



Supreme Master
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The Catholic Patriot

Supporting our Country, Community, and Church
With
Respect and Honor
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree



Let's Get Social!

As in social baldrics. Because there's been some changes lately and despite best efforts to communicate these changes, it seems that the message never quite makes it down to the membership or often gets jumbled along the way. So, I am committing this month's Supreme Master's message to explaining the changes in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format. So, here we go!

1. Why did the social baldric go away?

Answer: ***It has not gone away.*** Instead, it will no longer be given out to new members at an exemplification.

2. Why was this change made?

Answer: With shipping and handling, the cost of a social baldric eats up approximately 20-25% of the exemplification fee to provide a baldric that will seldom if ever be used again. For one, it does not go with the current uniform, as it was designed for wear with a tuxedo. Two, when it's given to new members completing the degree in a military, law enforcement or firefighter dress uniform, it is not authorized and does not fit with the uniform at all.

3. Who can still wear the social baldric?

Answer: ***Any member.*** Most importantly, those members who still use the tuxedo because they have not been able to acquire the new uniform yet actively participate in the Fourth Degree. This policy change is not intended to make such members feel excluded. New members have the option to buy one for wear at black tie functions requiring a tuxedo, e.g. state or supreme conventions. However, the use of the social baldric with a tuxedo is not mandatory but a way for a member to show pride in their Fourth Degree membership.

4. Can districts or assemblies purchase social baldrics as gifts to new members?

Answer: Yes. Although, it would not seem to be a very practical financial decision considering how seldom they are used any more.

5. What is the dress code for the Patriotic Degree?

Answer: The preferred dress code is the new official uniform with beret. However, if the candidate does not have the new uniform, they may wear a dark suit and tie.

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6. May new candidates wear tuxedos for the Patriotic Degree?

Answer: No – ***effective July 1, 2024***, as it makes no sense to buy or rent a tuxedo for a degree. The expense of purchasing or renting could be used instead to offset the cost of a new uniform.

7. Can mixed honor guards occur where some members still wear their tuxedo and social baldric, and others wear the new uniform?

Answer: No, as it does not lend to uniformity. Honor guards are limited to the new uniform.

8. What is the District Master's Fund and how does this change impact it?

Answer: District Masters are not reimbursed by the Supreme Assembly except in very rare cases. As such, the Master must carefully plan travel to visit assemblies and to conduct degrees. Last year, the Board of Directors voted to increase the exemplification fee to \$90, meaning that a district ***may*** charge up to that amount. Masters often lose money carrying out their duties. Between travel and degrees, many use their own money to keep the Fourth Degree going. Simply put, this is not right! By increasing the fee and eliminating the social baldric for new candidates, it increases the Master's ability to conduct a meaningful degree, Mass, and banquet without going in debt. Essentially, it provides relief to dedicated Sir Knights who are giving significant time and leadership to the Fourth Degree.

9. What is the change with name badges?

Answer: Previously, no name badges were worn with the current uniform, and this creates a bit of confusion. Especially in social settings where nobody knows the names of attendees from other assemblies, etc. To remedy this, members may now wear a Fourth Degree name badge with the current uniform ***ONLY*** in a social setting and ***NEVER*** in an honor guard. Since the embroidered emblem on the left breast and wear of medals prevents wearing a badge on the left, the name badge may be worn on the right breast, using either a pin or magnetic backing.

10. May I wear any name badge?

Answer: No. It must be the Fourth Degree name badge for your assembly or one that designates your current rank, including past or former FN, FF, DM or VSM ranks. There is no requirement to purchase a specific name badge for wear and you may even add a magnetic backing to your current badge instead of incurring additional costs.

11. Are there any exceptions for wearing a Third Degree name badge?

Answer: Yes – ***current*** State Officers (including District Deputies) may wear the badge for their respective office. The same rule applies to ***current*** Supreme Officers and Directors. Past Supreme Knights, Immediate and Past State Deputies, Former State Chaplains, and Former Supreme Directors, may wear their respective badge indefinitely.

I hope that these answers provide a better understanding of the recent changes to policy. However, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Supreme Master's office at SupremeMaster@kofc.org.

Vivat Jesus!

Dates to Remember

July 22, 2024

District Master Quarterly Training

“Planning for Success”

The first step to a successful year is having a great plan. No matter what level you are at, a plan is required to be successful. While there are some lucky people out there for whom things just happen, remember this is not the lottery. Success takes hard work and planning.

We will also be discussing the (VAVS) Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Program. Also known as Serving Those That Served.

A Very Special Exemplification

Oklahoma District of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province welcomed 26 new members in April. The exemplification was held in honor of PSD, FVSM David Roewe 2019-2021 and PSD, FVSM Dan Hogan 2015-2019. Both of the men passed away suddenly this last year. Sean Hogan, son of Dan Hogan was a candidate for this exemplification. Since Dan was not there to knight his son, Sean was knighted, by District Master Bob Melko, VSM Pat Conway, PSD, FVSM Matt Maly, PSD, FVSM Paul Weigl and PSD, FVSM Richard Schulte. If you didn't keep count, that was five swords on this young man's shoulder! FVSM Richard Schulte used FVSM Hogan's sword for the knighting. Sean is fourth from the left in picture below.



Worthy Sirs,

We have seen some good activity in new assembly creation recently. As I have mentioned in various calls, if you need any help on this, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me. Many of you have done that, and it makes the process go more efficient. Remember however, as I stated in one of training sessions, don't create an assembly just for the sake of creating an assembly. Make sure it will be viable. Also, when splitting a large successful assembly, please ensure that you don't hurt what was successful.

Worthy District Masters, please continue to look for opportunities for new assemblies, keeping in mind what I mentioned previously. As I've seen recently, there are plenty of opportunities for new assemblies. Again, if I can help you in any way, please let me know.

Respectively,

Dale Hofer, PSD

Director of New Assembly Development.

250-938-3253





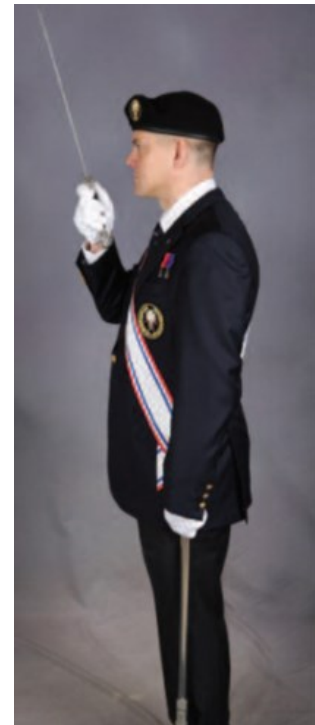
Manual of the Sword

Present Sword

At a recent call out, I noticed a lack of uniformity in how the members of the Honor Guard held their swords. Please work with your FNs to make sure everyone correctly presents their sword. Here is how we do it.

Present Sword

1. This command is used to salute with the sword. It is used when the unit is presented to the colors, to any person, or when the *National Anthem* or *To the Colors* is played.
2. The preparatory command for this order is ***“Present.”***
3. At the command of execution, ***“Sword,”*** raise and move the sword to the front, bringing the hilt of the sword to the center of the chin with the guard flange to the front.
4. As the sword is placed at the center of the chin, allow the flat side of the blade to extend on an angle away from the face of the holder, keeping all of the swords for all of the unit consistent and in a straight line, the thumb on the grip directly behind the guard and the remaining fingers grasping the grip firmly and the right elbow resting against the body. (See Figures 14, 15 and 16.)





Ralph Charles Dunn, PSD, FVSM

1943-2024

Worthy Sir Knight Ralph Dunn passed peacefully on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the Provincial Palliative Care Centre in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Ralph was born on November 18, 1943 in Elmsdale, PEI.

He especially enjoyed volunteering at Holy Redeemer Parish where he was past Chair of Parish Council and Past Grand Knight of the Holy Redeemer Council. He was also Past State Deputy of Prince Edward Island and Vice Supreme Master of the Kelley Province of the Fourth Degree.



The Dalton Assembly of the Most Reverend Francis C. Kelly Province held high school speaking competitions for 2024. Two high school were represented: Ascension Collegiate in Bay Roberts, NL and Crescent Collegiate in Blaketown, NL. First Place went to Sally Smith who spoke on "Should Volunteering Be a High School Graduation Requirement?" and First Runner Up went to Arianna March, who spoke on "How Adequate are Mental Health and Addiction Services for Youth in Newfoundland and Labrador?"

BIENVILLE PROVINCE:

**47 Sir Knights Gathered for the Chrism Mass Celebrated by Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville, Tennessee
Many Assemblies from Across the Middle Tennessee Region Were Represented**



