

# INTERNATIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CONFERRAL CEREMONY

Developed by Georgia DeMolay, Introduced 1999

*This ceremony is to be used to confer an Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary membership in the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. This ceremony is meant to be given at a Jurisdictional Conclave, or another event deemed appropriate by the Executive Officer of the jurisdiction in order to give the candidate the necessary recognition. It is a public ceremony, and should be open to all members, advisors, community members, and other guests. The entire ceremony is to be given from memory. Only Supreme Council Members may perform parts. If the required numbers of Supreme Council Members are not available, a Legion of Honor recipient may fill a part, but only as a last resort. The Supreme Commander in the East may only be performed by the Executive Officer or another **Active** Member of the Supreme Council.*

*Required Parts: Supreme Commander in the East: S.C.; Commander in the West: C.W.; Commander in the South: C.S.; Supreme Marshal: S.Mar.*

*Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on S.C.'s pedestal, Open Holy Bible and School books on the Altar, National flag in standard, seven candlesticks with candles arranged around the Altar in the usual manner, appropriate Supreme Council Collar (Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary) placed beside the Holy Bible on the Altar.*

*Optional Paraphernalia: Altar cloth, Altar flowers, pedestal covers, gavel on C.W.'s and C.S.'s pedestals.*

*Prior to the beginning of the ceremony, officers will take their positions and remain standing.*

S.C. \* (rap)

*All except S.C. sit down.*

S.C. It is my honor and privilege to stand before you today to elevate a deserving individual to a position of influence, honor, and respect within the structure of the Order of DeMolay. The Order of DeMolay has stood for generations as a beacon for the seven cardinal virtues on which it was founded. Those virtues—love of parents, reverence, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism are as vital to a prosperous and civilized society today as they were when Dad Frank S. Land identified them as the basic tenets of the Order at its founding.

Standing guard over those virtues and the other bulwarks of the Order are the members of the International Supreme Council. Those who serve on that body are charged not only with upholding the traditions of DeMolay, but ensuring its future as well. The International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay is the supreme authority in all matters for the entire Order of DeMolay, and has all powers necessary and appropriate to this authority. Those who reside on the Supreme Council must be at least thirty years of age and be a Master Mason in good standing. They must be nominated by Active Member of the body, receive the proper recommendations, have their nomination undergo a review process and stand for election before those already seated as members of the Supreme Council, in a ballot held during an executive session of the body.

However, nomination alone does not guarantee election. During the nomination and review process, a past support for the Order must be evident and the prospect of a continued commitment to DeMolay must also be evident as well.

Brother Supreme Marshal, you will present he who is about to be elevated to the rank and dignity of membership in the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.

*S.Mar. moves to the place where the designate is seated, and conducts him to the point between the Alter and the East, facing East.*

**S.Mar.** Brother Supreme Commander, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you and through you to the Advisors, Members and friends of the Order of DeMolay here assembled ..... (speaks the name of the designate) who has been nominated and elected by the members of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, to rise to the highest level of service in DeMolay as a(n) ..... (Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary) Member of the International Supreme Council.

**S.C.** My brother, you have been presented to me and these Advisors, DeMolay members and guests here assembled to be elevated to membership in the International Supreme Council, the governing body of the Order of DeMolay. The Supreme Council establishes the rules and policies under which all Jurisdictions and Chapters must operate. The Supreme Council is the foundation on which the organization sits. It is the responsibility of the Supreme Council to oversee and approve any changes to our Ceremonies. The Supreme Council is also charged with nominating and electing deserving individuals to receive special Honors and Awards such as the Legion of Honor, the Cross of Honor and the Degree of Chevalier, among others.

**Substitute the appropriate paragraph depending on the classification of the designate:**

*Active Member:*

**S.C.** Brother ....., you have been selected to become an Active Member of the International Supreme Council. The Active Members of the Supreme Council number less than 200. As an Active Member, you will be invested with all honors conferred by the International Supreme Council, including the Legion of Honor and the Degree of Chevalier. As an Active Member, it shall be your duty to attend all Supreme Council Sessions, including Executive Sessions, serve on committees, propose measures, be heard in debate, and vote in committee and general sessions. Your responsibility and commitment to DeMolay is required and necessary for the overall strength and longevity of our organization.

*Deputy Member:*

**S.C.** Brother ....., you have been selected to become a Deputy Member of the International Supreme Council. Your election as a Deputy Member places you among those whose input has great influence on the projects, programs and truly the future of the Order for you will be among those who shape the policies that guide the Order into the future. As a Deputy Member, you may attend all Supreme Council Sessions, with the exception of Executive Sessions, serve on committees, be heard in debate, and vote in committee.

*Honorary Member:*

**S.C.** Brother ....., you have been selected to become an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council. The Supreme Council has noted your commitment to DeMolay and now gives you the opportunity to attend Supreme Council Sessions, with the exception of Executive Sessions. At these sessions you will have opportunities to interact with other members of the Supreme Council and to put your powers of persuasion to work in moving the electors to form and adopt policies and procedures that will serve the Order well as it moves forward.

*Emeritus Member:*

**S.C.** Brother ....., you have been selected to become an Emeritus Member of the International Supreme Council. Having already served the Supreme Council for many years, you are now passing the day in and day out responsibilities of Supreme Council Membership to others. Your experience and involvement is appreciated by the members of the body. As an Emeritus member, you will maintain the opportunity to attend all Supreme Council Sessions, including Executive Sessions, serve on committees, propose measures, and be heard in debate.

**S.C.** Brother Supreme Marshal, you will conduct this brother to the Commander in the South.

*S.Mar. conducts the designate directly to the South, facing South.*

**S.Mar.** Brother Commander in the South, I present to you brother ..... who has been nominated and elected by the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, to join in the highest level of service in DeMolay as a(n) ..... (Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary) Member of the International Supreme Council.

**C.S.** My brother, you stand now in the South, emblematic in a day of the meridian hour of rest and refreshment. More importantly, in the course of a human life the South is symbolic of the noontime of life and the years of manhood. It is incumbent upon each of us who enters the noontime of life to reach back and help those who come along behind in learning how to set a positive, productive and useful course for their lives. I implore you to never lose sight of this most noble of purposes. For to cease to provide dedicated and consecrated leadership to new generations of young men is to set them adrift in an unforgiving world.

Brother Supreme Marshal, you will conduct this brother to the Commander in the West.

*S.Mar. conducts the designate directly to the West, facing West.*

**S.Mar.** Brother Commander in the West, I present to you brother ..... who has been nominated and elected by the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, to join in the highest possible level of service in DeMolay as a(n) ..... (Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary) Member of the International Supreme Council.

**C.S.** My brother, you stand now in the West, emblematic of the setting sun and the end of the day. More importantly, in the course of a human life, the West is symbolic of the later years and the end of our earthly pilgrimage. Upon becoming a Member of the International Supreme Council, the Order of DeMolay will be intertwined in your life until its end. It is our hope that when you reach the evening of your life, that you will look back and see countless young men's lives that you have influence for the better. As a Member of the Supreme Council, you are placed in a position to exert a great deal of influence over an organization that has the ability to shape and mold the leaders of tomorrow. Do not take this responsibility lightly, for the very future of DeMolay rests on the shoulders of the Supreme Council.

Brother Supreme Marshal, you will conduct this brother to the Altar.

*S.Mar. conducts the designate directly to the Altar, facing East.*

**S.C.** My brother, we must now hear from you a public declaration of your commitment and responsibility to DeMolay as a Member of the International Supreme Council. Are you prepared to make this declaration?

**Des.** I am.

**S.C.** \* \* \* (3 raps)

*G.C. moves directly to the point in the center of the seven candles. C.W. and C.S. join him in the center of the seven candles and form a triangle, standing directly behind him and to his right and left, respectively.*

**S.C.** Then you will kneel on both knees . . .

*Done.*

**S.C.** . . . and place both hands on the Holy Bible.

*Done.*

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will always uphold the seven cardinal virtues of the Order of DeMolay and always strive to ensure that any rules or policies being considered for adoption are in keeping with these virtues?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will always conduct yourself in a manner that will bring no discredit upon your position, the International Supreme Council itself, or the Order of DeMolay in general?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise to work loyally and earnestly with the Supreme Council Officers and other Supreme Council Members in the conduct of the business that may come before you?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will make every effort to attend any required sessions of the Supreme Council?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will maintain regular contact with the members of DeMolay in your jurisdiction by attending Chapter meetings and Jurisdictional activities as often as possible?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will work zealously to promote the growth and development DeMolay in your jurisdiction and community?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Do you promise that you will make every effort possible to make the Order of DeMolay a better organization for the ever-changing needs of young men, while keeping the traditions of the Order of DeMolay intact?

**Des.** I do.

**S.C.** Then you will seal your vows by kissing the Holy Bible.

*S.C., C.W., and C.S., move to the West side of the Altar. All participate in elevating the collar and placing it around the neck of the designate.*

**S.C.** As I place this collar around your neck, you will arise, a(n) (Active, Deputy, Emeritus, or Honorary) Member of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.

*S.C. returns to the East.*

**S.C.** \* (rap)

*C.W. and C.S. return to their stations.*

**S.C.** \* (rap)

*C.W. and C.S. sit down.*

**S.C.** My brother, I now greet you as a fellow member of the International Supreme Council. I look forward to working with you as a member of that august body in the future. The collar, which you now wear around your neck, is a symbol of your position, and you will be greeted at all DeMolay events with the highest level respect, which you have earned. I remind you that your service to DeMolay has now moved to a higher level. In taking on this position, your responsibilities are now magnified and much more will be expected from you. I thank you for the work you have already done for DeMolay and for your added commitment to this organization whose sole purpose is to make the youth of today the leaders of tomorrow.

Brother Supreme Marshal, you will conduct this Supreme Council Member to a seat of honor within this assembly.

*S.Mar. returns designate to his seat, and returns to his station.*

**S.C.** \* (rap)

*All sit down*