

# **Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree**



## **Chalice Ceremony**

## CHALICE CEREMONY

- a. The person in charge of the Chalice Ceremony is designated as the Lector. He is aided by a Sir Knight who holds the chalice during the ceremony. Both are attired in the uniform of the Fourth Degree.
  
- b. If the Chalice Ceremony is conducted where drawn swords are not permitted, then all use the hand salute.
  
- c. At the appointed hour, Sir Knights in Color Corps uniform and swords at "CARRY" position march down the main aisle of the mortuary (or church when appropriate). When the Honor Guard is in position, the Color Corps Commander will escort the Lector and the Sir Knight holding the chalice to the casket. The three halt in front of the casket and pause a moment in silent prayer. They then proceed to the Lectern. The Lector steps forward and speaks clearly and solemnly as follows.

This ceremony was revised in 2017 by members of both the Hennessey General Assembly #264 and the Robert J. Murphy Assembly #3480, both of the Iowa District of the Fr. Padilla Province.

Lector: FRIENDS, THE **(Name of Assembly)** ASSEMBLY, FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, IS ONCE AGAIN CALLED UPON TO BID A LAST FAREWELL AND TO CELEBRATE THE ENTRY INTO ETERNAL LIFE OF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

WITH DEEP RESPECT, WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF SIR KNIGHT **(Deceased Name)** WHOM GOD, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM AND MERCY, HAS SEEN FIT TO CALL TO HIS ETERNAL REWARD.

THE OCCASION THAT BRINGS US HERE TODAY IS ONE OF SADNESS, BUT IT IS ALSO ONE OF CELEBRATION. IT IS SAD, INDEED, TO REALIZE THAT THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND FRATERNAL AFFECTION, WHICH BOUND OUR BROTHER TO OUR ASSEMBLY, HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED HERE ON EARTH. IT IS ONE OF CELEBRATION, BECAUSE NOW HE WALKS ETERNALLY WITH GOD.

YET, IN OUR SADNESS WE CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT OUR BROTHER, WHOM WE KNOW AND STILL LOVE, IS REJOICING WITH GLADNESS IN GOD'S STEADFAST AND EVER ENDURING LOVE. HE HAS FINISHED HIS LABORS

**HERE ON EARTH. A FAITHFUL SERVANT HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE JOY OF ETERNAL LIFE.**

**AS WE REALIZE THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE, AND THE DEBT WE OWE TO OUR DEPARTED BROTHER, AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS REMINDS US TO DWELL IN SERIOUS THOUGHT ON THAT TIME, WHEN WE TOO, TRAVELING AS FELLOW PILGRIMS IN BAPTISM, SHALL JOIN ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN IN THE JOYFUL FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S REIGN.**

**TONIGHT, OUR HEARTS GO OUT IN DEEP SYMPATHY TO THOSE WHO REMAIN HERE TO MOURN. THEIR LOSS IS GREAT, BUT WE, MERCIFULLY, ASK OUR LOVING GOD IN HIS GOODNESS AND KINDNESS, TO CONSOLE HIS GATHERED CHURCH. FOR THOSE WHO KNEW SIR KNIGHT **(Deceased Name)** I BORROW A WORD FROM ST. AMBROSE: "WE LOVED HIM IN LIFE, LET US NOT FORGET HIM IN DEATH."**

**WITH OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FILLED WITH TENDERNESS AND SORROW, LET US CHERISH OUR MEMORIES AS WE LISTEN TO THESE WORDS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM:**

**“BUT THE SOULS OF THE JUST ARE IN THE HAND OF GOD, AND NO TORMENT SHALL TOUCH THEM. THEY SEEMED IN VIEW OF THE FOOLISH TO BE DEAD; BUT THEY ARE IN PEACE.”**

**TODAY, WE REMEMBER A BROTHER WHO’S LIFE HAS GIVEN OUR OWN LIVES MEANING. WE REMEMBER HIM WHO ENRICHED OUR LIVES WITH LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP, KINDNESS AND COMPASSION, THOUGHTFULNESS AND UNDERSTANDING. DEPARTED INDEED FROM THIS LIFE, HE NOW SHARES WITH THE SAINTS THE JOY OF THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT. AND NOW, WE RENEW OUR BONDS WITH HIM.**

(The Lector walks to the head of the casket, urn, or prominent picture, and, facing the deceased Sir Knight, proclaims the following:)

**WORTHY SIR KNIGHT (Deceased Name), IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS, ON THIS SOLEMN OCCASION, WE HONOR YOU AS A BELOVED CHRISTIAN WITNESS. IN LOVING TESTIMONY, WE PRESENT THIS CHALICE ON WHICH YOUR NAME WILL BE ENGRAVED. IT WILL BE ENTRUSTED TO A COMMUNITY OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, THERE TO BE USED IN THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION. IT WILL SERVE TO UNITE THE CHURCH ON EARTH WITH THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN IN THAT SACRED BANQUET, IN WHICH, WE PRAY, YOU ALREADY SHARE, AND FOR WHICH WE WHO REMAIN, STILL HOPE.**

(The Sir Knight holding the Chalice presents the Chalice to the next of kin who, in turn presents the chalice to the Celebrant for use during the Mass of Christian Burial.)

Color Corps Commander quietly gives the command “PRESENT SWORDS.” Lector render a Hand Salute. Hold position for 15 seconds.

Color Corps Commander gives command “CARRY SWORDS.” Color Corps Commander leads Honor Guard out of Chapel, followed by Lector and the Sir Knight who was holding the chalice.