

CUF Introduction of the 4th Degree.

This introduction begins at the CUF Ceremonial script, pg. 53, after the Presiding Officer calls for applause to congratulate the new Knights and before the instruction that reads, “Presiding Officer refers to next page for instructions on closing remarks.”

The presiding officer announces:

My new Brother Knights, before we move forward, you should know that the Knights of Columbus follow a fourth principle in addition to Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The Fourth Principle of our order is Patriotism.

At this point, the Honor Guard, consisting of two 4th Degree members wearing full regalia, and seated at the back of the congregation, moves to the center aisle, two abreast, and takes the position of “Carry Swords”. The Presiding Officer continues reading as the HG moves into place.

The purpose of the Fourth Degree is to demonstrate that Catholics are devoted to our Faith and our Country. We are both good Catholics and good Citizens.

Members of the Fourth degree are the Visible Arm of the Knights of Columbus.

“Honor Guard, Come Forward!”

At this time members of the Honor Guard, come forward to the ceremonial table with swords at the “Carry Swords” position. When they reach the table, they perform an about face.

*The Presiding Officer gives the command: **Present Swords.!***

The Honor Guard stays at Present Swords as the Presiding Officer continues:

These members of the 4th degree are dressed in full regalia uniforms. They act as escorts for Bishops, serve as Honor Guards for Knight’s funeral rites, march as representatives of the order when called upon, and participate in various National Patriotic celebrations.

The Presiding Officer gives the order “Carry Swords”.

As 3rd degree members, you gentlemen are now eligible to join and participate in the 4th Degree. These Sir Knights will be available to tell you more about the 4th degree and its activities during our reception.

Presiding Officer gives the order, “Honor Guard, Return”

The members in regalia march to their assigned seats, return swords to the scabbards and be seated.

The Presiding Officer then returns to the CUF ceremonial script and concludes the formal presentation of the Exemplification.

Notes:

1: Page references on this instruction refer to the “Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity” ceremonial script that begins on page 40 of the Knights of Columbus Protocol, Meetings, and Ceremonials manual 11620 1/24.

2. Print in **bold** on this introduction page are dialogue for the Presiding Officer. *Italicized* print is instructional information for the P.O. and the Honor Guard.

This addition to the CUF should take no longer than 2 to 3 minutes. More expansive information on the Fourth degreed may be presented by an Assembly representative during the degree reception if desired.