

STATE PRIORY OF GEORGIA INSTALLATION SERVICE

Required Parts: Installing Illustrious Knight Commander (IIC), Installing Preceptor (IPre), Installing Prior (IPri), Installing Senior Deacon (ISD), Illustrious Knight Commander (IKC), Squire Commander (SC), Page Commander (PC), appointed officers.

IIC should be performed by the outgoing Illustrious Knight Commander. Other installing parts should be performed by Past Illustrious Knight Commanders.

At commencement of the ceremony, Priory room is set up in the normal manner. Crown of Youth is at the ISD's station, Knightly Robe is at the IPri's station, Gilded Spurs are at the IPre's station, Sword of Chivalry is in possession of IIC, Candles are unlit, and Bible is closed 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 Knights who are even now approaching the portal of this Priory.

IIC enters, sword at carry, followed by IPri and ISD. IIC proceeds directly to Altar, and IPri and ISD form triangle behind him with IPri on the south and ISD on the north. IIC kneels at Altar with sword for a moment of silent prayer. IPri, ISD, and IPre bow their heads but do not kneel as IIC prays.

IIC Amen.

Team To God and His Dominion.

IIC rises and presents sword at Altar, then places sword on Bible. IPre turns south and meets IIC at Altar and escorts him to his station. As IIC and IPre turn east, IPri turns south and ISD simultaneously turns north and proceed to their stations. When all have reached their stations...

IIC * (rap)

Team sits.

IIC 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.

At this point, if any dignitaries are in attendance, they should be received by the IIKC and presented west of the Altar by IPre. IIKC may also instruct the IPre to conduct dignitaries to seats in the east. When all dignitaries have been received...

IPre (stands) Installing 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.

IIKC **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 with swords at carry and proceed to the Altar.

SC (drill command) Open, ranks

IPre returns to his station.

IIKC **Sir Knights, the Portal of this Priory has opened wide to you in congratulation and welcome. It is our happy duty to assist you to begin the work of your respective offices. First, however, we must prepare the Altar so that we may receive you according to the required forms of our Order. I urge you to pay close attention as the landmarks of Knighthood are explained.**

IIKC **Sir Knight Installing Prior, Sir Knight Installing Preceptor, Sir Knight Installing Senior Deacon, you will prepare the Altar of Knighthood.**

IPri, IPre, and ISD rise and pick up the paraphernalia that is at their respective stations. IPri and IPre turn north as ISD turns south. They walk toward each other, forming a line in front of the IIKC's podium, with IPri in the center. They simultaneously turn west toward the Altar. They walk forward until they are inside the seven candlesticks and one step away from the Altar.

ISD approaches the Altar, places the Crown of Youth on the northeast corner of the Altar, and returns to his place in line.

IIKC **The Crown of Youth is brought to the Altar to remind us that we are first and foremost DeMolays who are dedicated to seven cardinal virtues. I solemnly enjoin the members of this Priory ever to be mindful of the lessons learned in the camps of the Pages and Squires and of our duty as Knights to continue our labors there, so that our younger brothers may not suffer for want of our comradeship and assistance.**

IPre approaches the Altar, places the Gilded Spurs on the southeast corner of the Altar, and returns to his place in line.

IIKC **The Gilded Spurs which are placed on the Altar of Knighthood remind us of valiant steeds and courageous warriors and their many acts of valor on the battlefields from Acre to Hastings. Let these Spurs also remind the Knights of this Priory that there are battles yet to be fought in our lives, for there is constant warfare between good and evil, between right-thinking and wrong-thinking, between the scrupulous and the unscrupulous. May the memory of the valor of the Knights of old spur us on in every contest of life which we shall enter.**

IPri approaches the Altar, places the Knightly Robe at the center of the east side of the Altar, and returns to his place in line.

IHKC The Knightly Robe which is placed on the Altar is the Robe which was presented symbolically to each Knight of this Priory as he renewed his obligations as a DeMolay and consecrated himself to new endeavors at the Altar of Knighthood. The Knightly Robe reminds us of the terrible trials which Jacques DeMolay endured without compromising his principles or betraying his fellow Knights. May his example of unfaltering fidelity be a constant inspiration to the Knights here assembled that they may be equally faithful to the principles of Knighthood and to their fellow Knights no matter what the cost may be.

IPri, IPre, and ISD simultaneously about-face.

IHKC Sir Knight Installing Preceptor, you will attend at the Altar; Sir Knight Installing Senior Deacon, you will light the Seven Great Lights.

IPre turns south as ISD turns north. IPre goes around the west side of the Altar to the first candle as ISD goes to the north. They simultaneously light the candles as IHKC speaks.

IHKC We open this convocation of Chivalric Knights by illuminating the Seven Great Lights of our Order. These lights shined down upon the Knights here assembled when they first knelt at the Altar of DeMolay and again when they knelt at the Altar of Knighthood as Serving Brethren in search of Knightly honors. The Seven Great Lights represent the tenants to which every DeMolay swears to uphold and to which every Knight swears to defend: Filial Love, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness, and Patriotism.

IPre and ISD return to their places in line and face east.

IHKC Sir Knight Installing Prior, you will open the Holy Bible on the Altar of Knighthood.

IPri takes one step forward, turns north, and goes to the west side of the Altar. As IPri turns to the west after exiting the seven candlesticks, IPre and ISD simultaneously about-face to face west.

IHKC * * * (3 raps)

IPri kneels at the Altar, removes the Sword of Chivalry, slowly and reverently opens the Bible, and replaces the Sword of Chivalry. IPri rises and takes one step back.

IHKC The Holy Bible is opened on the Altar of Knighthood as a reminder of that faith in the everlasting God which is the foundation of our heritage as DeMolays and Knights. No matter what creed or form of worship we may individually adopt, we can all unite around this sacred record of the mighty acts of God as Knights dedicated to His glory and to His ultimate dominion in the hearts of men.

IPri does an about-face and returns to his station by way of the south. As IPri passes the south side of the Altar, IPre turns south as ISD turns north. IPre and ISD return to their stations.

IHKC Sir Knight Installing Senior Deacon, you will present the colors. Sir Knights, brethren and friends, you will stand at attention and salute our flag.

ISD goes directly to flag and removes it from the stand. Knights with swords remain at attention and do not place hand over heart. ISD carries flag south, between the Altar and the east, then west to the rear of the room, then north to the spot between the rows of Knights.

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

ISD approaches the Altar through the rows of Knights. When ISD grounds flag...

SC (drill command) Carry, swords

IHKC Sir Knights, brethren and friends, join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to our flag.

SC (drill command) Present, swords

*ISD presents flag on SC's command. Because they are at present swords, Knights with swords do **not** repeat pledge. ISD does not repeat pledge.*

All I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

When ISD grounds flag...

SC (drill command) Carry, swords

HKC **Sir Knight Installing Prior, you will assist us in prayer. Sir Knights and DeMolays to your left knee. All others remain standing with bowed head.**

IPre escorts IPri in the usual manner to the west side of the Altar. All except IPre kneel as IPri kneels.

IPri Almighty God, Creator of all that ever was, and is, and ever shall be: we ask Thy blessing upon these Thy servants here assembled. Especially, O Lord, we seek Thy favor for the Knights who will be consecrated to the tasks of leadership this evening. Inspire their hearts, sharpen their minds, guide their hands so that all that they say and do may be worthy of a valiant Knight of this Order. O Father of all Men, help us to take Thy word into our daily lives so that we may be molded into better sons, worthy parents of the future, responsible citizens of this great land, and honorable serving Knights in this house which Thou hast built. Amen.

All To God and His dominion.

All rise. IPre escorts IPri back to his station. When they have arrived at their stations, ISD picks up flag and does an about-face.

SC (drill command) Present, swords

ISD carries flag west through the rows of Knights and turns north.

SC (drill command) Carry, swords

ISD carries flag north to its stand. As ISD places flag in stand...

SC (drill command) Forward, face

ISD returns to his station.

HKC * (1 rap)

All but IPre and Knights to be installed sit.

HKC **Sir Knight Installing 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. Sir Knights without swords give a low bow in lieu of presenting a sword.

IPre Installing 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.)

HKC **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 and 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 **You will detach your hands.**

IHKC and IKC remove hands from the Bible.

IHKC **Will all Past Illustrious Knight Commanders please attend me at the Altar of the Seven Great Lights?**

All PIKC's assemble around the Altar.

IHKC **I now return this collar to the Altar from which I received it. Past Illustrious Knight Commanders, please assist me.**

PIKC's remove collar from the IHKC's neck. IHKC rises.

IHKC **As I place this collar around your neck, you will arise, Illustrious Knight Commander of the State Priory of Georgia, Order of Knighthood.**

All participate in elevating the collar and placing it around the neck of the IKC. IHKC leads applause.

IHKC returns to east as PIKC's return to their seats.

IHKC * (1 rap)

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.

IHKC Sir Knight Installing Preceptor, you will conduct the Illustrious Knight Commander to the east.

IPre escorts IKC to the east and returns to his station.

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

IHKC 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.

IHKC * (rap)

IPre goes to his station.

IHKC * (rap)

IPre sits.

IHKC (to the IKC) Illustrious Knight Commander, this is the gavel of this Priory. I charge you to wield it, not only as the authority of your office requires, but also as your Knightly conscience dictates. It is now your right to govern the State Priory of Georgia and, on behalf of your fellow Knights, I now yield to you the chair of leadership.

IHKC hands gavel to IKC and then sits.

IKC Sir Knight Squire Commander, you will instruct the officers of this Priory to take their stations.

SC (drill command) Sir Knights, to stations

Knights proceed to stations. When all have reached stations...

IKC * (1 rap)

IKC now proceeds with the program for the evening, which may include speeches from dignitaries and presentation of awards. When the program has concluded, IKC should turn the program over to the IHKC to close the proceedings.

IHKC * * * (3 raps)

IHKC Sir Knight Installing Prior, you will assist us once more in prayer. Sir Knights and DeMolays to your left knee. All others remain standing with bowed head.

IPre escorts IPri in the usual manner to the west side of the Altar. All except IPre kneel as IPri kneels.

IPri Almighty God, we approach Thy heavenly throne with that humility which is the true shield of all Knights. Bless our good intentions and guide us in all our undertakings. Inspire our minds with Knightly thoughts and our hearts with chivalrous virtues. Bless the cause in which we labor and, if it be Thy will, may this Order become a power for good in all the world. Amen.

All To God and His dominion.

All rise. IPre escorts IPri back to his station.

IIC Sir Knight Installing Preceptor, you will attend at the Altar; Sir Knight Installing Senior Deacon, you will extinguish the Seven Great Lights.

IPre approaches seventh candle as ISD approaches the north. They simultaneously extinguish the candles as IIC says next line.

IIC Let us be ever mindful of the virtues to which we have pledged to uphold and defend in the Order of DeMolay and the Order of Knighthood: Filial Love, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness, and Patriotism.

IPre and ISD return to their stations.

IIC Sir Knight Installing Prior, you will close the Holy Bible on the Altar of Knighthood.

IPri proceeds unescorted to the west side of the Altar by way of south. IPri kneels at the Altar, removes the Sword of Chivalry, slowly and reverently closes the Bible, and replaces the Sword of Chivalry. IPri rises and takes one step back, does about-face, and returns to his station by way of north.

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. Please remain standing as the Knights of this Priory retire.

IIC hands gavel back to IKC to command drill team.

IKC Sir Knight Squire Commander, you will call the Knights of this Priory to attention.

SC (drill command) Assemble, ranks

Drill team assembles in two lines west of the Altar. IPre, IPri, and ISD proceed west until they reach the Altar, then turn toward the Altar and proceed through the rows of Knights and exit the room.

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

IIC escorts IKC west of the Altar by way of the north. When they have approached the rows of Knights...

SC (drill command) Cross, swords

IIC and IKC proceed through honor guard.

SC (drill command) Carry, swords

IIC and IKC proceed to the Portal. When they have reached the Portal...

IKC (drill command) Priory, dismissed

Drill team about-faces, exits room.