

## **CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION OF A COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

*Installing Officers*

*I.O:*

*Mar:*

*Installing Commander*

*Installing Marshall*

*Prelate*

*The Grand Officers having been duly received and escorted to their respective stations, the Grand Commander states the purpose of the occasion, and calls upon the Grand Prelate to lead in devotional exercises. A Scripture lesson should be read, and prayer offered, if a choir is present, an appropriate selection of music may be given.*

*The Grand Marshal receives from the Recorder a list of the Officers-elect, and retires with them to the anteroom; forms them in line according to official rank, swords at a carry, Commander on right.*

*An Altar should be placed before the Grand Commander, with Holy Bible opened, and Square & Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, Constitution of Grand Encampment, Statutes, and Regulations of Grand Commandery, and By-Laws of Commandery resting thereon. The Banners of the Commandery are to be displayed from the Commander's station.*

*The Grand Marshal announces Officers-elect. The Grand Commander orders the Sir Knights to form in two divisions, swords at a carry, at open order, full width of Asylum, and inward faced.*

### **Grand March**

*Grand Marshal escorts Officers-elect into Asylum, halts and faces them before Grand Commander, right resting on South, Commander is placed in center, and three paces in front of Officers-elect.*

**Mar:** *(The Grand Marshal will command), Present Swords, and saluting the Presiding Officer will report* (Right)  
*Eminent Sir, I present to you for installation, the Officers duly chosen.*

**I.O:** Sir Knights, before engaging in these important ceremonies, let us unite with our Excellent Prelate in an invocation to Deity. Carry Swords! Order Swords! Uncover! Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions.

*(The Prelate offers an appropriate prayer ending with the Lord's Prayer, in which all join.)*

**I.O:** Sir Knights, Recover! Carry Swords. Sir Knight Marshal, present the Commander-elect.

**Mar:** *(Right) Eminent Sir, I have the honor to present to you, Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected to the office of Commander of this Commandery. I find him to be well skilled in our sublime mysteries, and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers. I have therefore, no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.*

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, are you ready to subscribe to the vow of office? *(On his answer in the affirmative, the Grand Commander will draw his sword and hold it horizontally, the edge toward the Commander-elect, who will place his right hand on the blade, and uncover with his left hand.)*

**Mar:** Commandery, Present Swords.

**I.O:** You will say I, speak your name, and repeat after me, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise and vow, that I will support and maintain, the Constitution, Laws and Rituals, of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, of the United States of America; the Constitution, Laws and Regulations, of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, and the Bylaws of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_. And, that I will faithfully discharge the duties of office as Eminent Commander of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_. So help me God.

**Mar:** Carry Swords! Parade Rest!

*(The Grand Commander will then address the Commander-elect as follows:)*

**I.O:** Having been elected to the important and honorable station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with unfeigned pleasure that I enter upon the discharge of the duty of installing you into office. As the head of a Christian institution you are charged with important responsibilities and duties, and it is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to

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these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself, and credit upon your Commandery. It now becomes my duty to propose certain questions to you, to which unequivocal answers are required. You will hear all the interrogatives and then give your response.

- I. Do you solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Knight Templar, that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained to this Magnanimous Order?
- II. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there be present nine regular Knights of the Order?
- III. That you will not confer the Orders upon anyone who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition, or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the preceding degrees?
- IV. That you will promote the general good of the Order, and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instruction, particularly from the Grand Officers?
- V. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnity of our ceremonies, and behave, in open Commandery, with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your brethren?
- VI. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Commandery that does not work under a Constitutional Dispensation or Charter?
- VII. That you will not admit any Visitor into your Commandery who has not been knighted in a lawful Commandery, without his being first formally healed?
- VIII. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign the chair to them severally, when they may visit your Commandery?
- IX. That you will support and maintain the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act?
- X. That you will bind your successor in Office to the observance of the same rules to which you have now assented?

**I.O:** Do you submit to all these points, and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully? *(After the Commander responds affirmatively, the Grand Commander then addresses him as follows)*

**I.O:** Eminent Sir, having been chosen by the members of your Commandery to fill the most exalted position in their power to bestow, I congratulate you upon being the recipient of such honorable preferment, and now formally invest you with the Jewel of your office, which is a Cross surrounded by Rays of light. It is to remind you that humility, love, and pure benevolence are resplendent rays that emanate from the pure and undefiled religion of the blessed Emanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order. It is to remind you of Him who died that He might give life to the world, and who is indeed the Lord and Savior of all those who accept His guidance and obey His precepts.

I present you the Charter of your Commandery. You will receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed in it, and safely transmit it to your successor in office.

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I also commit to your hands the Holy Bible, the great light in every degree of Masonry, together with the Crossed Swords. The doctrines contained in this sacred volume create in us a belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one living and true God, the Creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth; they also confirm in us a belief in the dispensations of His providence. This belief strengthens our Faith and enables us to ascend the first step of the Grand Masonic ladder. This faith naturally produces in us a Hope of becoming partakers in the promises expressed in this inestimable gift of God to man, which Hope enables us to ascend the second step; but the third and last, being Charity, comprehends the former, and will continue to exert its influence when Faith shall be lost in sight, and Hope ends in fruition. The Crossed Swords, resting upon the Holy Bible are to remind us that we should be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"; that we should put on the whole armor of God, to be able to wrestle successfully against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

I also present you with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this State, and the By-Laws of your Commandery. You will frequently consult them yourself, and cause them to be read for the information of your Commandery, that all, being informed of their duty, may have no reasonable excuse to offer for the neglect of it.

And now, Eminent Sir, permit me to induct you into the chair of your Commandery, and, on behalf of the Sir Knights here assembled, to offer you my most sincere congratulations on your accession to the honorable station you now fill. It will henceforth be your special duty to preserve, inviolate, the Constitution and Laws of the Order; to dispense justice, reward merit, encourage truth, and diffuse the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will distribute alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. You will inculcate the duties of Charity and hospitality, and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation. And finally, my Brother, may the bright examples of the illustrious heroes of former ages, whose matchless valor has shed undying luster over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty!

**Mar:** Commandery, Attention! Present Swords!

**I.O:** Sir Knights behold your Commander. Recollect, Sir Knights, that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support, assistance and obedience, as on the assiduity, fidelity and wisdom of your Commander. Be ye, therefore, diligent and faithful in the performance of your respective duties.

**Mar:** Sir Knights! Carry Swords! Officers-elect, Return Swords! *(If the new Commander desires to offer any remarks, this is the appropriate time. Then may follow a chant or appropriate hymn by the chair. The Grand Marshal then presents the other Officers in the following words: )*

**Mar:** (Right) Eminent Sir: I have the further honor of, presenting to you, for installation, these valiant Sir Knights, who have been chosen to fill the various offices in this Commandery for the ensuing year, and now declare themselves ready to enter upon the duties of their respective stations.

*(The Grand Commander addresses the Officers-elect as follows ☺)*

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**I.O:** Sir Knights, before proceeding to invest you with the honor and responsibility of your respective stations, it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourselves that vow?

*(They bow in token of assent.)*

**I.O:** Sir Knight Marshal, you will place the Officers Elect in proper position.

**Mar:** *(Grand Marshal, turning to the commandery orders:)* Count, twos. Numbers One, Draw Swords; Point Swords to left! Numbers Two, Grasp blade with right hand! Uncover!

**Mar:** *(Right)* Eminent Sir, the Officers chosen are in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

*(Grand Marshal, turning to the Commandery orders:)*

**Mar:** Commandery, Attention! Draw, Swords! Present swords!

**I.O:** Officers-elect, you will say I, speak your name and repeat after me:

### **Vow of Office**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise and vow, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, and the By-Laws of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_. And that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

**Mar:** Officers Elect, Recover! Numbers two, Relinquish sword blade!

*(Grand Marshal addressing the Commandery, orders:)*

**Mar:** Commandery! Carry swords! Return, swords! Sir Knights not in line, be seated.

*(Grand Marshal conducts the Generalissimo first, then the remaining Officers, according to rank, to the Altar, before the Grand Commander, introducing each by his title, and designating the office to which he has been chosen. The Grand Commander will receive each of these Officers with fitting words, calling attention to their official duties and charging them to faithfulness in discharging the same. He will also invest these Officers with their respective jewels, and direct them their respective stations.)*

*(The following are suggested as appropriate charges:)*

### **Charge to the Generalissimo**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square, surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. When beholding the Lamb, let it stimulate you to have at all times, a watchful eye over your own conduct, and an earnest solicitude for the prosperity of the kingdom of the blessed Emanuel, the spotless Lamb of God, who was slain from the foundation of the work.

The Square is to remind you that love and friendship should forever govern the members of Freemasonry and of the Orders of Knighthood. Your station is on the right of your Commander; you are to assist him in his various duties, and in his absence, to preside. I charge you, therefore, to be faithful to the Sir Knights with whom you are associated; put them often in remembrance of those things, which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, "preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all long-suffering doctrine;" ever remembering the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

### **Charge to the Captain General**

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**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Captain General of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Level, surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock stimulates him to conquer his competitor, or yield himself a victim to the contest, so should you be stimulated to the discharge of every duty. You should have "the breastplate of righteousness," so that with patience and meekness you may ever travel on the level of humility, and be so supplied with divine grace as to prevent you from selling your God, or denying your Master. Your station is on the left of your Commander. Your duty, among other things, is to see that due preparation is made for the various conclaves of the Commandery; that the Chambers and Asylum are in suitable array for the introduction of Candidates, and the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines, all orders issued by the Commander. You are to assist in Council, and, in the absence of your Commander and Generalissimo, you are to preside over the Commandery. And now, I exhort you, that with fidelity, you perform every duty; and, "whatsoever ye do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men: continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving"; ever bearing in mind the promise, "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season, ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

### **Charge to the Senior Warden**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is the Hollow Square and Sword of Justice. It is to remind you, that as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness, in order to protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle, and upon the right of the first division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and, after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty, nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

### **Charge to the Junior Warden**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is an Eagle and Flaming Sword. It is to remind you to perform your duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle, and on the left of the third division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrims traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and in due time, recommend them to the Commander. You will be careful that, in addition to the pilgrim's garb, sandals, staff, and scrip, their whole preparation and deportment shall be such as to cause them to be recognized as children of humility. Teach them that ***Magma est Veritas et Proevalebit*** is the motto of Our Order; although they will often find the heights of fortune inaccessible, and the thorny path of life crooked, adverse, and forlorn, yet by faith and humility, courage

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and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to enjoy the rewards that await the valiant soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord that you may be a shining light in the world. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

### **Charge to the Prelate**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Prelate of this Commandery. I have the pleasure of formally investing you with the Triple Triangle, which is the jewel of your office, and a beautiful emblem of Deity. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the Altar, and to offer up prayers to Jehovah. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you; and may "He who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from falling into error, improve, strengthen, establish and perfect you," and finally greet you with "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

### **Charge to the Treasurer**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Keys. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo, in front. The qualities which should recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity; accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements; fidelity, in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a just account of the same whenever he is called upon for that purpose. I presume that your respect and attachment to the Commandery, and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than precious ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

### **Charge to the Recorder**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected Recorder of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Crossed Quill Pens. Your station is on the left of the Captain General, in front. The qualities which should recommend a Recorder are: promptitude in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the conclaves of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper, and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Treasurer. The possession of these good qualities, I presume, has designated you for this important office, and I cannot entertain a doubt that you will discharge its duties beneficially to the Commandery, and honorably to yourself. And when you shall have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you be admitted into the celestial Asylum of saints and angels, and find your name recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Charge to the Standard Bearer**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been chosen Standard Bearer of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Plumb, surmounted by a Banner. Your station is in the West, and in the center of the second division. Your duty is to display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order, which I now, with pleasure, confide to your valor. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger; and when unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will never relinquish it to an enemy, but with your life. Let, therefore, your conduct be such as all the virtuous will delight to imitate; let the resplendent rays, which ever emanate from pure benevolence and humility, diffuse their luster on all around, that it may encourage and animate all true and courteous Knights, and, at the same time, confound and dismay all their enemies.

**Charge to the Sword Bearer**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been chosen Sword Bearer of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triangle and Crossed Swords. Your station is on the right of the Standard Bearer and on the right of the second division. Your duty is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order, with a heart devoted to the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity. Holding the mystic sword that is endowed with justice and fortitude, and tempered with mercy, you may cast your eyes upon the Banner and remember that ***In Hoc Signo Vinces*** is an expressive motto of our Order, and consoling to the heart of every believer.

**Charge to the Warden**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been chosen Warden of this Commandery. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square Plate with a Trumpet and Crossed Swords engraved thereon. Your station is on the left of the Standard Bearer and upon the left of the second division, when separately formed. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Eminent Commander, to post the sentinels, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. You will, also, report all petitions from visitors and strangers. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and indefatigable in the discharge of your important duties, for though yours is among the last officers in the Commandery, it is by no means the least important.

**Charge to the Guards**

**I.O:** Sir Knights \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. You have been chosen Guards. I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square Plate with a Battle Ax engraved thereon. Your posts are those of honor, as well as danger. You will, therefore, be

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vigilant, challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve cheerfully, protect with fidelity, and fight valiantly.

### **Charge to the Sentinel**

**I.O:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ you have been chosen Sentinel of this Commandery, and I now formally invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square Plate with a Battle Ax engraved thereon, and this implement of your office. As the sword is placed In the hands of the Sentinel to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or repass, but such as are duly qualified, so it should morally serve as a constant admonition to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unqualified and unworthy thought, word and deed, and preserving consciences void of offense toward God, and toward man.

As the first application from visitors for admission into the Commandery is generally made to the Sentinel at the door, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers; it is, therefore, essentially necessary that he who sustains the office with which you are entrusted, should be a man of goad morals, steady habits, strict discipline, temperate, affable, and discreet. I trust that a just regard for the honor and reputation of the institution will ever induce you to perform with fidelity, the trust reposed in you, and when the door of this earthly tabernacle shall be closed, may you find an abundant entrance, through the gates, into the temple and city of our God.

### **Charge to the Commandery**

**I.O:** Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the concerns of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity, and skill which the institution demands, will require the exercise of all the talents and perseverance of its Officers and its members. Are any of you so solicitous that your equals and inferiors should conduct themselves toward you with deference and respect? Be sure to let no opportunity pass without furnishing them an example in your own conduct. The Officers will recollect that those moral and religious duties and precepts which they, from time to time, so forcibly impress upon the minds of others, should by no means be neglected by themselves, and the most effectual way to insure success is to let precept and example go hand in hand. I would, therefore, exhort one and all to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South, and see that the entering avenues are strictly guarded, and that you suffer no one to pass the threshold of your Asylum but the worthy children of humility, and at the same time, that you suffer no one to walk among you disorderly, without admonition and reproof. While such is the conduct of the Officers and members, you may rest assured that this Valiant and Magnanimous Order will forever flourish like the green bay tree. And now, Sir Knights, I would address you in the language of David to his beloved city: "Peace be within thy, walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions sake I will now say, Peace be within thee!"

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**I.O:** Sir Knight Marshal, you will pronounce the Proclamation.

**Mar:** (*The Grand Marshal will then say:*) Commandery, Attention! Draw swords! Present swords! (*He will then make the Official Proclamation.*)

**Mar:** Hear ye, Hear ye, Hear ye, Valiant Knights of the Temple. In the name of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, I hereby proclaim that the Officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery, No. \_\_\_\_, Knights Templar, have been duly installed into their respective stations for the ensuing Templar year, and the Commandery is now constitutionally organized for the dispatch of business. This proclamation is made to the North, (*one blast on trumpet*) to the South (*one blast*), to the East (*one blast*), and to the West. (*grand flourish on trumpet*). All true and courteous Knights will take due notice thereof, and govern themselves according to the Sublime Principles of this Magnanimous Order.

**Mar:** Carry, swords! Return, Swords! Sir Knights, be Seated! (*The choir may then chant the "Te Deum Laudamus," or render some appropriate musical selection. The Grand Commander may then retire with a proper escort, and the Commandery will proceed with the regular order of business.*)

### ***Procession at Entrance: (West)***

**Officers to be installed will enter at Carry Swords** from the Northwest, proceed into the Asylum to the center, turn right and lineup across the Asylum with the Commander on the right, i.e.:

Mar	E.C.	Gen	Cg	SW	JW	Trs	Prel	Rcdr	StBr	SwBr	Wrdr	Grd	Sent
		(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)

(South)

Altar

(North)

(East)

*An Altar should be placed before the Grand Commander, with Holy Bible opened, and Square & Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, Constitution of Grand Encampment, Statutes, and Regulations of Grand Commandery, and By-Laws of Commandery resting thereon. The Banners of the Commandery are to be displayed from the Commander's station.*

*The Grand Marshal announces Officers-elect. The Grand Commander orders the Sir Knights to form in two divisions, swords at a carry, at open order, full width of Asylum, and inward faced.*