

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR OFFICERS OF A COMMANDERY

The following ceremony is primarily intended for installation of the officers of a Commandery but with easily understood alterations it may be used for any installation.

If the full ceremony is to be used an altar should be placed in front of the Eminent Commander and on it the open Bible, Square, Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the By-laws of the Commandery. If the ceremony is shortened, a table placed conveniently may be substituted for the altar and on it the official jewels placed. If the Commandery has banners they should be displayed in the East.

The Officers, or appointees, will fill the stations. The Commandery is opened in regular form and election held. The officers chosen retire with the Marshal to the anteroom and form in line with the Commander-elect at the head, swords at carry. (Installation may be public in which event a recess should be taken until installation is complete when work should be resumed.)

Marshal: Gives an alarm.

Warder: Eminent Commander, there is an alarm at the door of the Asylum.

Commander: SK Warder, attend to the alarm. *(Done)*

Warder: Eminent Commander, the Marshal with the newly chosen officers desires to enter.

Commander: Admit them.

Warder: *(At door of the Asylum)* SK Marshal and newly chosen officers, you will enter. *(Done)*

(The Marshal escorts the officers chosen who enter forming a line across the center of the Asylum, facing East, with the right resting on the South. Chairs may be provided for the line.)

Marshal: Eminent Commander, I present to you for installation the duly chosen officers of this Commandery. *Officers chosen, Present, Swords!*

Commander: *Commandery, Attention! Officers Chosen, Carry, Swords! Order,*

Swords! Sir Knights, before engaging in this important ceremony, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. Sir Knights, *un-cover!* Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions. ***(The Prelate offers a prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer in which all join.)***

Commander: *Sir Knights, Re-cover! Officers Chosen, Carry, Swords! Return, Swords!* Sir Knights, you behold before you those who have been chosen as officers of this Commandery. We believe them to be tried and true, worthy and well qualified, zealous in the service of Templary and true exemplars of the great tenets of the Order, but if anyone of you knows of any reason why they or any one of them should not be installed, let him now speak out or forever hold his peace. Hearing no objection, we will proceed with the installation.

Sir Knights not in line, *Be seated!*

Officers chosen, before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your respective stations it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourselves that vow?

(They assent.)

SK Marshal, place the officers chosen in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

Marshal: Officers chosen, count twos ***(done)***. Numbers one, *Draw*, Swords! Drop point of sword to the left, grasp hilt with left hand; numbers two, grasp blade with left hand; place your right hand upon your left breast.

(Alternative-The following may be used to place the officers chosen in proper position:

Marshal: Officers chosen, Count twos (Done). Numbers one, Draw, swords! Point swords to left; numbers two, grasp blade with right hand; Un-cover!

Eminent Commander, the officers chosen are in proper position.

Commander: *Commandery, Attention! Draw, Swords! Present, Swords!* Officers chosen, you will say "I," pronounce your names in full, and repeat after me:

"I (A. B.) do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this Jurisdiction, and the By-Laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to be

installed to the best of my ability."

Sir Knights not in line, *Carry, Swords! Return, Swords! Be seated!*

Marshal: Officers chosen, Drop right hand to side! Numbers two, Relinquish blade; Numbers one, grasp hilt with right hand; *Carry, Swords! Return Swords. Be seated!*

(Alternative-The following should be used when the alternative method of placing in position is employed.)

Marshal: Officers chosen, *Re-cover I numbers two, relinquish sword blade; numbers one, Carry. Swords! Return Swords! Be seated.*

Commander: SK Marshal, present the Commander-elect.

Marshal: Eminent Commander, I have the honor to present Sir Knight _____ who has been elected to the office of Commander. I find him well skilled in our sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our fore-fathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.

Commander: Sir Knight _____ as you have been elected to the honorable and important station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with genuine pleasure that I enter upon the duty of installing you in that exalted office. As head of a Christian institution you are charged with important duties and responsibilities. It is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon your Commandery.

It now becomes my duty to propound to you certain questions to which your unequivocal answers are required:

- I. Do you solemnly promise, upon your honor as a Knight Templar, that you will endeavor to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this magnanimous Order?
- II. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order?
- III. That you will not confer the Orders upon anyone who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition nor upon anyone who has not attained a reasonable proficiency in Masonry?

- IV. That you will seriously endeavor to promote the general good of the Order and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instruction, particularly from the Grand Officers?
- V. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies and behave in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your brethren?
- VI. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Commandery that does not work under a constitutional Dispensation or Charter?
- VII. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery unless he has been knighted in a lawful Commandery?
- VIII. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign your station to them when any visit your Commandery?
- IX. That you will support and maintain the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act?
- X. That you will bind your successor in .office to the observance of these rules?

Do you confirm all these promises and do you agree to observe them faithfully!
(Assents)

Sir Knight, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Passion Cross surmounted by rays of light. The rays of light are symbols that suggest to you the humility, love and pure benevolence that emanate like rays from the religion of the blessed Emanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order.

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

I also commit to your keeping the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masons of

every degree. It confirms our belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only living and true God, the Creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible remind us that we should be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," that we should put on the whole armor of God, to be able to wrestle successfully with principalities, powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. I also present to you the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U. S. A., the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana and the bylaws of _____ Commandery No. _____. You should familiarize yourself with them that you may rule your Commandery with justice and moderation.

And now, Sir Knight, I induct you into the Chair of your Commandery. *(Done)* I offer you my sincere congratulation on your accession to this honorable station. It will be your special duty to preserve inviolate the laws of the Order, to dispense justice, reward merit, and expound the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation and finally, my frater, may the illustrious lives of the heroes of past ages whose matchless valor has shed undying lustre over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of *every duty*.

Marshal: Commandery, *Attention! Draw Swords! Present Swords!*

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

Marshal: Sir Knights, *Carry, Swords! Return Swords! Be seated!*

Commander: SK Marshal, present the officers chosen, in order of rank.

(The Marshal then presents each officer, according to rank, introducing him by his title and designating the office which he is to fill. The Commander will receive him with fitting words, charging him to be faithful to his trust. He will also invest him with the official jewel and direct the Marshal to conduct him to his station. No particular form is prescribed but the following charges are

suggested as appropriate :)

Charge to the Generalissimo

Sir Knight, you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The Square is to remind you that friendship and love should forever govern Freemasons and particularly Knights Templar. Your station is on the right of your Commander. You are to assist him in the discharge of his various duties and in his absence to preside. I charge you, therefore, to familiarize yourself with the duties of your office that you may adequately discharge them. Be faithful to the Knights with whom you are associated, put them often in remembrance of those things which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine," ever remembering the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Charge to the Captain-General

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

Charge to the Senior Warden

Sir Knight, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Hollow Square with a mailed arm and hand grasping the Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you

be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle and upon the right of the first Division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Charge to the Junior Warden

Sir Knight, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is an Eagle with wings spread holding in its talons a Flaming Sword. It suggests to you the performance of your duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle, and on the left of the third division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrims traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and in due time recommend them to the Commander. Impress upon them the motto of our Order: "Magna est Veritas et Prevalebit" and that although the path of life may be thorny, crooked, adverse and forlorn, yet by faith and fidelity, courage and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to carry on the high labors begun here below. Finally, "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Charge to the Prelate

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

Charge to the Treasurer

Sir Knight, you have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest

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

Charge to the Recorder

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

Charge to the Standard Bearer

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

Charge to the Sword Bearer

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

Charge to the Warder

Sir Knight, you have been chosen Warder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet thereon. Your station is on the left of the Standard Bearer and upon the left of the second division. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, post the sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and tireless in the discharge of your important duties. Though yours is among the lower offices in the Commandery, it is by no means the least important.

Charge to the Three Guards

Sir Knights, you have been chosen Guards. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Battle-axe thereon. You will, therefore, be vigilant, challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve cheerfully, protect with fidelity, and fight valiantly.

Charge to the Sentinel

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

The presiding officer then delivers the following:

Charge to the Commandery

Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity and skill which the institution demands,

requires the exercise of all the abilities of its officers and members. The officers should remember that the moral and religious duties and precepts which they from time to time should forcibly impress upon the minds of others should by no means be neglected by themselves; that the most effectual way to insure success is to let precept and performance go hand in hand. I urge you to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South, to see that the entrances are strictly guarded, to the end that you allow none to pass the threshold of your Asylum save the worthy, and at the same time that you suffer no one to be guilty of disorderly conduct among you without admonition and reproof, to the end that this valiant and magnanimous Order shall forever flourish. And now, Sir Knights, "Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sake I now say, Peace be within thee!"

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

Marshal: Commandery, *Attention! Draw Swords! Present Swords!*

Marshal: Official Proclamation Hear ye! Hear yet Hear ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple! In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana, I proclaim that the officers of _____ Commandery No. _____ Knights Templar have been duly installed in their respective stations. This proclamation is made to the North (one blast on trumpet); to the South (one blast); to the East (one blast); and to the West (grand flourish on trumpet). Let all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Commander: Sir Knights, *Carry Swords! Return Swords! Be seated!*

(The Commander may, if he desires, address the fratres. The choir may then chant the "Te Deum Laudamus" or render some other appropriate musical selection. The Officers may then retire with proper escort and the Commandery will proceed to the regular order of business, resuming labor if the installation has been public.)