



CEREMONIAL FOR BLESSING OF THE SWORDS



A. ENTRANCE PROCESSION:

{If a Mass forms part of the ceremony, the Mass should be said before the ceremony. After the Mass is over, the procession is lead into the Church by the District Marshall, followed by the Commanders, then Officers by rank and then the members follow the Officers.}

Processional Hymn: “*COME HOLY GHOST*”

{All stand and sing as the procession enters the Church}

B. PRAYER FOR UNITY:

Worthy District Master or Designate:

“Sir Knights, please stand and repeat after me.”

“Lord Jesus Christ / You who prayed ‘That all may be one’ / help us grow in respect / and in love for one another. / Send forth your Spirit / of wisdom and understanding / to unite our minds and hearts in Your love / so that all of our differences of culture and language / may bring us in harmony as one / to the glory and praise of our Eternal Father in Heaven. AMEN”



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C. PRAYER:

{Said by the Faithful Friar, or attending priest – ALL KNEE}

Faithful Friar or attending Priest:

“Direct, O Lord, our actions by your holy inspirations that, what we begin in your name, may be brought by You, and through You, to a happy conclusion. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN”

“Make us, O Lord, to have a perpetual fear and love for Your Holy Name; for You have never failed to help and govern those who are steadfast in such love and fear. May we, as individuals, and as members of the Knights of Columbus, praise You with our words and deeds. Grant that we may love you with our whole souls, our whole minds, our whole hearts, and with all our strength. AMEN.”

“Grant, O Lord, that this occasion may be a public renewal of our determination to remain staunch, loyal, Catholic men, and worthy members of our great fraternal Order, the Knights of Columbus. May we go about our appointed tasks without thought of personal honour, but only of glory for Your Holy Name, and that of our Holy Mother Church. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.”



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D. HOMILY:

{The Faithful Friar will give a short homily.}

E. KNIGHTS PLEDGE AND BLESSING:

{All Sir Knights stand and repeat after the District Master or his designate.}

“In the presence of Almighty God / and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, here present upon this altar, / and of our Lady Mary / the Holy Mother of God / and of the Knights, St Michael and St George / and of all good Knights, angels, and Saints, / and trusting in the help of these / I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR / to serve both God and country / in full truth and loyalty / to fight manfully for them / for all Ladies, the weak and the oppressed / and in this cause / and in the defense of these / never to count the cost.

**May I keep this, my oath / sacred and true / may I do this, my duty / Knightly and well / and may Almighty God in his mercy / grant me His grace / so that my life may be without reproach / my death with honour / and my place in Eternal Life / with those whose aid I hereby invoke.
AMEN.”**

F. SWORD OF FAITH

{Faithful Navigator reads the “Sword of Faith”}

- the swords blessed today are not weapons of hurt, of pain or for shedding blood
- but spiritual weapons
- a weapon not of hurt, but of love
 - to cut through the hate & bigotry of the world



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- just as Our Lady has a sword pierce her soul, our swords remind us of her
- a weapon not of pain, but of healing
 - like a surgeon's scalpel, the sword of the Knights cuts away sin & division
- a weapon not to shed blood, but to protect life
 - the defense of the unborn, the elderly the disadvantaged
 - a sword to protect; a sign of vigilance
- so this blessing of the swords shows what the 4th degree is all about:
 1. love of Christ & His blessed Mother
 2. defense of the faith & holy mother church
 3. protection for those unable to protect themselves
- So, noble Sir Knights, if you are asked what makes you special, what makes you different, you can proudly say that:
 - "I stand for God, his church and his people ... this is my pledge...this is my duty ... this is my honour... this is why I am a Knight.



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G. FRIAR'S BLESSING:

{All kneel for the Friar's blessing}

“May the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, that he may defend you;

Within you, that He may sustain you;

Before you, that He may lead you on;

Above you, that He may bless you;

He who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain forever. AMEN.”

H. THE BLESSING OF THE SWORDS:

{At this point, the District Marshall leads the Knights, in columns of two, with the Commanders behind the Marshall and the Officers following in order of rank, and all the membership behind the Officers, up the centre aisle of the Church, stopping at the first pew.}

District Marshall: “Sir Knights, present swords”

{Sir Knights will remove their swords, in their scabbard, from their service baldric and present it by holding the sword, in its scabbard, horizontally [hilt to the left] in both hands in front of their bodies; Marshall will retreat to the side.}

District Marshall: “Kneel on right knee with sword **held in front”**

Faithful Friar: “Our help is in the name of the Lord”

ALL: “Who made Heaven and Earth?”

Faithful Friar: “The Lord be with you”

ALL: “And also with you”



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Faithful Friar:

**“Let us pray:
O God, by Whose word all things are made Holy, pour
down Your blessings on these swords which you have
created. Grant, that whoever, giving thanks to you, uses
them in accordance with Your Law and Your Will, may,
by calling upon Your Holy Name, receive through Your
aid, health of body and protection of soul.
Through Christ Our Lord. AMEN”**

*{The Faithful Friar then walks through the centre aisle blessing the
swords with holy water.}*

*On his return to the altar, the Faithful Friar leads the assemble in “O
CANADA”}*

I. PROCESSIONAL:

HYMN: “HOLY GOD WE PRAISE THY NAME:

COME HOLY GHOST
(#516 in the C.B.W.)

Come, Holy Ghost, creator blest,
And in our hearts take up your rest;
Come with your grace and heav'nly aid
To fill the hearts which you have made,
To fill the hearts which you have made.

O Comforter, to you we cry,
The heav'nly gift of God most high;
The fount of life and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.

To ev'ry sense your light impart,
And shed your love in ev'ry heart.
To our weak flesh, your strength supply:

Unfailing courage from on high,
Unfailing courage from on high.

O grant that we through you may come
To know the Father and the Son,
And hold with firm, unchanging faith
That you are spirit of them both,
That you are spirit of them both.

Now let us praise Father and Son,
And holy spirit, with them on;
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow,
The gifts that from the Spirit flow,





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O CANADA (#733 in the C.B.W.)

O Canada, Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The true North strong and free;
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

HOLY GOD WE PRAISE THY NAME (#631 in the C.B.W.)

Holy God, we praise thy name,
Lord of all, we bow before thee;
All on earth thy sceptre claim,
All in heaven above adore thee;
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising,
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord;
Holy! Holy! Holy lord!