



What is the Fourth Degree?

The Fourth Degree is the patriotic Order of the Knights of Columbus.

Whenever you see a Knight in regalia you know that he is a Fourth Degree member focused on his faith and his duties as a citizen. Sir Knights participate in many functions that are church related, such as First Communions and Confirmation. A big part of the Fourth Degree activity surrounds aiding veterans, flag display, monument presentation and many other local civic programs. Although optional, membership in the Fourth Degree should be a goal every Knight should strive to obtain.

What is a Chapter?

The Knights of Columbus councils in your diocese often meet together as a “Chapter” to communicate and extend the activities and enhance the participation of the area Councils. A function of the Joliet Chapter each year hosts an honors night to recognize diocesan Knights, also sponsors a Bishop’s Burse Dinner, where donations received by the Chapter are given to the Bishop for other worthwhile disbursement. There are many other activities sponsored by the various Chapters across the state and are mostly social functions which bring members together. Consult with your Grand Knight or District Deputy for more information or visit our state website at www.illinoisknights.org for more details.



SHINING ARMOR AWARD

Your challenge as a First Degree Knight is to earn the “Shining Armor Award”. To qualify for this

award you must accomplish the following five goals in your first year as a Knight. We hope you achieve this award, as you will truly benefit from it and so will the rest of us... a stronger Knight makes the rest of us stronger! To earn the award you must:

1. Work on three Council Service Programs
2. Attend at least three Council Business Meetings.
3. Receive your Second and Third Degrees
4. Meet with your Council’s Insurance Representative.
5. Recruit at least one new member.

All of these goals must be completed within one year from the date that you made your First Degree.

Enjoy the Knights of Columbus! You made a great decision in joining us. Congratulations! We look forward to getting to know you better.

I Just joined the Knights of Columbus... now what?



Helpful information about membership in the Knights of Columbus...

But maybe you didn’t know who to ask!



**Illinois State Council
Membership Team**

I've joined the Knights of Columbus... now what?



Knights of Columbus members come in all shapes and size and from varied backgrounds. In common though is our Catholic faith. Service by a Knights of Columbus member is an extension of that "charitable" gift of God. When united works are put into action both the member and the recipient of the charitable act are uplifted. A Knights of Columbus council becomes the strong right arm of the parish because Knights are willing to take on any task for the good of the Church or Order.

The simple fact that you have joined the Knights and that you are taking the time to read this brochure is a testimony to your faith and your willingness to help improve the lives of others. As a Knight you are expected to live and put into practice Catholic values and to conscientiously exercise the duties of citizenship.

A Knight will strive to assist those in need through acts of charity (fund raising, building projects and most importantly, prayer), to support our Church, Bishops, priests, nuns, seminarians, missionaries and other religious vocations. Councils conduct a wide variety of programs but in general aid the Church, Community, Family, Youth and also the local Council. Within these five types of programs will exist a program or programs that interest you. It is always understood that no member can participate in every function. Attending meetings will help you decide in what programs you will find the most value.

But, before we get too far into all of these matters, there are some questions that frequently come up after the First Degree... so let's look at these and maybe the answers will help you as you start your journey in the Knights of Columbus.



What can I say about the First Degree?

Knights hold the exact details of the Degrees in confidence. Why? So that other men who have not advanced through the Degree be afforded the same dramatic experience you were afforded. Think of it in this respect... you wouldn't want to know the ending of a movie or the final score of a game prior to seeing it would you? The beauty of the ceremony is

that it provides some impressive life-long lessons as prescribed by Father Michael J. McGivney. You can show the Rosary you received and pray it often. You should wear you're the Emblem of the Order lapel pin you were presented often. Make certain that you read the book "These Men Called Knights" and don't be afraid to share it with others.

What do my dues pay for?



Your dues are used to help defray the operating and communications costs primarily of your local council. A small portion of dues goes to the Illinois State Council operating budget. A smaller amount goes the Supreme Council to cover a per capita tax and support

Catholic. Members are also automatically covered by a fraternal accidental death policy, at no cost from your dues. This is a benefit of membership, but you must be in good standing you're your council as far as your dues is concerned. Please commit to always keeping your dues current!

I heard something about Insurance; do I have to buy any?



Though not required, each member should meet with a professional Field Agent to further explain the fraternal benefits of the Order. From humble beginnings, the Knights of Columbus Insurance programs have become a pillar of strength. First and foremost, our Order was found to aid the widow and surviving family of a brother knight. This responsibility is of the highest priority as it was the vision of our founder Father Michael J. McGivney.

Without our insurance reserves, your dues would be in the hundreds of dollars. Many of the special charitable causes we support as an Order would be impossible. The Papal Masses on Christmas Eve and other special events are broadcast world-wide by satellite, thanks to the earnings of the Knight's insurance programs. Please make time to talk with your agent... you will be very glad you did.

I promised to carry this rosary always; do I have to carry this one?

The promise you made to "carry this rosary always and to pray it as often as you can" is a promise to keep a rosary with you always... any rosary. Never leave home without it and pray it often.



What about the other degrees?

A First Degree member of the Knights should strive to take his Second and Third Degree as soon as possible. Each Degree teaches one principle virtue of the Order. A knight attains full knighthood when he is knighted into the Third Degree.

Who's in charge of my Council?



A council is composed of many members. The members elect officers to lead the council. The president is called the Grand Knight. The Deputy Grand Knight serves as a vice-president. The Warden equates to the Sergeant-at-Arms in most organizations. The Chancellor is responsible for the membership and aids in both membership recruitment and council programming. The council Treasurer is elected each year. The Financial Secretary is not elected but rather is an appointed position of the Supreme Council and is a three year term. Legal matters are handled by the council Advocate and the Inside and Outside Guards do as their name imply. A Grand Knight will appoint a Lecturer whose function is to provide items of interest at the council meeting.

A number of councils are gathered in a District, usually numbering 4 - 6 and a District Deputy is appointed by the State Deputy (State President) to be a guide and monitor to the councils in his district, representing both the State Deputy and Supreme Knight (Knights of Columbus CEO). The District Deputy is also in charge of arranging the Ceremonial Schedules and making certain that each council conducts its business as prescribed in the Knights of Columbus Charter, Constitution and By-Laws.