

CEREMONIAL FOR RENEWAL OF OBLIGATIONS

To be exemplified at the first meeting in January annually. (This ceremony shall be under the direction of the Master, or a Former Master, Faithful Navigator or a Past Faithful Navigator, to be designated by the Master of the Fourth Degree in writing.) Parts are marked as follows:

M.F.D. - Master of the Fourth Degree

F.N. - Faithful Navigator

F.C. - Faithful Captain

F.P. - Faithful Pilot

F.A. - Faithful Admiral

D.M. - District Marshall

This ceremonial has been modified to correct certain technical errors in the original.

Ceremonial for Renewal of Obligations

(All officers at their stations. The Master of the Fourth Degree is seated at the right of the Faithful Navigator, the Faithful Friar at left of the Faithful Navigator - all members seated in their usual places. The District Marshall is seated with visiting dignitaries near the Faithful Pilot's Station.)

(No Emblems on tables. Signal Table replaced by a table about two feet square, containing four folded linen cloths, i.e., red, white, blue, and gold (or yellow); and also small yellow silk cushions [Papal color])

(The meeting is opened by the Faithful Navigator in the regular manner [see Ceremonial for Conducting an Assembly Meeting] down to the completion of the Lord's Prayer)

F.N. - Sir Knights, the special business of this meeting is the Exemplification of the Renewal of Our Obligations, and for that purpose I invite the Worthy Master to assume the Chair, and I now hand him the gavel, emblematic of authority in this Assembly.

(Three Raps.)

(Master of the Fourth Degree proceeds to the Signal table, salutes the Faithful Navigator and advances to the Chair, after which he is saluted by the Faithful Navigator, who retires to the seat vacated by the Master of the Fourth Degree)

(One Rap.)

M.F.D. – The Faithful Sentinels of this Assembly are now relieved from duty. (Faithful Sentinels retire, one to each side of the chamber.)

M.F.D. - I call upon my Worthy Marshall to prepare the Assembly Chamber for the ceremonial of the Renewal of our Obligations. I ask the Faithful Scribe and Faithful Comptroller to assist him.

(Marshall comes to the center of the Chamber with Faithful Scribe and Faithful Comptroller on either side, and all three salute. The Marshall takes the white cloth; the Faithful Scribe the blue cloth, and the Faithful Comptroller the red cloth. The Marshall covers the table of the Faithful Captain. The Scribe covers the table of the Faithful Admiral, and the Comptroller covers the table of the Faithful Pilot. Once the tables are covered with the cloths, the Marshall, Scribe and Comptroller place the proper emblems on each table. All three return to the signal table.)

(Upon their return, the Faithful Scribe covers the Signal table with the gold (or yellow) cloth, after which the Faithful Comptroller places the cushion on the same table. All three salute and retire to former positions.)

M.F.D. - Sir Knights, Fealty to Christ begets loyalty to the State and the faithful practice of our Holy Religion begets the good citizen and the patriot. Sir Knights, Salute the Flag.

(Three Raps.)

(The flag is given the usual salute and then - One Rap)

M.F.D. - Faithful Admiral. Who is the proper officer responsible to the Faithful Navigator for the emblems of the Fourth Degree?

F.A. - Worthy Master, the Faithful Pilot.

M.F.D. - Faithful Pilot. What are the emblems of the Fourth Degree?

F.P. - Worthy Master, the Flag, the Sword and the Cross.

M.F.D. - Sir Knights. Well and truly has your Faithful Pilot spoken. My Worthy Marshall will now convey to the Signal Table, those glorious emblems of our Fourth Degree - the Flag of our country, the Sword of Liberty, and the Cross of Christ.

(The Marshall salutes, crosses to Faithful Admiral and collects emblem, thence to Faithful Captain and Faithful Pilot and deposits all three on the cushions on the Signal Table, with the Cross cushioned in center.)

D.M. - Worthy Master. The Assembly Chamber is now fully prepared in obedience to your order. I await your commands.
(Marshall steps back.)

M.F.D. - Worthy Marshall. *(Marshall comes forward and salutes)*
Worthy Marshall, I now charge you with the care of this entire chamber. You will proceed to the post of the Faithful Inner Sentinel relieving him from duty and thereafter guard the portals of this assembly, seeing that no person enters or leaves this Chamber without the permission of the Master, until you are yourself relieved from duty.
(Marshall salutes; goes to door and relieves the Faithful Inner Sentinel from duty.)

M.F.D. - The three chair officers in order of their positions will now approach the emblem table.
(They advance in single file, about two feet apart.)

M.F.D. - The Faithful Scribe and Faithful Comptroller will take positions at either side of the Faithful Admiral.
(They advance in a dignified way to their positions.)

M.F.D. - The Faithful Inner Sentinel will come forward.
(He advances to a point 2 feet behind the Faithful Pilot.)

(Three raps.)

M.F.D. - Sir Knights. With your officers presenting to you a living cross as they stand before you, you will now form an arc, under the direction of the Faithful Sentinels of this Assembly, so as to create an animated anchor, emblematic of the hope and trust of the glorious patron of our Order - the great Navigator - Christopher Columbus.

(In a quiet and dignified manner, the Faithful Sentinels and Faithful Outer Sentinel move the entire membership into a curved line behind the Officers.)

M.F.D. - Let us keep utmost in our minds the pledges of the first three degrees, and the principles of our Order: Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

M.F.D. - *(turning to his right)* Faithful Navigator. In your presence, and in the presence of each other, and before these sacred symbols, I now call upon you as Faithful Navigator of this Assembly to lead us in a renewal of our pledge of the Fourth Degree.

(Faithful Navigator recites aloud slowly, and all present repeat.)

Fourth Degree Obligation

I swear to support the Constitution of the United States.
I pledge myself,
as a Catholic citizen and Knight of Columbus,
to enlighten myself upon my duties as a citizen
and conscientiously perform them
entirely in the interests of my country,
regardless of all personal consequences.

I pledge myself
to do all in my power
to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot
and to promote respect for law and order.

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

M.F.D. - (*turning to his left*) Faithful Friar. First in the utterance of our lips is an acknowledgement of the Divine Law, as laid down by God's Holy Church. It is therefore proper that the closing of this Ceremonial should be our renewal of Loyalty to Holy Mother Church. I bid you proceed.

(Faithful Friar recites the Creed aloud slowly, and all present repeat.)

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in

Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen

M.F.D. - Sir Knights, those forming the cross remain, and those forming the anchor may now retire to your accustomed places.

(The members salute and take their seats.)

M.F.D. - The Faithful Scribe and the Faithful Comptroller may take their stations.

(They salute and do so.)

M.F.D. - The Faithful Sentinels will now resume their posts, whereupon my Worthy Marshall is relieved therefrom.

(They salute and retire.)

M.F.D. - The Faithful Chair Officers will now take possession of the emblems of their respective offices, and resume their stations.

(They advance to the Signal table in turn, each officer taking his own emblem, and return slowly to their stations - the Sword at the Carry, The Flag held forward and the Cross uplifted slightly.)

(One rap.)

(Marshall comes to the Signal Table and Salutes.)

D.M. - Worthy Master. All Officers have resumed their station. All members are seated. The Assembly Chamber is properly dressed for the further conduct of the meeting. I await your commands.

M.F.D. - Worthy Marshall. I thank you for the valuable assistance you have rendered me in this Ceremonial. You are relieved from further duty and may now retire. *(Marshall salutes and retires.)*

M.F.D. – The Faithful Sentinels will now resume their duties. *(They do so.)*

M.F.D. - Faithful Navigator, I have completed my work. The Ceremonial of the Renewal of Obligations has been fully exemplified. I now return to you the emblem of your authority in this Assembly.

(The Master of the Fourth Degree and Faithful Navigator change places as done before. The Faithful Navigator proceeds to the Signal table, salutes the Master, and advances to the chair, after which he is saluted by the Master, who retires to his seat).

(One rap.)

F.N. – Sir Knights. Let us now sing the Opening Ode.

(The meeting proceeds in the usual manner.)

Renewal of Obligations

