

STATE PRIORY OF GEORGIA INSTALLATION SERVICE

Required Parts: Installing Illustrious Knight Commander (IIKC), Installing Preceptor (IPre), Illustrious Knight Commander (IKC), Squire Commander (SC), Page Commander (PC), appointed officers.

At commencement of the ceremony, Priory room is set up in the normal manner, candles lit, Bible open on Altar.

IPre enters. Goes to spot directly between the Altar and the East.

IPre Sir Knights, fellow DeMolays, and friends of chivalry and the chivalrous, we invite you to give heed as the Illustrious Knight Commander and the officers of the State Priory of Georgia, Order of Knighthood, are installed by the Illustrious Knight who is even now approaching the portal of this Priory.

IIKC enters, sword at carry. IIKC proceeds directly to Altar, presents sword at Altar, and places sword on open Bible. IIKC turns North and proceeds directly to his station.

IHKC * (rap)

IPre sits.

IHKC Friends, Sir Knights, and Brethren, the doors of this Priory open wide to you in hearty welcome. In the character of Chivalric Knights of the Holy Order of the Fellow Soldiers of Jacques DeMolay we assemble here for the purpose of installing our officers and to that duty we now dedicate ourselves.

The age of Chivalry will always hold for us the glory and pomp of mediaeval pageantry. The noblest precepts of Knighthood's Code are legacies from earlier ages that will survive all transitory human institutions and be a part of the eternal heritage of the race.

We of today find it difficult to explain the introduction and growth of Knighthood. It is obscure in so many details. To us the words "Knight" and "Knighthood" are modern forms of old English and of these the primary signification of the first was a boy or youth, and of the second the period of life between childhood and manhood—but before the middle of the Twelfth Century they had the meaning of "Chevalier" in France.

We of this Order trace our lineage back to Jacques DeMolay, a Frenchman, the last Grand Master of the Templars, who was burned to death in 1314 on a small isle in the River Seine in front of the Cathedral of Notre Dame at Paris. DeMolay was one of the ten Templars who survived the Battle of Acre in 1291. We might fitly call the days that marked his passing the Autumn of Chivalry.

The Medieval Crusades are now laden with the dust of antiquity and we of this generation catch only a backward glimpse of the spirit of a knight-errantry that existed only while Knighthood was in Flower.

The Knights of this Order are dedicated to Love of God, Love of Home, and Love of Country. We accept into our ranks only those who by practice and devotion to the cause of good, lead in the fields of accomplishment and endeavor. Like the Knights of old, we stand forth consecrated to protecting the weak and the helpless, the oppressed and suffering—and to build a bridge of chivalry that the peoples of the world might cross to more kindly and successful living.

IPre (stands) Illustrious Knight Commander, there are assembled at the outer portal those Knights whom the members of this Priory have selected to serve as officers for the ensuing term.

IHKC Sir Knight Preceptor, you will bid them enter.

IPre moves to door and opens door.

IPre Sir Knights, you may enter.

Officers except IKC enter in two lines, swords at carry, proceed to the Altar.

SC (drill command) Open, ranks

IHKC Sir Knight Preceptor, you will introduce the Sir Knights of this Priory who have been elected or appointed to offices for the ensuing term.

As each officer is introduced, he proceeds to the Altar, presents his sword over the Altar, returns his sword to carry, and returns to his position in line.

IPre Illustrious Knight Commander, I have the honor to present Sir Knight *****, who has been appointed Sentinel, Sir Knight *****, who has been appointed Sacristan . . . (and so on through the officers of the Priory, making the necessary change in wording for those who are elected rather than appointed and excluding Illustrious Knight Commander for now.)

IHKC Sir Knights who have been elected or appointed to serve for the following term, your duties are many and varied. Some of you are responsible for conducting or examining the Serving Brethren who knock at the Threshold of our Priory. Others of you are responsible for planning and carrying out the day to day activities of our Priory. All of you, however, must help the Illustrious Knight Commander in his endeavors for this term. More importantly, though, you must uphold and defend the ideals and precepts of the Order of DeMolay and the Order of Knighthood. I commend to you the responsibility of living lives as an example for younger DeMolays who naturally look to you for guidance and assistance. This is no small task. Your words and actions will be under constant scrutiny, and you must take care to always live so that the Seven Jewels in the Crown of Youth do not lose their luster or sparkle under the Seven Great Lights.

IHKC Sir Knights, you will prepare this Priory for the entrance of the Illustrious Knight Commander-Elect.

SC (Drill commands) Inward, face / Present, swords

IKC, escorted by IPre and without sword, enters, proceeds toward the Altar through the middle of the two lines. When they approach the drill team . . .

SC (drill command) Cross, swords

IKC and IPre proceed through honor guard to the Altar. When they stop . . .

SC (drill commands) Carry, swords / Forward, face

IPre Illustrious Knight Commander, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present Sir Knight ***** who has been elected by the Knights of this Priory to serve as Illustrious Knight Commander.

IHKC Sir Knight Squire Commander, there stands Sir Knight *****. It is reported that he is the choice of the Knights of this Priory to serve as Illustrious Knight Commander. What say you in the camp of the Squires?

SC Illustrious Knight Commander, we have chosen him.

IHKC Sir Knight Page Commander, there stands Sir Knight *****. It is reported that he is the choice of the Knights of this Priory to serve as Illustrious Knight Commander. What say you in the camp of the Pages?

PC Illustrious Knight Commander, we have chosen him.

IHKC Sir Knights of the State Priory of Georgia, there stands Sir Knight *****. It is reported that he is your choice to serve as Illustrious Knight Commander. What say you?

All We have chosen him.

IHKC Sir Knight *****, you have heard the voice of your fellow Knights. They say that they have chosen you to be their **Illustrious Knight Commander**. Will you now accept the highest trust which they have in their power to bestow?

IKC Installing Illustrious Knight Commander, I will accept the trust.

IHKC The office of **Illustrious Knight Commander** demands the highest dedication to the principles of **Knighthood** and the ideals of **chivalry**. Are you now willing to be reconsecrated to those ideals and principles?

IKC I am willing to be so reconsecrated.

IHKC * * * (3 raps)

IHKC proceeds to the east side of Altar.

IHKC Then you will kneel on both knees and place both hands upon the Holy Bible and the Sword of Chivalry.

IHKC kneels on the east side of the Altar and places his hands on top of IKC's hands.

IHKC Do you humbly and with good intent promise to govern this Priory with impartiality and kindness?

IKC I do so promise.

IHKC Do you promise upon your honor as a Knight that you will demand of each Knight of this Priory clean living, high respect for parents, and deference to womanhood?

IKC I do so promise.

IHKC Do you promise to practice true chivalry by aiding the distressed and weary and never permitting a Knight to go in need?

IKC I do so promise.

IHKC Do you promise that you will at all times at all times obey the constitution, statutes, and regulations of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay?

IKC I do so promise.

IHKC Lastly, do you promise, Sir Knight *****, to emulate the heroism and fidelity of Jacques DeMolay should duty demand it?

IKC I do so promise.

IHKC rises.

IHKC You will detach your hands and rise.

IHKC returns to east.

IHKC **Illustrious Knight Commander**, you will have noted that each of your fellow officers is armed with a sword which is the chief symbol of the power and of the responsibility of **Knighthood**. Yet you have no sword. I assure you that this is not because your power and responsibility are less than theirs. On the contrary, to you now falls the highest privilege and greatest obligation, that of leadership. Rather, the fact that you alone bear no sword is to remind you in the most solemn manner possible that, although you are the chosen leader of these Knights, you must in the final analysis depend upon them for support and protection.

During the coming months, **Illustrious Knight Commander**, your sword will rest where it now lies, upon the **Altar of Knighthood**. This is to remind you that you have assumed the awesome responsibility of creating and dedicating new Knights. Thus, to you has been entrusted the very heart of this Priory, not just for your term of

office, but for the months and years beyond. Therefore, I charge you to see that no man unworthy of the title of Knight shall ever feel the weight of that sword when wielded by your hand. Even as your fellow Knights protect you, so must you protect them, and this Priory, and the very existence of Knighthood.

IIC Sir Knights, brethren, and friends, there stands the Illustrious Knight Commander. You will greet him with a hearty welcome. (IIC leads applause.)

IIC Sir Knight Preceptor, you will proclaim the Illustrious Knight Commander and the officers of this Priory duly and regularly installed.

IPre goes to West side of the Altar, places right hand on Bible and Sword, and raises left hand.

IPre In the name of the International Supreme Council, and under direction of the Installing Illustrious Knight Commander, I now proclaim the Illustrious Knight Commander and the officers of the State Priory of Georgia duly and regularly installed. May God protect and guide them and the Knights of this Priory.

IIC * (rap)

IPre goes to his station.

IIC This concludes our service of installation. I heartily thank all of you for your presence and hope that we may greet you often in the future as brothers and friends of Knighthood and the Order of DeMolay. Illustrious Knight Commander, with your permission, the Knights of this Priory will retire.

IKC (turns to face drill team) (drill command) Priory, dismissed.

Drill team about faces, exits room. When team has exited room, IIC descends dais and approaches west side of Altar by way of North. IKC receives dual escort from IIC and IPre. The three exit the room.