that he is not an impostor?

JW: The commendation of the JW, who recommends that his request be granted.

W: Let him await the order of the Commander. *About face, and return to the Asylum and to his station.*

Eminent Commander Salute and remain at officer's present until EC returns salute. There stands without, a poor and weary Pilgrim traveling from afar, who having performed full Three long years of Pilgrimage now craves, if it so please the Commander, to devote the four remaining years to deeds of more exalted usefulness; and if found worthy, his strong desire is to be admitted among those valiant Knights whose deeds of charity and pure beneficence have spread their fame both far and wide.

EC: What surety does he offer that he is not an impostor?

W: The commendation of the Junior Warden, who recommends that his request be granted.

EC: This being true, Excellent Prelate. *EP stands, faces EC and bows, return with hand salute.* You will conduct this weary Pilgrim to the Holy Altar, where having bound him by the solemn Vows of this Order you will forthwith invest him with sword and buckler, that as a Pilgrim Warrior he may, under the direction of that Valiant Knight, our Senior Warden, perform Four Years of Warfare, which I now enjoin on him as a trial of his courage and constancy. Sir Knight Captain General

CG stands, takes one-step out, and draws sword. Left face and salute, remaining at officer's present until EC finishes.

EC: Form an escort for the Prelate.

CG carries sword, left faces. Sir Knight Senior Warden.

SW stands and salutes, remains at officer's present until CG is finished.

CG returns salute. Form an escort and conduct the Prelate to his apartment. *Return sword and sit.*

SW carries sword after CG sits down, proceed in a direct line from station to a point west of the Rec's station, halt and about face. Escort, FALL IN.

Escort of six Knights (or more) fall in, front rank of two facing SW and the Knight on the left of the two standing directly in front of the SW. Escort dresses behind these two Knights in a double file.

SW moves to post on the floor north of and facing the center of the escort. Escort, left, FACE: Right, Dress. *Move to the east end of the first row, check dress, move to the second row and check dress. About face and march to a point on the floor two paces in front of and on the right of the escort, left face and commands:* FRONT

March west until in front of the escort, halt, left face and command Draw *Rear rank steps back two steps* SWORDS *Rear rank comes to carry and steps back into position. Command* Present, SWORDS *About face and say* Excellent Prelate *Salute, returned by Prelate with a bow.* The Escort awaits your pleasure.

EP: Lead on Sir Knight Senior Warden.

SW carries sword, about face Escort, Carry SWORDS; Right FACE; Forward, Column Left, MARCH. *At command March, turn east and fall in on the left of the first rank, acting as guide of the column. Reaching Prelate's station:* Column Left, MARCH.

W leaves station and open doors to the preparation room, allowing the Pilgrim and JW who are on the right side of the prep room, out of the way of the escort, to see it and Prelate coming toward them. Proceed to the door of the Asylum and open it for the escort, which at that time is passing out the prep room door. Move over and follow the escort, EP, JW and K, closing the doors.

SW: Column Left, MARCH. *This command will bring the escort, which as entered the prep room into the hall leading to the Sentinel's station.* Column Left, MARCH. *This command will bring the escort through the Sentinel's door back into the chamber.*

EP takes K by the left arm and says: Accompany me.

JW follows along in the rear. EC, G, & CG leave their stations before the K re-enters the chamber.

SW: Column Left, MARCH. *Times next command to be executed so escort is centered on the Altar.*

Column Right, MARCH. Escort, HALT. *Giving last command to bring escort to a halt about two paces from the altar. There should be enough room for the EP & JW to pass between K and the escort. Move escort back if necessary.* Inward, FACE. Open Ranks, MARCH.

EP, K & JW follow escort and stop at foot of the lines when formed.

Obligation

EP: PILGRIM, before you can be permitted to participate in such service as you desire, it is necessary that you be bound unto us by the solemn vows of this order. If, therefore, you still desire to proceed, accompany me to the Holy Altar.

SW: Escort, Present SWORDS. *When EP, K & JW pass through lines.* Escort, Carry SWORDS.

W lowers lights in the asylum.

K & JW stop facing the altar. EP goes to the east of the altar, facing west.

EP: PILGRIM, the vow you are required to take will in no wise conflict with. Your duty to God, your country, or yourself. If you will assume such a vow, kneel, with both knees upon the crossed swords, your hands resting; upon the Holy Bible, square and compasses and the crossed swords.

JW takes staff and assists K to kneel.

SW: Sir Knights, Order SWORDS. Un-COVER.

EP: The class will please rise. The class and the active Pilgrim will say 'I', pronounce your name in full and repeat after me. "I" ... of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, do hereby and hereon, solemnly and sincerely promise and vow, that I will forever keep and conceal the secrets belonging to the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple; that I will not communicate them to any one except to a true and lawful Knight of the Order; and not unto him until after due trial, strict examination, or lawful information, I shall have found him lawfully entitled to the same; or within the asylum of a regular and duly constituted Commandery of Knights Templar.

I further promise and vow that I will stand to and abide by the By-Laws of this or of any other Commandery of Knights Templar of which I may hereafter become a member; that I will support and maintain the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Commandery under whose authority the same is holden, together with the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, so far as the same may come to my knowledge, and while within its jurisdiction.

I further promise and vow, that I will answer and obey all due signs and summons sent to me from a Commandery of Knights Templar, or given me by the hand of a true and lawful Knight of the Order, if within the distance of forty miles, natural infirmities or unavoidable accidents alone excusing me.

I further promise and vow, that I will go to the distance of 40 miles, even barefoot and on frozen ground, to relieve the distress of a worthy Knight of this Order, should his necessities require and my ability permits.

I further promise and vow, that I will help, aid and assist with my counsel, my purse and my sword if necessary, all worthy distressed Knights of this Order their wives, widows and orphans, wherever I may find them; so far as their necessities may require, and my ability permit.

I further promise and vow, that I will wield my sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion.

I further promise and vow, that I will not assist at the forming or opening of a Commandery of Knights Templar, unless there shall be present at least nine regular Knights of this Order, or the representatives of three separate Commanderies, acting under a lawful warrant.

I further promise and vow, that while within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, I will not assist or be present at the conferring of this Order of Knighthood upon any person who shall not have regularly received the degrees of Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason, together with the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, and the Order of Malta, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

The class and the active candidate will now repeat after me ... To all this, I solemnly and sincerely promise and vow, with a firm and steadfast resolution to observe and perform the same, without any equivocation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind in me whatever; binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my head struck off, and placed upon the highest spire of Christendom, should I ever knowingly or willfully violate this my solemn vow as a Knight Templar. So help me God, and keep me steadfast.

PILGRIM, arise and resume your staff.

JW assists K to rise, puts on his hat and hands him the staff.

SW: Sir Knight, RECOVER, CARRY SWORDS

EP: PILGRIM, thou has craved permission to pass through our solemn ceremonies, and enter the Asylum of our Commandery. By thy sandals, staff and scribe, I judge thee to be a child of humility. Charity and hospitality are the grand characteristics of this valiant and magnanimous Order. As Knights Templar, we are bound to give alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. We here wage war, *W picks up sword belt and buckler, helmet and mail coat starts to walk up JW's side of the lines, stopping just behind the JW*, against the enemies of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion. It thou art desirous of

enlisting in this noble and glorious warfare, lay aside thy staff, *JW takes staff and hands it to the W*, and that Pilgrim's garb.

JW removes garb and hands it to W, takes mail coat and helmet and puts them on the K. Puts scabbard on. Takes buckler from the W and stands holding it. W retires with Pilgrim's garb.

EP: Take up that sword. Points to the one on the right and that buckler.

JW: puts K's arm into buckler.

EP: Manfully fight thy way and with valor run thy course. And may the Almighty who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in Him, be now and evermore thy defense and consolation.

PILGRIM, having laid aside the staff and taken up the sword, we require you to make a public declaration of the cause in which you will wield it. This you will do under direction of our Senior Warden.

JW draws sword and steps into line.

SW steps out of his line to a point approximately two paces west of K when JW is in position. Pilgrim, About FACE. Raise your sword, do as I do and repeat after me. I will wield my sword / in defense of innocent maidens *wield* destitute widows *wield* helpless orphans *wield* and the Christian religion *wield*.

Pilgrim, About FACE. *Remains in spot.*

EP: PILGRIM, having confidence in your declaration, I now, by Order of the Commander, who has been pleased to grant your request, enjoin upon you four years of warfare as a trial of your courage and constancy, which you will perform under the direction of our SW, who will now invest you with the Pilgrim Warriors word.

SW: Pilgrim, About FACE. The Pilgrim Warrior's word is give with four cuts of the sword and under an arch of steel. Guard. Give cuts. The word is Mayhair-Shellhell-Hasbess. Pilgrim, About FACE.

EP : PILGRIM WARRIOR farewell, May success and victory attend you.

SW: Pilgrim Warrior, about face. Follow me.

SW conducts K down lines, column left and column right to Sentinel's door and exits. Swords are at carry.

JW marches straight north until clear of 1st rank of escort, left flank, and march to a point in rear of west Knight in first rank, halt and command: Escort, Right and Left, FACE; Forward, Close order, MARCH; Column right, MARCH

EP follows escort from altar

JW, Before escort gets to St B's station: Column right, MARCH. *Brings escort to march line on north side of the chamber:* Column right, MARCH.

EP drops off at his station

JW brings escort marching south on east side of chamber: Column right, MARCH. *Bringing escort to south side marching west:* Escort, HALT; Right, FACE; Right, DRESS. *Checks lines, then steps two*

paces in front of ranks on right of 1st man: FRONT. *Moves to post facing and in the center of the escort:* Present SWORDS. *About faces and salutes EP, who answers with a bow and sits. Carries sword, about*

face: Escort, Carry, SWORDS; Return *Rear rank takes two backward to position:* SWORDS. *Rear rank returns to position:* Escort, BE SEATED. *Returns to his station in direct line, about faces and is seated.*

1G, 2G & 3G move back to posts. JW, EP, CG, G & EC move from stations. W, seeing all is ready rattles door. W remains at door to close after SW & K pass, then returns to seat.

SW enters with K and proceed to 1G who is walking post at right angles to the SW's approach. 1G stops, turns to approaching K, coming to guard.

1G: Halt, Who comes here?

SW: A Pilgrim Warrior.

1G: Advance Pilgrim Warrior and give the Word. Done. Right, Pass on.

SW & K move on Pilgrim: Warrior, this is intended to represent the first year of your warfare. *Proceeds to 2G who is walking post at right angles to the SW's approach.*

2G stops, turns to approaching K, coming to guard. Halt, Who comes here?

SW: A Pilgrim Warrior.

2G: Advance Pilgrim Warrior and give the Word. *Done.* Right, Pass on.

SW moving toward 3G: Pilgrim Warrior, this is intended to represent the second year of your warfare.

Proceeds to 3G who is walking post at right angles to the SW's approach.

3G: Halt, Who comes here?

SW: A Pilgrim Warrior.

3G: Advance Pilgrim Warrior and give the Word. *Done.* Right, Pass on.

SW moves toward entrance, saying: Pilgrim Warrior, this is intended to represent the third year of your warfare. *Halts before reaching 2nd Division and says:* Now let us repair to the Asylum and ask for the remission of the remaining Year of Warfare and crave to be admitted to the honors and rewards that await the valiant Templar.

All Officers resume their stations.

EC: Sir Knight Captain General

CG rises, draws, right face and salutes, returned by EC.

EC: See that the Guards are relieved.

CG carries sword, left faces: Sir Knight JW

JW rises and salutes, remaining at officer's present.

CG returns salute: Relieve the Guards. *Returns sword and is seated.*

JW carries sword after CG sits, turns to his right and proceeding in a direct line to the post of the 1G, stops about two paces from him: Sir Knight First Guard

1G faces JW and salutes, remaining at officer's present.

JW drops sword pointing to a spot beside him on his right, where he wants 1G to fall in: Fall in.

1G carries sword and marches toward JW, halts on spot indicated by JW.

JW carries sword. Guard, Forward, MARCH. Column right, MARCH. Column right, MARCH; Guard, HALT. *Bringing 1G about two paces from the Second Guard:* Sir Knight 2G.

2G steps out, face and salute, remaining at officer's present.

JW returns salute: Fall in.

2G carries sword and falls in behind 1G.

JW: Forward, MARCH; Guards, HALT. *Timing the halt to bring the guards two paces from the Third Guard.* Sir Knight Third Guard.

3G faces the JW and salutes, remaining at officer's present

JW returns salute. Fall in.

3G carries and falls in behind 2G.

JW: Forward, March. Column right MARCH. *Bringing guards past 2nd Division, halts in front of the Sw B's station, allowing column of Gds to pass him.* Column left; MARCH; Guards, HALT; Left FACE; Be seated. *Returns to his post in direct line.* Sir Knight CG

CG rises, draws sword. Returns. JW salute when given.

JW salutes. Remains at Officer's present until CG returns. The Guards are relieved. *Comes to carry and remains standing until CG sits.*

CG: Eminent Commander. *Salutes, remaining at officer's present until returned by EC.* Your order has been obeyed.

*CG carries, left faces, returns and is seated. JW is seated with CG. The Triangle is set up, with lit candles, wine and water. When everything is ready W rattles doo. SW, with sword point on the door, *** ***
W: Eminent Commander, salutes, remaining at officer's present until returned, There is an alarm. Comes to carry.

EC, after returning salute: Sir Knight W, attend to the alarm.

W comes to carry and goes to prep room door and opens it: Who comes here?

SW: A Pilgrim Warrior, who having performed full three long years of warfare now solicits the remission of the remaining year and craves to be admitted to the honors and rewards that await the valiant Templar.

W: What surety does he offer that he is not an impostor?

SW: The commendation of the SW, who recommends the remission of the remaining year of warfare.

W: How does he expect to gain admission?

SW: By the Pilgrim Warrior's word.

W: Advance and communicate it. Enters inside prep room door to receive the word from the K who is prompted by the SW.

W: The word is right. Await the order of the Commander. Carries sword, about faces and returns to station, closing the door behind him.

W: Eminent Commander, salutes, returned by EC, remains at officer's present, there stands without a Pilgrim Warrior, who, having performed full three long years of warfare now solicits the remission of the remaining year and craves to be admitted to the honors and rewards that await the valiant Templar.

EC: What surety does he offer that he is not an impostor?

W: The commendation of the SW, who recommends the remission of the remaining year of warfare.

EC: How does he expect to gain admission?

W: By the Pilgrim Warrior's word, which he has communicated to me.

EC: Admit him.

W comes to carry, returns to the door. The Commander permits him to enter. Steps back and to the left into position to salute the SW when he enters with the K

SW returns sword and has K to the same. Follow me. Enters the Asylum, with K about one pace behind. Returns W's salute as he enters. Proceeds directly down north march line to a point two paces west of altar, turns south and advances until K is directly in front of EC, about two paces from the triangle.. Both left face.

EC: Pilgrim, having gained admission into our Asylum, what declaration have you to make in testimony of your fitness to become a Knight among us?

SW: Pilgrim, do as I do, and repeat after me, Raises right hand with elbow forming a square, "Eminent Commander, I now declare in truth and soberness that I entertain no enmity nor ill will against a soul on earth, which I would not freely reconcile, should I find in him a corresponding disposition."

EC: The sentiments you utter are commendable, and worthy of the cause in which you are engaged: but we require proof of you fidelity to us. The Rules of this Order demand that you participate in Five Libations, which being accomplished you shall be admitted a Knight among us.

The elements of the first four are wine and water; the fifth is pure wine. Are you willing to participate?

SW prompts K to answer if necessary.

EC: Advance to the Triangle. We will now participate in the first libation. The class will please rise.

Staff distributes wine and water to members of the class. When all is ready EC takes cup from the Triangle and directs the K to do the same.:

EC: The class and the active candidate will repeat after me: "To the memory of our Most Excellent Grand Master Solomon, King of Israel." Participate. R replaces cup on Triangle.

EC: While we commemorate the virtues of the Illustrious Founder of Ancient Craft Masonry, let us also remember the lessons of wisdom he has left upon the sacred page for our instruction, the sum of which is – Fear God and keep His commandments. We will now participate in the Second Libation.

EC takes cup from the Triangle and directs the K to do the same.

EC: The class and the active candidate will repeat after me: "To the memory of our Munificent Grand Master, Hiram, King of Tyre." Participate.

EC replaces cup on Triangle.

EC: To be great is to be good, and he who would perpetuate his name to posterity must ennoble it by acts of charity and deeds of pure beneficence. We will now participate in the Third Libation.

EC takes cup from the Triangle and directs the K to do the same.

EC: The class and the active candidate will repeat after me: "To the memory of our ancient and operative Grand Master Hiram Abiff, the Widow's son, who lost his life in defense of his integrity." Participate.

Replaces cup on Triangle.

EC: While we perpetuate the memory of this illustrious Martyr, let us emulate his example, and yield up our lives rather than forfeit our integrity.

The class may be seated.

Pilgrim, these Libations in honor of these Illustrious Grand Masters of Ancient Craft Masonry are taken in acknowledgment of our connection with, veneration for, and fidelity to that honorable Institution.

The Order with which you now seek to unite is founded upon the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. Let us, therefore, attend to a Lesson from the Holy Evangelists. *Turns to Prelate,* Excellent Prelate,

EP bows, returned by salute from the EC.

You will read the First Lesson.

EC & all Knights uncover, SW prompting K to do so, if necessary. When lesson ended, all knights recover. JW & SW order swords and uncover with EC. EC remains facing the EP during the reading. EP reads Matt. XXVI 14-25. When finished EP returns to station, EC recovers and left faces. SW & JW recover and carry swords. SW will see that K recovers as well.

EC: Pilgrim, the twelve burning tapers on the Triangle before you correspond in number with the Apostles of our Savior while on Earth, one of whom by transgression fell, and betrayed his Lord and Master. As a constant admonition to you ever to persevere in the paths of Honor, Integrity, and Truth, and as a memorial of the apostasy of Judas Iscariot, you are required by the Rules of this Order to extinguish one of those burning tapers.

SW will extend left hand at a 45° angle as EC starts last sentence. As K extinguishes taper SW will bring arm up to 90° angle signaling W to turn down the lights, plunging the Asylum into darkness, except for the tapers on the triangle. The lights remain dim until the relighting of the twelfth taper

EC: Let this teach you that he who basely violates his vow, or betrays his trust, is worthy of no better fate than that which Judas suffered.

Let us attend to another Lesson from the Holy Evangelists. *Turns to Prelate* EP *EP bows, returned by salute from the E.* You will read the Second Lesson.

EC & all Knights uncover, SW prompting K to do so, if necessary. When lesson ended, all knights recover. JW & SW order swords and uncover with EC. EC remains facing the EP during the reading. EP reads Matt. XXVI 36-49. When finished EP turns out his light and returns to station, EC recovers and left faces. SW & JW recover and carry swords. SW will see that K recovers as well.

EC moves down the south side of the triangle and directs attention to relic:

Pilgrim, in this sad relic see; what once was man, e'en such as we.
In childish innocence he played; along the paths of youth he strayed.
Having like us, his hopes and fears; His hours of joy, perchance of tears.
And when to man's estate he grew; The feelings we know, he knew.
We know not where or when he wrought; What visions dreamed, what aims he sought.
Ambitions call he may have heard; Mayhap, his heart by love was stirred.
Or a greed of gold he may have felt; Or at the shrine of passion knelt.
This much we know, and nought beside; That he was born and lived and died.
It may have been his lot to toil; to delve in mines or till the soil.
He may have sailed the trackless seas; or felt the heat of dessert breeze.
Or a priestly grab he may have worn; or weight of public office borne.
But poor or priestly, rich or great; he came at last to this sad estate.
With reverence then, behold with me; That which we all must sometime be,
And as we near the dread abyss Of death, when we shall be like this,
But unto those whose faith remains, Death does not sever earthly chains,
Our spirit freed from this poor clod, Is but to sleep, to wake with GOD.

EC moves back to apex: Pilgrim, you here behold an emblem of mortality supported by divinity, a human skull resting on the Holy Bible; which is to teach you that amid all the trials and vicissitudes incident to human life, a firm reliance upon the divine truth contained in this Sacred Volume can alone afford that consolation and peace of mind, which the world can neither give nor take away.

Let us attend to another Lesson from the Holy Evangelists. EP You will read the Third Lesson.

EP steps to podium and reads the 3rd lesson, Matt. 27:24-37.

EC: We will now participate in the Fourth Libation. The class will please rise. *Take cup from the Triangle and direct K to do the same.*

The class and the active candidate will repeat after me: "To the memory of Simon of Cyrene who was compelled to bear our Savior's cross." Participate.

Pilgrim, we all have a cross to bear; let each of us so bear that cross that we may be deemed worthy to wear the crown. *Wait for wardens to finish movements.*

Move back down the south side of the triangle, reach over and pick up skull.

Behold this ruin! 'tis a skull, Once of ethereal spirit full.

This narrow cell was life's retreat, This space was thought's mysterious seat.

What beauteous visions filled this spot, What dream of pleasure long forgot.

Nor joy, nor grief, nor hope, nor fear, Has left one trace on record here.

Beneath this moldering canopy; Once shone the bright and busy eye;

Yet start not at the dismal void! If holy love that eye employed,

If with no lawless fire it gleamed; But through the dews of kindness beamed, That eye shall be forever bright; When stars and sun are sunk in night.

Within this hollow cavern hung; The ready, swift and tuneful tongue;

If falsehood's honey it distained; And when it could not praise, was chained;

If bold in virtue's cause it spoke; Yet gentle concord never broke,

That silent tongue may plead for thee; When time unveils eternity.

How striking this emblem of Mortality! Once animated like ourselves, but now, behold, it has ceased to act or think; its vital energies are extinct, and all the powers of life have ceased their operation!

To such a state, Pilgrim *turns to side lines* and Sir Knights, are we all hastening. *Turns back to K.* Let us

then so improve the remaining span of life, that when our frail bodies shall become, like this memento, cold and inanimate, our disembodied spirits may soar aloft, and dwell forever in realms of life and light eternal.

EC replaces skull and returns to the point of the triangle.

Pilgrim, the warfare of the remaining year is now remitted; but, before you can be permitted to participate in the Fifth Libation, I must, as a trial of your faith and humility, enjoin upon you One Year of Penance, which you will perform under the direction of our Senior and Junior Wardens.

W takes candle and cape and moves behind wardens when EC starts last speech. JW & SW step back, return swords in unison, then step forward. JW removes sword and buckler from K and hands them to W, takes taper from W. SW takes white robe, steps to southwest corner of the triangle and spreads robe so K can see the cross.

EC: You will go forth upon your year of penance clothed in that white robe, points to robe, palm open and up, as an emblem of innocence, SW puts robe on K and steps back to his position. EC moves down south side of triangle and picks up skull, With this human skull in one hand. EC places skull in K's left hand, facing K. As a symbol of your humility, EC turns slightly to JW who has moved over from his station to passing behind the SW, and hands EC the taper. JW returns to place behind SW & K. And this burning taper in the other. EC places taper in K's right hand. As an emblem of your faith; which is to teach you that, with faith and humility, you should let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. EC returns to apex of triangle, slowly, not turning his back on K. Takes four steps backward from apex, kneels and uncovers. G & CG rise, step to front of the dais as EC moves backward, stand at attention, uncovered, bowing heads slightly. JW & SW step back one step and draw swords, step forward one step and invert swords, stepping forward into line with K. Music starts. JW & SW right face with K between them and proceed in single file south to a point near SW's station, column left and proceed to a point two paces behind the EC, column left and proceed to a point near the EP's station, passing in rear of EC. Column left and proceed in a direct line to exit at the prep room door. All this is done very slowly.

W, when procession turns east at the SW's station, rises and opens prep room door and stands at side of the door two paces east and one pace south of the door, at order swords and uncovered. When procession passes, recovers, carries sword, and closes prep room door. W moves to and goes out of Sentinel's door to act as the Sepulcher Guard.

EC recovers and rises when the procession leaves the asylum. C & CG rise, recover in unison with EC and are seated in their respective stations, in unison.

EP moves to corner of the room near the Rec's desk. Projector is set up and ready for the next scene. EC, C & CG move out of stations.

W, seeing everything is ready, rattles door knob. All lights should be out. JW & SW move into Sentinel's room with K between them.

W: Who would here intrude?

SW: A Pilgrim Penitent, who craves permission to offer up his devotions at the Holy Shrine.

W: Advance and communicate the Pilgrim Penitent's Word. Done. You have permission to enter.

W turns and opens the door, steps to rear and right face to allow JW, SW & K to enter three abreast. Move inside asylum to one pace beyond 2nd Division. Stop. SW turns out taper and directs K to kneel. JW & SW kneel on left knee, hands resting on swords. SW directs K to face the screen.

JW: "In the beginning of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and

rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

And for fear of him the keepers did shake and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay," (Matt. XXVIII:1-6)

SW: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews IX:27, 28)

SW, JW & K rise and proceed slowly into Sepulcher while the SW continues as they walk. Proceed directly east, past the station of the SW to two paces west of the Rec's station, turn north. Turn west at the EP's station. Just past the altar, wheel left to face the screen. This move should be timed to bring the K to face the screen as the SW finishes the following speech: "And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Turn north

And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. *Turn west*

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "All hail". And they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him. *Wheel to view slide at "they shall see me."*

Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there they shall see me." (Matt XXVIII: 7-10)

SW & JW take two steps back, leaving K standing alone. EP moving slowly toward the K from corner near Rec's station, around the south side of the triangle tot a point east of the StB's station, midway between the K and the triangle while saying:

EP: "I am the resurrection and the life," saith the Lord: "he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John XI: 25,26)

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands *raises his hands* and blessed them.

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." (Luke XXIV: 50,51)

A hymn may be played or sung at this point.

Pilgrim, the scene you have just witnessed is intended to remind you of the glorious conclusion of that hallowed sacrifice offered by the Redeemer of the world to provide a way of salvation to fallen man.

This sacred book *shows K the Bible he is carrying in his hand* informs us that our Blessed Savior, after suffering the pains of death, descended into the place of departed spirits; that on the third day He burst the bands of death, triumphed over the grave, and in due time ascended with transcendent majesty into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of our Heavenly Father, a Mediator and Intercessor for all those who have faith in Him.

I now invest you with an emblem of that faith *EP places a small black cross tied with on a black ribbon around the K's neck*. It is also a badge of our Order, which you will wear as a constant memorial to stimulate you to imitate the virtues of the Immaculate Jesus, who died that you might live.

Pilgrim, the ceremonies in which you are now engaged are intended to deeply impress your mind, and I trust they will have a happy and lasting effect upon your life and character.

EP: You were first, as a trial of your patience and perseverance, required to perform Seven Years of Pilgrimage. It represented the great pilgrimage of life through which you are now passing. We are all weary pilgrims, anxiously looking forward to that Asylum above, where we shall rest from our labors, and be at

peace forever.

You were next, as a trial of your courage and constancy, required to perform Four Years of Warfare. It was to remind you of that continual warfare with the lying deceits and vanities of the world, in which it is necessary for you always to be engaged.

You are now performing One Year of Penance, as a trial of your humility. Of this our Blessed Savior has left us the only perfect example; who, though He was the Eternal Son of God, humbled Himself to be born of a woman, to endure the pains and sorrows incident to human life, and finally to suffer the cruel and ignominious death of the cross.

The penance is also a trial of that faith which will conduct you safely through the dark valley of the shadow of death, and land your enfranchised spirit in the peaceful abodes of the blessed.

Pilgrim, ever keep in mind this solemn truth: you know not how soon you may be called upon to render an account unto the Supreme Judge, from whom the minutest act of your life is not hidden. Although you now stand erect in all the pride and strength of manhood, yet in a few brief moments you may be cold in death.

This moment, even while I speak, the angel of death may receive the dread mandate to strike you from the roll of the living; and the friends who now surround you be called upon to perform the last sad duty of laying you in the earth, a banquet for worms, and this frail body becomes as the relic you hold in you hand.

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. In the mist of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor but of Thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased! Yet O Lord God, most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death."

"And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

Pilgrim, be you always ready, and rest assured that a firm faith in the truth herein revealed, and a childlike trust in our crucified and ascended Savior, will not only afford you consolation in the gloomy hour of dissolution, but will also secure you ineffable and eternal happiness in the world to come.

Farewell! Ever remember the hallowed sacrifice on Calvary.

SW & JW step up beside the K and conduct him eastward, returning to the Asylum over the same route used in entering. SW, while moving from near his station to the door says: Pilgrim, your Year of Penance ended, let us repair to the Asylum and humbly crave admission.

SW reaches over and relights the taper when approximately two paces from the door leaving the Asylum. W, having closed the door when the group entered, now opens it for the group to leave, moves over and stands with back to outside door of Sentinel's room to prevent any one from entering while SW, JW & K leave the Sepulcher. W has sword at carry. W returns to asylum, closes the door. Asylum is prepared for the Fifth Libation.

Lace curtains are hung on the prep room door, tapers are lit on the triangle, except for the twelfth in front of the K's place. SW & JW in prep room remove K's white robe and replaces it with the coat of a Knight Templar. Sword belt is put on, minus the straps and scabbard which are in the Asylum, near JW's station, along with a chapeaux. K's sandals are removed and shoes are put on. White robe and cross are put back on over the K's coat. Taper and skull are placed in K's hands.

EC advances to the apex of the triangle: Sir Knights, FALL IN.

G & CG rise, draw swords, and advance to the triangle. Knights from the side lines fall in and dress on EC, maintaining a distance of approximately four feet (sword length) from the edge of the triangle.

EC: Draw, SWORDS; Order, SWORDS

W, at EC's command Fall In, rises, proceeds to a point midway between his and the JW's station, on a line with the door, facing the door. EC, having ascertained that knights are in position: Sir Knights at the

triangle, KNEEL; Rest on, SWORDS:

*All Knights, including W, kneel on left knee, right hand resting on hilt of the sword, left hand over the right and bow heads. Soft music is started. SW, hearing the music, opens the doors to the asylum. JW & SW assist K to advance within on pace of curtain. SW remains about one pace behind K, who looks into asylum to view the scene. Music is lowered or on signal, SW with heel of right foot, softly, *** ***. JW moves K back two or three steps to allow room to enter the prep room. W, hearing alarm, raises, carries sword and proceeds slowly to prep room door.*

W: Who dares approach our Asylum at this solemn hour of prayer and meditation?

SW: A Pilgrim Penitent, who having performed his Year of Penance now craves permission to participate in the Fifth Libation, thereby to seal his Faith.

W: How does he expect to gain admission?

SW: By the Pilgrim Penitent's Word.

W: Advance and communicate it.

JW opens left side of curtain with sword point, SW advances to within one pace of W, both come to guard, give cuts, advance to position and communicate.

W: Let the Pilgrim Penitent reverently enter and approach the Triangle.

Both carry. SW about faces and re-enters the prep room. W steps to north side of entrance facing south and reaches across his chest with sword to hold north half of curtain. SW informs K to follow him. JW steps behind K and moves eastward to with SW, reaching forward with sword to open south side of curtain. All three enter in single file. W closes door and returns to station and is seated. SW advances eastward to point two paces west of the triangle, column right and advances south, halting in position to bring K directly west of the center of the triangle. SW should be directly west of the southwest angle and JW should be west of northwest angle. All left face. EC looking up says the following raising while speaking: Sir Knights, whom have you there in charge?

CG in a low voice: Sir Knights, ATTENTION: Carry, SWORDS

All knights, including EC, obey these commands.

SW: A Pilgrim Penitent, who, having performed his Year of Penance, now craves permission to participate in the Fifth Libation, thereby to seal his faith.

EC returns his sword: Pilgrim, your Year of Penance has indeed ended, but your need of Penitence has not, nor can it end until this mortal shall have put on immortality, for all men err, and erring need repentance.

JW & SW step back one step and return swords in unison. JW, guiding on SW, step forward one step to original position in line with K.

EC: Pilgrim, in granting your request, admitting you a knight among us, I can offer you only a rough habit, coarse diet and severe duty. If on these conditions you still desire to enlist under our Banner, advance and kneel at the base of the Triangle.

JW & SW assist K to kneel. SW takes taper and pulls up the robe, while JW unhooks the skull and places it on the Holy Bible on the Triangle.

W, on hearing "If on these conditions ..." rises, and proceeds directly east from StB station, halting one step behind the wardens. Takes the taper from the SW before K advances to kneel, returns to station and is seated.

EP rises and proceeds west to a point on the north side of the asylum, directly north of the K, left faces and remains standing there until Sir Knights have ordered swords and uncovered.

JW & SW, after getting K into position, kneeling at triangle, take post two paces behind K, on his right and left and draw swords.

CG, when wardens have drawn and come to carry says in a low voice: Sir Knights, Order, SWORDS; Un-COVER.

EP advances from the north side of the altar to the left side of the K, reaches right hand over K's head.

EP: Almighty, Glorious and Blessed God; Vouchsafe Thine aid to this Pilgrim who, kneeling is about to assume the duties of a true and faithful follower of the Cross, sanctified by the death of Thy Son. Let Thy Grace descend upon him in abundance. Open his heart, that the appeal of the widow and orphan may never come to him in vain; may he hold his sword ever ready to redress their wrongs, his purse to relieve their wants, and his hands to guide them over the rugged paths of life. And when his allotted course on earth is run, receive him, Oh Lord, into those heavenly mansions prepared for Thy faithful followers from the foundation of the world. Amen.

EP about faces and proceeds to his station over the same route as he came to the triangle. CG, when EP has cleared the triangle area and starts east to his station: Sir Knights, Re-COVER; Carry, SWORDS.

EC, waiting until EP is at his station before speaking: Pilgrim, we cannot be too often reminded that we are born to die. The Fifth Libation is therefore taken in the most solemn and impressive manner, of pure wine, and from this cup. *EC removes cup and holds it up.* Emblematic of the bitter cup of death, of which we must all sooner or later partake, and from which even the Savior of the world was not exempt. From this, or a similar Cup, has each Knight Templar partaken.

EC backs to the east, up the south side of the triangle. EP brings service containing wine from his station, arriving behind the G simultaneously with the EC's arrival at his station at the apex of the triangle. EC right faces, pours, left at apex. EC steps backward one pace, right faces, pours again and left faces.

Advances forward down south side of the triangle halting between 1st and 2nd tapers, half right and faces K. EP, when EC left faces and advances, about faces and returns to his station, puts wine service away and is seated. At this point, servers should bring wine to each candidate.

EC: Take this cup in your right hand. *Gives cup to K.* And repeat after me.

CG: Sir Knights, Present, SWORDS. *All execute, even CG, JW & SW*

EC: This pure wine I now take from this cup to remind me of the mortality of the body, and in testimony of my belief in the immortality of the soul; and may this Libation appear against me in Judgment to condemn me should I ever knowingly or willfully violate my vow of Knighthood. Partake.

K does and hands cup to EC, who takes it.

CG: Sir Knights, Carry, SWORDS.

EC backs to east with cup, tips remaining drops into chalice, steps backward to his station and puts on gloves.

EC: Pilgrim, you have sealed your Faith, and bound yourself by a most solemn pledge to be true to all the vows of this Order. You have invoked a Penalty upon you at the Judgment, should you basely betray them. Let the memory of this scene remain with you as vivid as it is this moment. And should temptation assail you, should misfortune befall you, should all the world seem to forsake you, still remain faithful to your Vows of Knighthood. Bring no disgrace upon yourself or upon this Order, nor reproach upon the Name of Him under whose Banner you are now enlisted.

Remember, make no promise or pledge under the faith of this, the Sealed Libation, that you do not punctually and scrupulously perform; for any promise made, secret reposed, or engagement entered into, having reference to this Libation, is considered by Knights Templar more sacred and binding, if possible, than any other.

Charge

All Knights at the triangle with the exception of the EC lower their swords, palm up and step forward on their right foot in charge.

SW & JW step forward into line with the K at the base of the triangle, remaining at carry.

EC: Behold, the swords of these Knights pointed at your unprotected breast, as if ready to avenge any willful violation of the vows you have voluntarily assumed. But while you remain faithful to those Vows we give you the mystic assurance of this glittering arch of steel,

EC waves hand upward, and the Knights advance with their left foot, raising swords, turning them over palms down and laying the point in the apex of the SW & JW crossed swords. JW & SW have turned half faced toward K and crossed swords above and in front of his head.

EC: That these swords with thousands of others, will leap from their scabbards to defend and protect you. Carry Swords.

JW & SW carry and step back two paces to their former posts. All Knights at the triangle carry swords.

EC: Let us attend to another Lesson from the Holy Evangelists. Sir Knights, Order, SWORDS; Un-COVER. *Turns toward EP.* Excellent Prelate *EP raises and bows, answered with bow from EC.* You will read the Fourth Lesson. EC uncovers.

EP steps to lectern, turns on light and reads from Acts, I: 15-26. Turns out light and returns to station and is seated. EC recovers and left faces (facing west)

EC: Sir Knights, Re-COVER; Carry SWORDS.

G, left faces: Eminent Commander *salutes, returned by EC* the extinguished taper on the triangle reminds us of the apostasy of Judas Iscariot, whereby a vacancy was created in the number of the Apostles And now in imitation of the Act of the Apostles which has been read, I propose that the honor of re-lighting that taper be conferred upon one who has endured the trials and passed through the ceremonies of this Order. I recommend the Pilgrim at the base of the Triangle.

EC, facing the K: Sir Knights, you have heard the recommendation; all who favor it will present swords.

All knights, including JW & SW present. EC looks down both lines.

EC: Pilgrim, you have been unanimously chosen to this high honor. You will signify your acceptance by re-lighting that taper.

SW puts arm out at 45° angle. When SW sees the K has relight the taper he raises his arm to 90° and drops it. W turns up lights in the asylum. EC removes chapeau with left hand, holds it above his head slightly and raises his right hand.

EC: So may the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon thee, give thee peace, and ever keep thee from falling.

EC replaces chapeau, about faces and marches to his station, about faces and says:

EC: Sir Knights, Carry, SWORDS; Pilgrim, ARISE

SW assists K to rise.

Knighting

CG: Commandery, ATTENTION; Sir Knights at the triangle, right and left *all knights face east. JW & SW remain in station during these commands, FACE; Forward, MARCH; HALT. Inward, FACE.*

EC: Sir Knights Junior and Senior Wardens, *Wardens salute, returned by EC* Remove the Pilgrim's robe and conduct him to the foot of the lines. *JW & SW carry swords, step back one pace and return in unison. Step up into line with K. JW removes cross and hands to W, SW removes robe and hands it to W. W, when*

the SW & JW stepped back rises from his station, and proceeds directly east from the StB's station, halting about one pace behind the wardens, steps up and takes cross and robe, returns west and puts them down, then returns to his station. JW & SW having handed cross and robe to W, step to their former positions, step back one pace and draw swords in unison, then step back into line.

SW

Right, FACE; Forward, MARCH; By the left flank, MARCH; by the left flank, MARCH; HALT.

HALT is given to bring JW in line with the north rank. K is in the center of the lines and SW is in the south rank, one pace west of the foot of the lines.

Right, FACE.

K executes right face, JW does about face, SW stands fast.

EC: Pilgrim, I am now about to confer upon you the highest honor in my power to bestow. Sir Knights, Form arch of steel, Cross, SWORDS. Knights in line only cross swords. SW & JW do not cross at this point. Pilgrim, kneel on your left knee. JW & SW cross swords over the K when he kneels. EC draws sword and advances to K through the lines, halting one pace from K. By virtue of the power and authority in me vested as Commander (or such other title as may apply) of this Commandery of Knights Templar I dub thee Knight gives one blow of sword on K's left shoulder and create thee a member of the valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple. EC carries sword and returns, removes glove from his right hand and tucks it under his belt, then extends his hand to the K. Arise Sir Knight ... first name only.

JW & SW carry their swords as K rises from his knee.

EC: And with this hand receive a hearty welcome into the bosom of an Order whose Grand Characteristics are Unsullied Honor, Unwearied Zeal in a Brother's cause, and Universal Benevolence.

If there are additional candidates to Knight, JW & SW will right and left face to the west, forward, by the right flank march. EC will step of at the same time, maintaining positions. The JW will halt about two paces from the north side of the lodge, SW & EC keeping distance. JW will about face, EC will left face. Knighting will proceed one at a time until complete. Officers will return to their original positions following the same line of march.

CG: Sir Knights, carry, SWORDS; to our posts, MARCH.

JW & SW do not return to their stations at the command, but take up positions one pace behind and one pace to the right and left of the new Knight. JW will return sword, get the chapeau, sword and scabbard and place chapeau on K's head. Hands sword to EC who draws it from the scabbard. JW places sword belt around K's waist, steps back in line with SW and draws his own sword. EC holds K's sword horizontal with belt, hilt in his right hand.

EC: I now present you with this sword. In the hands of a Valiant and Magnanimous Knight of the Temple, it is endowed with three excellent qualities: its hilt with Justice impartial, its blade with Fortitude undaunted, and its point with Mercy unrestrained. Learn from these this important lesson; that when you draw your sword, you should be well assured of the Justice of the cause in which you are engaged; being thus assured, press forward with Fortitude undaunted to victory; and having subdued your enemy, regard him no longer as your foe, but extend to him that glorious attribute of Deity, Mercy.

As a Knight Templar, let your honor ever remain as unsullied as this glittering blade, and hold your sword ready to be drawn in the cause to which you have so solemnly consecrated it; hoping ever, and praying always for the advent of that glorious day when "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains"; when "swords shall be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks"; when "nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"; when the reign of the Blessed Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Great Captain of our Salvation, shall become universal and eternal.

Hands sword to candidate, hilt first over his left forearm. Carry, SWORD. JW & SW instruct K in proper way to carry the sword if necessary.

You will now be invested with the remaining attributes of this Order.

The Pilgrim Penitence word is given with four cuts of the sword, GUARD – give cuts done and under an arch of steel, which our swords now form. Advance your left foot and place it beside mine; place your left hand on my right shoulder, as I place mine on yours. The word is G... the response is Pl-O-T-Sk. The Knight challenged will give the word, and, if correct, the Knight challenging will give the response. Give me the Word. *Given* I give you the response. *Given* Carry, SWORDS; Return, SWORDS.

SW will direct K as necessary during this exchange. The EC will demonstrate the sign as he says the following: The Penal Sign is given by extending the right hand, palm upward, then bringing the hand over the right shoulder, palm down does and with the edge, cut across the neck does Now raise the hand, edge out, fingers up, and thumb under the chin. Does Now elevate the hand to the level of the head does drop hand to the side does. This refers to the penalty of your Vow, and is the proper salutation to be given on entering or leaving an Asylum of the Commandery of Knights Templar.

The Grand Sign is given by crossing the right foot over the left, done the right arm extended to the right and slightly elevated, done the left arm extended to the left and slightly depressed, done head slightly inclined to the right. Done In this position say, "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES" – in this sign you will conquer. This sign refers to the position of our Savior on the Cross.

The grip and immaculate word are given while kneeling, and uncovered, fingers interlaced and arms crossed.

EC & K kneel, uncover and deposit chapeaux under direction of EC. Fingers are interlaced, right hand over left.

As our fingers are thus strongly interlaced so should the hearts of all Knights Templar be firmly united in the bonds of Friendship and brotherly love. When my *EC crosses arms* arms are crossed, I will be in position to give you the Immaculate Word. When yours are crossed *Crosses K's arms* you will be in position to give it to me, and on your doing so, I will give you the response.

Over this sign of our faith, *EC crosses his own arms* I communicate the word, which is E---l. *EC crosses K's arms*. Repeat it. Done. *EC crosses his own arms again*. The Response is God with us.

Drops arms. Secure Chapeaux. Re-COVER! Arise.

Standards

EC: Sir Knight Standard Bearer. StB rises and hand salutes, answered by EC.

Display the Standard. *Done*.

Sir Knight, face about and behold the Standard of this Order. Done The Grand Standard is white. In the center of the field is a blood red Passion Cross, over which is the Motto of this Order, IN HOC SIGNO VINCES. Under it is NON NOBIS DOMINE, NON NOBIS: SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM. May we so faithfully serve the Master, that having passed through the portals of the grave we may receive from His hand the Crown of Victory, while we exclaim: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory."

StB returns Standard to position via same route, steps behind the W's chair and picks up the Beauceant, comes to carry and returns over the same route to his station, steps out one step, left faces and presents Beauceant.

The Beauceant was the Battle Flag of the Ancient Templars. It is half white and half black; signifying that those Christian Warriors were fair and favorable to the friends of Christ, but dark and terrible to His

enemies. We bear this banner in memory of our ancient companions, and as an incentive to emulate their self—sacrifice and devotion.

StB returns Beauceant to its station without command, over the same route, returns to his station and remains standing: Sir Knights, ATTENTION! Draw, SWORDS. *Only those Knights in the front row obey this command.* Standard Guard! *SwB & W rise and come to carry.* Display the United States Flag. *When flag is removed from the stand.* Sir Knights, Present, SWORDS.

EC does hand salute. All knights with drawn swords come to present, except officers, who come officer's present. All other Knights do a hand salute.

The Star Spangled Banner may be played or sung. If so, stay at present. When finished: Sir Knights, Carry, SWORDS!

Sir Knight, in concluding the ceremony of your knighting, we direct your attention to the Flag of our beloved country. It is always displayed in the east of every Templar Asylum where it is accorded the position of highest honor. It is a constant inspiration to every lover of his country, to every true Knight of the Cross. It demands unswerving loyalty and wholehearted devotion to the principles of which it is the glorious representative. It is the majestic symbol of Freedom under Constitutional government. Beneath its protecting folds Liberty, Equality and Fraternity have become the heritage of every citizen, while the oppressed of many nations have found peace and happiness in the land over which it floats. The flags of mighty empires have come and gone, but the Stars and Stripes remain. Alone of all flags it expresses the sovereignty of the people which endures when all else passes away. Speaking with their voice it has the sanctity of revelation. He who lives under it and is loyal to it, is loyal to truth and justice everywhere. So long as it flies, government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth. Standard Guard, Return the Flag to its station in the East.

Sir Knight, Present, SWORDS!

When Color guard replaces flag: Sir Knights, Carry, SWORDS!

When Color Guard back in position: Sir Knights, Return SWORDS. *Command obeyed by Knights on the sidelines, K, CG & G.* Be Seated.

EC conducts K to the sidelines and seats him, then returns to his station and is seated.

Eminent Commander *salutes, and waits for return* Your order has been obeyed, the Order of the Temple has been conferred.

Closing

EC: Sir Knight Captain General

CG rises, takes one step out and draws sword. Right face, salutes and comes to officer's present.

EC, after returning salute: I am about to close this Commandery of Knight s Templar. See that the Sentinel is informed, and that he guard accordingly.

CG carries, left face: Sir Knight Warder.

W rises, salutes, coming to officer's present.

CG returns salute: Inform the Sentinel that the Commander is about to close this Commandery, and direct him to guard accordingly.

*W carries sword, right faces and marches south until even with the door to the Sentinel's Chamber, then left flanks and proceeds to the door and goes out to inform the Sentinel (repeat CG's words) then comes back in, closes the door and gives *** ***, answered by Sentinel. About faces and marches to his station by the same route as he left. Reaching his station, right faces:* Sir Knight Captain General, *salutes and comes to officer's present.*

CG returns salute.

W: The Sentinel is informed. Carries sword.

CG: Eminent Commander, salutes and comes to officer's present.

EC returns salute.

CG: Your order has been obeyed. Left faces.

EC rises: Commandery, ATTENTION! Un-COVER. Excellent Prelate,

P rises, faces EC and bows.

EC acknowledges EP with a bow: Lead our devotions.

P right faces: Together Sir Knights, the Lord's Prayer ... Amen.

EC: Sir Knights, Re-COVER. Draws sword, advances with right foot as if coming to guard and raises sword as if giving first cut. I now declare ... Commandery No. ... duly closed. Comes to carry. Sir Knight Warder,

W salutes and comes to officer's present.

EC returns salute: Inform the Sentinel.

W proceeds to door as before, informs the Sentinel and leaves the door open. Returns to station by the same path: Eminent Commander, Salutes and comes to officer's present.

EC returns salute.

W: The Sentinel is informed. Comes to carry.

EC: Sir Knights, Return, SWORDS. All return. You are dismissed.

[Home](#)