

Ceremonial for Renewal of Obligations

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

(*All officers at their stations — the Master of Fourth Degree seated at the right of Faithful Navigator, the Faithful Friar at left of Faithful Navigator — all members seated in usual places. NO emblems on tables. Signal table replaced by table about two feet square, containing four folded linen cloths, i.e., red, white, blue, yellow; also small yellow silk cushion [Papal color].*)

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

Faithful Navigator — 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 Fourth Degree proceeds to 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 Master of Fourth Degree.*) (*One rap.*)



Master of Fourth Degree — The Guards of this Assembly are now relieved from duty. (*Guards, retire, one to each side of Chamber.*)

Master of Fourth Degree — I call upon my Worthy Marshal to prepare the Assembly Chamber for the ceremonial of the Renewal of our Obligations. I ask the Faithful Scribe and the Faithful Comptroller to assist him.

(*Marshall comes to the center of Chamber, with Faithful Scribe and Faithful Comptroller on either side, and all three salute. The Marshall takes the yellow cloth, the Faithful Scribe the red cloth, and the Faithful Comptroller the blue cloth,*

and cover respectively the tables of the Faithful Comptroller, Faithful Admiral, and Faithful Pilot, then placing the proper emblems on each table. The Faithful Scribe and Faithful Comptroller return, the former setting out the white cloth on the signal table and the latter placing the yellow cushion on same table, in front positions. All three salute and retire to former positions.)

Master of Fourth Degree — 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.*)

(*Flag is given the usual salute and then — one rap.*)



Master of Fourth Degree — Faithful Admiral. Who is the proper officer responsible to your Faithful Navigator for the emblems of the Fourth Degree?

Faithful Admiral — Worthy Master, the Faithful Pilot.

Master of Fourth Degree — Faithful Pilot. What are those emblems of the Fourth Degree?

Faithful Pilot — Worthy Master the Flag, the Sword and the Cross.

Master of Fourth Degree — Sir Knights. Well and truly has your Faithful Pilot spoken. My Worthy Marshall will now convey to the Signal table, those glorious symbols of our Fourth Degree — the Flag of our (country, empire, republic, as the case may be), the Sword of Liberty and the Cross of Christ.

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

Marshall — Worthy Master. The Assembly Chamber is now fully prepared in obedience to your order. I await your commands.

Master of Fourth Degree — 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, seeing that no person enters or leaves this Chamber without permission of the Master, until you are yourself relieved from duty.

(*Marshall salutes — goes to door — relieves the Faithful Inner Sentinel from duty.*)

Master of Fourth Degree — The three chair officers in order of their positions will now approach the emblem table. *(They advance in single file, about two feet apart.)* The Faithful Scribe and the Faithful Comptroller will take up positions at either side of the Faithful Admiral. The Faithful Inner Sentinel will come forward. *(He advances to a point 2 feet behind the Faithful Pilot.) (Three raps.)*



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 Guards 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 Guards move the entire membership into a curved line behind the Officer.)

Master of Fourth Degree — Let us keep utmost in our minds the pledges of the first three degrees, and the principles of our Order: Charity, Unity and Fraternity. *(turning to the 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.

Master of Fourth Degree — *(turning to 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 aloud, and all present repeat.)

Master of Fourth Degree — Sir Knights you may now retire to your accustomed places.

(The members salute and take their seats.)

The Faithful Scribe and the Faithful Comptroller may take their stations.

(They salute and do so.)

The Faithful Inner Sentinel will now resume his post, whereupon my Worthy Marshall is relieved therefrom. *(He salutes and retires.)*

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 office 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 signal table and salutes.)

Marshall — 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.

Master of Fourth Degree — 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. *(He salutes and retires.)*

Master of Fourth Degree — The Guards will now resume their duties. *(They do so.)*

Master of Fourth Degree — 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 Fourth Degree and the Faithful Navigator change places as before done.)

Faithful Navigator — Sir Knights. Let us now sing the Opening Ode.

(The meeting proceeds in the regular manner.)