

## **ABOUT THE 4TH DEGREE**

The Fourth Degree exemplifies patriotism. To do this, the Fourth Degree is designated to strengthen love of country and encourage responsible citizenship.

Our most visible aspect is the Color Corps. Public appearances of Fourth Degree Knights as honor guards at civic and religious functions are an important activity of each assembly. Their colorful capes and plumed headgear add dignity and pride of church and country to any event. By these public demonstrations, their loyalties bring credit to themselves and the Knights of Columbus. Several groups can participate in the dedication of public buildings and schools. While a group called the Masons dedicate the building's corner stone, The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree present the US flag to the presiding officials.

At a National Council meeting in 1899, it was determined that an additional ceremonial degree was needed that would represent patriotism. The initial Exemplification, as the degree is called, was held on February 22, 1900. It was scheduled to be in the Astor Hotel, however when the class reached in excess of 1,100 candidates, it was moved to the Lenox Lyceum, a temporary wooden structure. Members were originally part of local councils. In 1910 a restructuring of the order separated them and called the groups, Assemblies. The Chain of Command is similar to that of the lower degrees, with different titles.

At the Supreme level, the top man is the Supreme Master. Areas are divided into, Provinces, headed by a Vice Supreme Master. Recently Maryland Past State Deputy Francis M Feeley was appointed as the Vice Supreme Master of the Calvert Province. Francis is a Past Faithful Navigator of the Archbishop John Carroll Assembly and a Past Grand Knight of Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore Council #205. He is only the second person from Maryland to be appointed to this position, the first being PSD John P. Bauernschub, who held the position from 1964 to 1974. PSD Bauernschub was a member of Maryland Council #370 and the Charles Carroll Carrollton Assembly.

Provinces in turn are divided into Districts, with Masters in charge. Each Province is divided into Districts. The state of Maryland is within the Calvert Province, of whose districts two are located in the Maryland Jurisdiction, the Maryland District and Archdiocese of Washington District (which also includes the Washington, DC). PSD George Hanna, of Washington, DC is Master of the Archdiocese of Washington District, of which Bishop James E Walsh Assembly is a member. The Master is identified by the gold Cape and Chapeau, and is often accompanied by a District Marshall who wears a green Cape and Chapeau.

Assemblies are similar to the council, and many are named after patriots, war heroes, etc. The Chair Officers are: the presiding officer called a Navigator, then a Captain, the Pilot, which is the Warden on a council level, and the Admiral, always the immediate Past Faithful Navigator. At a Council level Officers are referred to as Worthy, while at the Assembly level Officers are referred to as Faithful.

The other officers are: The Friar (Council Chaplain), The Purser (Council Treasurer), The Comptroller (Council Financial Secretary), The Sentinels (Council Guards), and The Trustees (same as the council).

The Color Corps of each Assembly is trained and drilled by a Color Corps Commander appointed by the Faithful Navigator. Large Assemblies may have one or more Vice-Commanders. The Commander is identified by the purple or violet Cape and Chapeau. At District Level events, the District Marshall, in green, is in charge of the Color Corps and may be assisted by one or more Color Corps Commanders. Other members of the Color Corps wear red Capes and white Chapeaux.

To be eligible to become a Fourth Degree member you must be a Third Degree or one year and you must be sponsored. Exemplifications are usually held only once a year in each district, normally in April in the Archdiocese of Washington District. If you are interested in becoming a Fourth Degree Knight see your council representative for an application and full details.

WHY KNIGHTS should join the Fourth Degree:

- The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights of Columbus men dedicated to promoting Patriotism, enlightened by the Catholic faith.
- It works for the application of Christian principles in all levels of democratic government.
- It alls upon its members to distinguish themselves with heroic deeds, God and for our Order.
- It supports such religious, Civic, and charitable causes as are consistent with its high ideals.

## THE EMBLEM OF THE FOURTH DEGREE



The Triad Emblem of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus features: the Globe, the Cross, and the Dove. A Blue Globe with the Lands of the Western Hemisphere in White; a Red Cross with gold borders and gold knobs at the ends of the Cross; and a White Dove.

The Dove, the classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and Peace, is shown hovering over the orb of the Earth or globe. Both are mounted on a variation of the Crusader's cross, that which was found on the tunics and Capes of the Crusading Knights who battled to regain the Holy Land. Our honored Order cherishes as its patron Christopher (Christ bearer) Columbus (Dove of Peace), symbolizing the Paraclete.

Spiritually, the sacred symbols on the emblem typify the Union of the Three Divine Persons in one  
Godhead...the most blessed Trinity.

The Globe... God the Father, Creator of the Universe  
The Cross...God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind  
The Dove...God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity  
Red, White, and Blue are the colors of the flag of the country in which our Order originated; and are used to stress the basic principle of the Fourth Degree: **Patriotism.**

## **The Fourth Degree Color Corps**

The Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus are the uniformed members of the Fourth Degree. They are the ones that are most noticeable at church and public functions, parades, etc. They actually consist of two parts:

- the Color Guard and
- the Honor Guard

Honor Guardsmen are those members who have mastered the Manual of the Sword. All others are Color Guard.

The Corps basically follows a Naval theme with ranks and insignia. Note that the chapeaux, which are never called hats, are similar to the old naval uniforms.

Cape colors are an indication of rank.

- Vice Supreme Masters wear blue capes and chapeaux.
- Masters wear gold capes and chapeaux.
- District Marshals (District level Color Corps Commanders) wear green capes and chapeaux.
- Faithful navigators (whether a member of the corps or not) wear white capes and chapeaux.
- Commanders wear purple capes and chapeaux.
- Other Color Corps Members wear red capes and chapeaux.

Within the local assemblies, the Master more or less sets the rules. In the Bishop Walsh Assembly, the highest-ranking Color Corps member is called Commander; some areas call him by other ranks such as Commodore. Former Vice Supreme Masters, Former District Marshall's, and Past Faithful Navigators are all permitted to wear their respective capes and chapeaux when they finish their term of office.