

## **Guidelines for Honorary/Honorary Life Ceremonial**

Careful preparation for this solemn ceremony should be made and every care taken to make its impressions lasting. Each officer should be prepared to deliver his part without notes or prompting. The ceremony may be conducted with the presence of the family and other guests or in private under the "Good of the Order".

### **Honorary (Honorary Life) Membership Ceremonial**

GK/FN – Our laws provide for conferring a degree of honor upon any member of this council who by reason of age and years of service is worthy of that distinction. The Worthy DGK/F Captain will announce the name(s) of our brother(s) to be so honored today (or tonight).

DGK/F Captain – Worthy GK/FN, the Worthy FS/F Comptroller has certified to me the name(s) of Brother(s) \_\_\_\_\_ as meriting this honor. (Ask brother(s) so to be honored to step forward).

Chancellor/FA – Worthy GK/FN and brothers, the Knights of Columbus is a strong lay arm of the Church. In the solemn ceremony of initiation, you promised unswerving loyalty to her. You learned also the powerful lesson of unity; and unity, my brothers, means keeping ourselves together in carrying out the high aims and purposes of our Order. When receiving Knightly honors in this Order, you were pronounced the hope of Church and State. Be you ever, therefore, valiant sons of Holy Church and upright and loyal citizens of the State.

Our Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ on earth, looks with gracious favor upon this our Order and asks our valor and aid in subduing the forces of error and irreligion that attack the Citadel of Christ.

The Order has acquired fame and honor throughout the land for its world war and postwar work, its public welfare and relief work, its educational and boy life work, its historical research work, its pro-life work, its work with tuition tax credit and fraternal tax exemption, its involvement with the Vatican, its fraternity, charity and benevolences.

How important it is, therefore, that each member of this council should continue steadfast in his fidelity to the Order. The brother who would surrender or abandon his membership is like unto the soldier who fails his country in the time of stress and struggle – our Order becomes like unto the cable whose strands become bruised or broken.

Let us be ever mindful, therefore, brothers, to maintain our membership in the Order to the end that our Knightly forces be not weakened or diminished in the ever impending battle for God and for truth and that we be better enabled to promote and carry on our humanitarian work.

And so I say, Worthy GK/FN, that the purpose of this ceremony is to seek out and reward the persistent and faithful members of this council; and from this station I pronounce the brother(s) designated by the Worthy DGK/F Comptroller truly deserving of the honor you are about to confer.

(One Rap of Gavel)

GK/FA – (Addressing the brother(s)) Brother(s), \_\_\_\_\_ the Supreme Council of our Order has empowered \_\_\_\_\_ Council/Assembly No. \_\_\_\_\_ to confer upon you the title of Honorary Member (Honorary Life Member) and this decoration of honor and loyalty. You have merited this distinction because you have kept yourself in good standing in the Order for (announce the actual number of years applicable) and with self-sacrifice and unselfishness have aided the Order in the accomplishment of its noble aims. Whether as a humble member in the ranks or as one honored by your brothers with place or position in this society, your earnestness and zeal have been noted by your superior officers as well as by your brothers of the council. The Order needs such men, men of character, men of principle – stalwart Catholic men. By virtue, therefore, of the authority conferred upon me by the supreme governing body of the Order, I pronounce you an Honorary (Honorary Life) Member of the Knights of Columbus – and by like authority I bestow upon you this Honorary Member (Honorary Life Member) travel card and lapel pin (if available) a mark of merit and distinction among your brother Knights. It symbolizes your loyalty, devotion and obedience to the principles of our honored Order.

(GK/FA hands the travel card to the brother(s) and inserts the emblem in coat lapel. The brother(s) should be called upon to give expression of his (their) thought and feelings, after which proceed as follows).

The council sings one stanza of an appropriate hymn.

(After which proceed with the remaining business under "Good of the Order", or the next order of business is conducted at such time if conducted during a council meeting).

*Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM, Protocol Chairman*