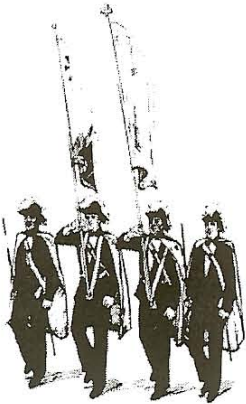


# Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, charitable, men's fraternal benefit society that was formed in 1882 to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

The history of the Order shows how the foresight of Father Michael McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is being investigated by the Vatican, brought about what has become the world's foremost Catholic fraternal benefit society.

The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 12,000 councils and 1.7 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.

Each Knight goes through a sequence of ceremonials when entering the order. There are four such ceremonials from first to the second, third and fourth degree. No matter what degree, all Knights belong to a council which can be formed within any community of the countries noted above.

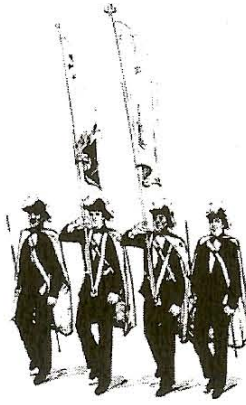
The fourth degree or the assembly is the most visible arm of the Knights of Columbus. It is recognized by Knights wearing a black tuxedo, a plain white shirt, black tie, black shoes and socks, a baldric with sword, a cape, chapeau and white gloves. The different colors of chapeau and cape designate various levels within an assembly, state or national office.

In days when knighthood was in flower, the Knight of old carried the sword to defend God, Church, Country and fellow man according to the code of chivalry. In our times, Sir Knights (fourth degree Knights) wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and his Apostles, especially on religious and civic occasions.



For more information call GK Bill Collins at 642-9651  
FN Ernst Cvikl at 649-3586





The color corps members (Knights in regalia) exemplify all the principles of our Order:

- Charity (first degree) - by free and willing sacrifice of their time and energies necessary to practice, perfect and perform the ceremonials and sword drill;
- Unity (second degree) - what would better publicly display unity than a coordinated drill of a body of men;
- Fraternity (third degree) - can also be expressed as esprit de corps sharing a common desire for drill excellence;
- Patriotism (fourth degree) - precision drill is a salute to our God and to our country and visually exhibits a love for both.

The public appearance of Fourth Degree Knights as honor guards at civic and religious functions is an important activity of each assembly. Their colorful capes and chapeaux add dignity and pride of church and country to any event. By these public demonstrations, their loyalties bring credit to themselves and to the Knights of Columbus.

Knighthood grew up as part of the feudal system of the Middle Ages. Religious ceremonies became part of the knighting ceremony when the ideals of Christianity became more closely linked with knights. Carrying the sword at his right shoulder shows that the knight is at the ready position to defend church and country. The sword held in front of the chin and then arched is to honor the priest, the cross, the bishop, a deceased knight or veteran and last but not least the Eucharist.

The Knights participate in and organize patriotic events and church celebrations. They support veterans, the handicapped, youth and educational activities among others.

They would like to have every catholic man join their ranks.



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