



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF INDIANA



General Order No. 6 Fodrea

November 5, 2020

Reopening Templary

To all Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Commandery of Indiana.

GREETINGS:

The Grand Encampment Officers acted early and decisively to address the COVID 19 pandemic. However, with the passage of time, it is now evident that the pandemic is not subsiding. We have met regularly to reassess the situation and have made the decision to commence the process of reopening our Asylums utilizing virtual meeting technology, implementing phased opening criteria, and adhering to strict safety protocols. Sir Knights, as we begin the process of reopening our Asylums, we face many unique challenges. Most significant of these is the demographic make-up of our membership. "Vulnerable Individuals" is a key concept in the Federal Guidelines and the term is referenced many times when implementing the different phases of the recovery process. The criteria that are used when determining a Vulnerable Individual include:

1. Elderly individuals (age 65 and over); and
2. Individuals with serious, underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

As you are doubtless aware, we have a very significant number of Sir Knights and our Ladies who fall into either or both categories. In the Grand Encampment, the average age of our members is 67.4 years. Many of our Sir Knights and Ladies are considered extremely vulnerable.

Each of our Sir Knights is asked to honestly assess his individual risk factors and make an informed decision about his participation in upcoming Commandery events. There are a number of options that will be implemented as we resume our activities, including social distancing, sanitizing, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocols. We will, at all times, comply with applicable recommendations and requirements from public health authorities. How and under what conditions your Sir Knights participate in our activities will be entirely up to each individual.

Under no circumstances should a Sir Knight feel pressured to participate in any Commandery activity at any level. On the contrary, he is urged to not participate in any activity which he feels may compromise his health OR that of a family member or anyone else with whom he may come into regular contact. If a Sir Knight does not feel comfortable attending a Commandery function, he is requested to stay home with our complete understanding.

We all look forward to getting back together and resuming the practice of Christian Knighthood. The reopening process will no doubt be fraught, and I fully expect that, due to changing conditions in your State or locality, it may be necessary to pause reopening or even to close down again. Thus, we have designed our reopening plans in such a way that, as long as you comply with Federal, State, Masonic, and local protocols, you will be able to proceed as prudence dictates. Honestly assess your risks and vulnerabilities and then make your own determination as to how your Commanderies participate in each phase of the reopening process. A return to "normalcy" may take us into the next Triennium; we will not rush this process, as health and safety must always be paramount in our decisions.

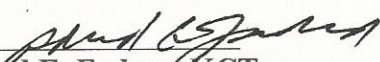
The attached *Reopening Templary 2020/21 Safety Protocols, Virtual Meeting Guidelines, and Phased-Opening Criteria* are incorporated into, and form an integral part of, this General Order as if fully set forth herein.

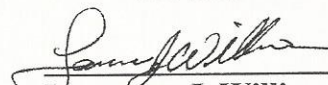
This supersedes General Order No. 12 of the fourth day of May, last, in its entirety. The preceding sentence notwithstanding, I authorize the Grand Commander or his designee to convene the Stated and any Special Conclave of his Grand Commandery by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery and the Stated or Special Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Grand Encampment Constitution. If the Conclave is convened in person, facilities shall be available to accommodate remote attendance by teleconference or webcast.

In addition, It is hereby waive the requirement of Section 65 (a) of the Constitution, and authorize the Commander of a Constituent Commandery within each Grand Commandery to convene a Stated or Special Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery and the Stated or Special Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Grand Encampment Constitution. Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies enjoy the same discretion. By the order of the Grand Master of Grand Encampment

No ritual shall be performed, and no Orders be conferred during any such telephonic or webcast Conclave.

This General Order shall be read at the first Conclave of each Constituent or Subordinate Commandery following its receipt.


Edward E. Fodrea, KCT
Grand Commander

ATTESTED:

Lawrence J. Williams
KCT, PGC
Grand Recorder



Everyone Should:

Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - Before touching your face.
 - After using the restroom.
 - After leaving a public place.
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - After handling your mask.
 - After changing a diaper.
 - After caring for someone who is sick; and
 - After touching animals or pets.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.**
Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2 or on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a

substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If **surfaces are dirty, clean them.** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant.** Most common EPA registered household disinfectants will work.

Monitor Your Health Daily

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of **COVID-19.**
 - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
 - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

Protect Your Health This Flu Season

It's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will **both** spread this fall and winter. Healthcare systems could be overwhelmed treating both patients with flu and patients with COVID-19. This means getting a flu vaccine during 2020-2021 is more important than ever.

While getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19 there are many important benefits, such as:

1. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.
2. Getting a flu vaccine can also save healthcare resources for the care of patients with COVID-19.

CDC- [hnr.s://www.cdc. 11oy/coronavirus/2019-ncoy/pn.-vent-nettin -sick/orevePlion.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/pn-vent-netting-sick-or-very-old.html)



Grand Comandery of Indiana Reopening 2020/21 Virtual Meeting Criteria



It is important that we keep in mind that while these are Virtual Conclaves, they are still official meetings of our Commanderies. These are not informal social gatherings; we should still strive to maintain the protocol and decorum that is expected at a Commandery conclave. We should remember that we are members of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and we owe it to our members to provide a quality experience that respects them and the COURTEOUS, Chivalrous Order we represent.

Here, then, are the required practices:

1. Although we are doing no ritual, the Commander should declare the Conclave open, after a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. All participants should mute themselves during the Lord's Prayer; only the Prelate is unmuted. (All recite the Prayer.) Sound quality becomes very garbled and distorted when many are unmuted, making it difficult to recite the prayer in unison.
3. The United States flag, or a representation of it, should be displayed for the Pledge of Allegiance. All participants except the Commander are muted during the Pledge, although all recite it.
4. All participants except the speaker should be muted, unless called upon to speak. If you wish to speak, use the accepted method of being recognized, such as "raising hand" on Zoom.
5. Behave as if you are in a guarded asylum; family members should not participate in the call.
6. Presiding officer should sit up and not slouch in a chair - respect the Sir Knights who took time to attend YOUR meeting.
7. Discretely sipping nonalcoholic beverages is permitted during the calls. No alcoholic beverages.
8. By the same token, we do not want to see you eating your dinner on Zoom. Please eat your meal before or after the meeting.
9. We are not wearing uniforms, but officers should dress appropriately- no T-shirts. Wear a button-down shirt or polo shirt. This is for virtual or hybrid meetings only. If this is a Grand Conclave, uniforms should be worn as determined by the Grand Commandery; and

10. Follow the agenda to respect everybody's time.

Phase 1.5

Federal Recommendations (state restrictions may be different).

- Avoid socializing in groups of more than 50 people.
- Maximize Social Distancing and Personal Protective Equipment in public.
- Minimize Travel.
- All Vulnerable Individuals should continue to shelter

in place. Applications to a Grand or Subordinate

Commandery:

1. Stated or Special Conclaves:

- See Common Guidelines
- In-person conclaves (stated or special) may resume, provided they are conducted utilizing strict, social-distancing and Personal Protective-Equipment (PPE hereafter) protocols. (*i.e.* six-foot physical separation, face coverings worn by every Sir Knight in the room and hand sanitizer or washing of hands with soap and water utilized by every Sir Knight in the room.)
- Virtual conclaves by means of conference call and/or video conferencing (Zoom, etc.). Video will only show the dais officers and must conform to the criteria outlined in General Order No. 12 as to what is allowed.
- Hybrid conclaves will also be permitted. The video will only show the dais officers and must conform to the criteria outlined in General Order No. 12 as to what is allowed. A Hybrid conclave is one where some Sir Knights are in the tiled asylum, and others are joining virtually. All virtual conclave policies will apply. The Grand Commander will determine whether to allow the Hybrid conclave to be opened by declaration, or according to the Short Form Opening found on pages 98-99 of the Ritual.

If a Commandery chooses to resume in-person conclaves, the following additional protocols must also be observed:

- Meals or snacks may be served before or after the conclave CDC guidelines must be followed,
- Ladies may attend formal or informal socialization and follow all safety protocols:
- Only Sir Knights are permitted to be in attendance during any in-person conclave; and
- All Sir Knights, with the exception of any who may be needed to assist with "set up" for the stated conclave (this should require minimal set-up) should arrive no earlier than ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting start time and depart no later than ten (10)

minutes after the conclusion of the meeting. This is intended to limit unnecessary congestion in common areas.

2. Statewide activities:

Many of the states divide themselves into sections for administrative purposes (Battalions, Districts, Divisions, etc.). For those who do, the following provisions apply:

Battalion meetings:

- See Common Guidelines; and
- The applications of the "stated or special conclaves" will be observed.

Drill Team organizational or instructional meetings:

- See Common Guidelines;
- In-person drill team meetings at any location are PERMITTED; and
- Virtual meetings by means of conference call and/or video conferencing (Zoom, etc.). Drill team practice:
 - Due to the close, physical contact required and the inability to maintain proper social distancing while drilling, drill practices are PROHIBITED.

Grand Commandery Conclaves, Reconsecration's, Receptions, Parades, Commandery in-person Religious Observances, Posting of Colors, Casket Honor Guards, Military Balls, Cornerstone Ceremonies, Christmas Observances, social events, and any similar activities are PERMITTED, observing the Common Guidelines.

3. Travel:

All travel for Commandery purposes is LIMITED. The Grand Commander will determine.

4. Ritual work:

Due to the close physical contact required and the inability to maintain proper social distancing, ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery orders on candidates is PROHIBITED in Phase One, *with the exception of the temporary*, short form of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and short form of the Order of Malta. (ask your Grand Recorder for the Temporary Script). *NOTE: We are fully aware that the candidate does not receive the full initiatory experience by use of this temporary, revised ritual, but it does give the commanderies an opportunity to impart the essential lessons these two Orders convey. Thus, we strongly urge the commanderies to make arrangements with the candidates to return and experience the full form Orders when they become available.*

THE ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF THE RED CROSS

Optional Short Ceremony

[This Ceremony is issued under authority accorded the Grand Master by Section 23 of the Grand Encampment Constitution, solely for the purpose of implementing social-distancing and other protective measures made necessary by the present COVID 19 emergency. It is not a ritualistic change under authority of Section 3 of the Grand Encampment Constitution and its use shall cease once the emergency has passed. An exemplar may be used. The class shall participate in those parts of the Ritual where indicated. When an exemplar is used the class shall be placed in a convenient position where they can witness and hear the ceremony and participate when necessary. The entire class shall be conducted into the Audience Chamber, by the MI., and the exemplar shall be placed a few paces from the Altar, which shall be placed before the class enters:]

NOTE: Class seats will be placed the appropriate distance apart according to State and Federal Guidelines. The Sovereign Master shall also conform to all State and Federal Guidelines in reference to wearing a mask or removing mask during speaking parts.

SM makes the following statement before proceeding with the ceremony:

Due to the restraints of the Grand Encampment at this time, I will confer the Order upon you in short form and proceed to invest you with the attributes of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. I would strongly urge you to witness this Order when these restraints are lifted.

S. M: • The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is conferred in a Council duly convened, and I must require of you the following declaration:

(All candidates must make declaration)

S. M: Companions, do you on your honor as Royal Arch Masons, and in the presence of God and these witnesses, declare that you will be forever faithful to the trust we are about to repose in you, and that you will keep inviolable our secrets, and maintain the honor of this Council.

Candidates: I do.

S. M: *(Recites Historical Lecture.)*

S. M: Today, you and each of you are Zerubbabel, as we go back in time to the Court of King Darius and the Pounding of the New Order.

Princes and Rulers, to perpetuate unto all ages the remembrance of this happy occasion, and the events which have renewed our early intimacy with Zerubbabel, we propose to found a new Order. It shall be instituted to inculcate the almighty force and the importance of TRUTH. It shall be forever known as THE ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER or THE RED CROSS, and upon you, Zerubbabel, as a further proof of our friendship and esteem, we will confer the honor of creating you its first member. But before we can do so we must demand of you a solemn Vow to be forever faithful to the Laws and Regulations which

we now establish for the government of that Order.

Prince Zerubbabel, you will now approach that Altar, on which lie a copy of the Sacred Writings of your people, and what we are assured are the symbols of your Ancient Craft.

You will kneel upon your left knee, your right knee forming a square, your left hand resting upon the Sacred Writings, Square and Compasses, and your right hand upon your heart. *[Done.]* Princes and Rulers, arise, and witness this Vow.

OPTIONAL RUBRIC

(In conferring the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Sovereign Master, in administering the vow of the Order, may have the candidates repeat paragraph# [J], the Sovereign Master will recite paragraphs [2], {3}, [4], {5}, {6}, and the candidates will repeat paragraph [7].)

*[All candidates must participate in
the Vow.]*

OBLIGATION OR VOW

S. M: Arise and approach the throne.

S. M: And now, Zerubbabel, we will confer upon you the highest honor in our gift by creating you the first member of this new Order. You will kneel on your left knee.

S. M: *[Raising his scepter.]* We now create and constitute you a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, which we now found; and we do hereby create and constitute each of the Princes and Rulers present a Companion of said Order Arise, Companion Zerubbabel, and receive a hearty welcome into this new Order, which will be ever ready to protect, vindicate and defend you. Princes and Rulers be seated.

NOTE: A hearty welcome will be done by applause from the cast. The exemplar may also be seated at this time.

S. M: *[With Green Sash in hand.]* I make this Green Sash the insignia of this new Order, which is designed to perpetuate the remembrance of the events that have occasioned the renewal of our friendship, and to inculcate the almighty force and the importance of TRUTH. Let its color ever remind you that TRUTH is a divine attribute, and the foundation of every virtue. Companion Master of Infantry: Display your sword to Companion Zerubbabel.

[The Master of Infantry approaches Zerubbabel, and places himself in position so all the candidates can see.] Draws his sword and drops the point of his sword to the left until the point is resting in the palm of his left hand, he then places the hilt in the palm of his right hand. The SM approaches the M.I. and points to each part of the sword when referred to.

S. M: In the hands of a true and courteous Companion of this Order the sword will be endowed with three excellent qualities: its hilt with FAITH, its blade with HOPE, its point with CHARITY. Let these teach you that he who draws his sword in a just and virtuous cause, having FAITH in God, may

reasonably HOPE for victory, ever remembering to extend CHARITY to a fallen foe. Return it to its scabbard. *[Done.]* There let it remain until consumed by rust, rather than draw it in the cause of Injustice, Falsehood, or Oppression, for JUSTICE, TRUTH, and LIBERTY are the Grand Characteristics of this Illustrious Order.

S. M. [Resuming his seat.] You will now be instructed in what we decree to be the attributes of this Order, and the MEANS OF RECOGNITION among its members. These are:

- [1] T JP.
- [2] T PC, w i t o t R.
- [3] TRCW.
- [4] TS, G, a W o a Cot IO o t RC.

Companion Master of Cavalry. You will communicate these as we direct. Master of Infantry you will assist.

[Master of Cavalry and Master of Infantry takes position so all the candidates can see.]

NOTE: During the attributes both Ml. and MC will be wearing facemasks, and gloves for the grip.

S. M. Draw, Swords. . . . attributes are demonstrated . . . then S. M. orders Carry, Swords. Return, Swords.

[Master of Cavalry and Master of Infantry resumes their stations.]

S. M.: On entering or retiring from a Council of the Red Cross, you will advance to the centre of the Chamber, face the Sovereign Master, and give the Sign. It alludes to the Penalty of your Vow, where reference is made to the sound of the last trump.

THE BANNER OF THE ORDER

S. M.: The Banner of this Order shall be of green color. In its center there shall be a Star of seven points, within which shall be a Red Cross of equal arms and angles, surrounded by the Motto, *Magna est Veritas, et praevalabit, -"Great is Truth, and it will prevail."*

The Cross shall be the emblem of this Order, the four arms indicating DEITY, TRUTH, JUSTICE, LIBERTY. These will commemorate our faith in God, and in the Grand Characteristics of this Illustrious Order.

[All candidates will give the sign when retiring.]

END, OPTIONAL SHORT CEREMONY

OPTIONAL SHORT CEREMONIAL

**FOR CONFERRING THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF
ST. PAUL OR THE MEDITERRANEAN PASS, AND
THE ORDER OF MALTA**

[This Ceremony is issued under authority accorded the Grand Master by Section 23 of the Grand Encampment Constitution, solely for the purpose of implementing social-distancing and other protective measures made necessary by the present COVID 19 emergency. It is not a ritualistic change under authority of Section 3 of the Grand Encampment Constitution and its use shall cease once the emergency has passed. An exemplar may be used. The class shall participate in those parts of the Ritual where indicated. When an exemplar is used the class shall be placed in a convenient position where they can witness and hear the ceremony and participate when necessary. The entire class shall be conducted into the Chapel, by the Marshal, and the exemplar shall be placed a few paces from the Altar, which shall be placed before the class enters:]

*[A Priory having been opened, or declared open, the Mediterranean Pass and the Order of Malta may be conferred in short form. The Prior, Marshal, Chaplain, and Candidate should appear as in the full ceremonial. Members are in dark clothing, wearing the Malta mantle and Malta cap, or in citizen's dress. The Templar chapeau and fatigue cap **must not be worn**. The Candidate is conducted by the Marshal to the west side of the Altar without preliminary ceremonies.]*

NOTE: Class seats will be placed the appropriate distance apart according to State and Federal Guidelines.

The Prior shall also conform to all State and Federal Guidelines in reference to wearing a mask or removing mask during speaking parts.

The Prior makes the following statement before proceeding with the ceremony;

Due to the restraints of the Grand Encampment at this time, I will confer the Order upon you in short form and proceed to invest you with the attributes of the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass, the Pass-degree to the Order of Malta. I would strongly urge you to witness this Order when these restraints are lifted.

Prior: The Order of Malta is conferred in a Priory duly convened. Before doing so, however, I must require of you the following declaration:

My Brother, do you solemnly promise on your honor as a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross that you will never improperly reveal the secrets of this Order which I am about to impart to you?

Candidate: I do solemnly promise.

Prior: Your answer is satisfactory. I will now invest you with the attributes of the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass. The incidents upon which this degree and its modes of recognition are founded, are recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Reverend Chaplain, you will read a lesson for our instruction.

[Cast rises with the Chaplain and un-covers.]

[The reading of the lesson by the Chaplain is obligatory and cannot be omitted. The instruction here given applies to all the other Scripture lessons which follow. The reading shall be done as laid down in the full ceremonial.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the first verse of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles (verses 1-6). Here endeth the first lesson.

[Cast re-covers and is seated.]

Prior: I will now invest you with the Sign of this degree. It is made by holding both hands forward, palms, down, as if wanning them at a fire. Then grasp the lower or fleshy part of your left hand between the forefinger and thumb of your right hand; raise them with a quick motion, and throw off the right hand with a jerk, as if plucking something offensive from your left hand. This refers to the incident of St. Paul plucking the viper from his hand and casting it into the fire and is called the sign of "Melita."

Prior: Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

[Cast, rises with the Chaplain and un-covers.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the twenty-second verse of the twenty-seventh chapter of the Acts of the Apostles (verses 22-25). Here endeth the second lesson.

[Cast re-covers and is seated.]

Prior: The Password of this degree is "Fear not, Paul." The Grand Word of this degree is "Melita," the ancient name of the Island of Malta. [Footnote 5, page 93.]

Brother A. B., it was customary for the knightly soldiers of the Crusades, previous to their departure for the Holy Land, to prepare themselves by a general confession and reception of the Holy Eucharist, receiving the benediction of the Church. In allusion to this custom, but to avoid the semblance of irreverence to the Sacred Mystery, we substitute water for wine and commemorate it to remind us of the extreme perils, suffering and destitution encountered by our Pilgrim brothers of old when on their way to the Holy City, for then they could procure the bare necessities of life only at the sword's point.

[A salver is here presented by the Chaplain, upon which are unopened small bottles of water and some individually wrapped small pieces of bread, or communion wafers.]

Prior: You will now receive bread from the point of the sword and water from the blade.

[The Prior takes the sword from the Altar, placing the sword under the salver, and presents the bread and water to each Candidate, who receives both.

The Candidate(s) will open bread and partake then open water and partake. The Candidate(s) will place unused portions upon the salver as the Prelate goes back down the line of Candidates.]

Chaplain: May you be kept steadfast in all your solemn professions and blessed in all praiseworthy occupations and undertakings.

Prior: This ceremony constitutes you a Knight of St. Paul, or the Mediterranean Pass. It is the Pass-degree to the Order of Malta.

I will now invest you with the attributes of the Order of Malta. Before doing so I must require of you a solemn vow that you will be faithful to the trust reposed in you. You will, therefore, kneel at our Altar, on your right knee, your right hand resting on the New Testament, Cross and Sword. *[Done.] Priory arise, un-cover.* You will say "I," pronounce your name, 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 promise and vow, that I will forever keep and conceal the secrets belonging to the Order of Malta; that I will not communicate them to anyone 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 body of a regular and duly-constituted Priory of Knights of Malta.

That I will conform to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Order and live in strict accordance therewith, under the penalty of forfeiting my membership and of being despised and cast out from all who love honor and integrity. So help me God and keep me steadfast.

Priory, re-cover, be seated. Prior: By virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Grand Commandery of the State of _____, and in the name of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Order, I make you, _____, a Knight Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta. Be zealous and vigilant for the honor of Knighthood.

We admit you into our Order, and you will rise you by a new name. Arise, Knight of Malta.

NOTE: Each Candidate (other than the Exemplar) will arise at their seats and place their right hand over their hearts.

[The Chaplain presents the Cross of the Order; on a presentation vessel (i.e., pillow, salver), Candidates will receive each jewel in an unopened bag.]

Prior: We now present you with the Cross, or Jewel, of the Order. It is the Maltese Cross. Its eight points are symbolical of the eight languages into which the Order was formerly divided. It has, however, a higher and more important meaning than this, for it symbolizes and reminds you of the eight beatitudes

recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Reverend Chaplain, you will read a lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[Cast rises with the Chaplain and un-covers.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the third verse of the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

(Reads verses 3- 11.)

Here endeth the third lesson.

[Cast re-covers and is seated.]

Prior: My Brother, these virtues you should cherish in your heart for the consolation and preservation of your soul. Therefore, that you may have this precious symbol always before your eyes, you will wear it on your breast, near your heart, and never desert it or lay it aside.

Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[Cast rises with the Chaplain and un-covers.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the twenty-fourth verse of the twentieth chapter of the Gospel according to

St. John. (Reads verses 24-29.)

Here endeth the fourth lesson.

[Cast re-covers and is seated.]

Prior: We will now demonstrate to you with the Sign, Grip, and Word of the Order. Knight Marshal you will please assist me. Takes position so all Candidates can see.

NOTE: During the attributes both Prior and Marshal will be wearing facemasks, and gloves for the grip.

The Sign and Grip: One says, "Reach hither thy finger and feel the print of the nails." They join right hands and force the first finger into the center of the palm. Then he says, "Reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side." Each extends his left hand, and presses his fingers into the left side of the other, still holding on by the grip; with arms thus crossed, they give the Word. One says, "MY LORD;" the other responds, "AND MY Goo." The name of this Sign and Grip is "Infidelitas"-unbelief. It teaches us that there is an unbelief which transcends a rational skepticism; that we should possess a power of Faith to receive Divine Truth, even though unaccompanied by physical evidence, and thus entitle us to that commendation of our Divine Teacher, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

I will now invest you with the Grand Hailing Sign and Grand Word of a Knight of Malta, also the Grand Token and Word of the Order.

Grand Hailing Sign: Place both hands to the mouth as if speaking through a trumpet, right hand in front of left. *The Grand Word of a Knight of Malta:* (Gives-Grand Hailing Sign.)

One says, "Do you come in peace? " The answer, "We come in peace."
The response, "Then come in peace."

The Grand Token and Word: Draw swords and come to a carry. Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hand, moving arms backward and forward as if rowing a boat; the swords held upwards in the right hands, saying together the Grand Word: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The Pass-words of the Order are BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH, RESURRECTION, and ASCENSION. These words are used to commemorate the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Saviour.

Prior: Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[Cast rises with the Chaplain and un-covers.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the nineteenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. (Reads 19th verse only.)
Here endeth the fifth lesson.

[Cast re-covers and is seated.]

Prior: The Sacred Word of the Order is "INRI." It is formed of the initials of the four Latin words which were set up over the head of our Blessed Saviour upon the Cross: "IESus NAZARENus, REX IUDAEORUM"-Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

[The Prior may, at his discretion, add the following address to the Candidate:]

And now, my Brother, I again bid you a hearty welcome to all the rights and privileges, even to the disinterested friendship and unbounded hospitality which ever has distinguished and we trust will long continue to adorn and characterize these noble Orders.

With the age and occasion which gave them birth, their adventurous and warlike spirit has passed away, but their moral and beneficent character still remains, bright in all its primitive beauty and loveliness, to incite, as in the days of their greatest glory, that spirit of refined and moral chivalry which should prompt us to press onward in the cause of Truth and Justice, stimulating us to exertion in behalf of the destitute and the oppressed, to wield the sword, if need be, when "pure and undefiled religion" calls us in her defense, and in a Brother's cause, to do all that may become men. They also teach the triumph of Immortality-that, though death has its sting, its infliction is but for a moment; that this frail organization, though here subject to the "many ills that flesh is heir to," possesses an immortal soul that shall soar to the realms of eternal bliss, and, beyond the power of change, live forever. *[To candidate:]* Be seated.

END, OPTIONAL SHORT CEREMONY