



Uniform of the Color Corp

Members of the Fourth Degree may optionally purchase full regalia and join the Assembly's Color Corps. The Color Corp includes both The Color Guard and the Honor Guard. The Color Corps is the most visible arm of the Knights as they are often seen in parades and other local events. Official dress for the Color Corps is a black tuxedo, service baldric, sword and scabbard, white gloves, cape and naval chapeau. Baldrics are worn from the right shoulder to left hip and are color specific by nation. In the United States and the Philippines, baldrics are red, white and blue. Red and white baldrics are used in Canada; red, white and green in Mexico. The scabbard and sword are worn over the coat while social baldrics are worn under the coat. The colors on a Fourth Degree Knight's cape, chapeau and sword, denote the office he holds within the Degree. Faithful Navigators and Past Faithful Navigators are permitted to carry a white handled silver sword. Masters, past and present and ranks above carry gold swords. For additional information consult the Official Color Corp Drill Manual.

The emblem of the Fourth Degree consists of a Triad featuring on top; The Dove, behind it; The Cross and below; The Globe. Spiritually, the sacred symbols fashioned on our sword and lapel pin which typify the union of the Three Divine Persons in one Godhead, The Most Holy Trinity. God the Father, Creator of the Universe, The Cross God the Son, Redeemer of Man-kind, The Dove, God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity.



For information on the next Exemplification of the 4th Degree in your area, contact your local District Master:

North Carolina District Master David L. Onofrio, PSD

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Email: donofrio@nc.rr.com
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Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
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Fourth Degree Color Corp - Colors by Rank



Supreme Master & Former SM - Royal Blue
Vice-Supreme Master -Former VSM- Light Blue
District Master - Former MFD - Gold
Faithful Navigator - Past FN - White
Color Corp Member - Red
District Marshal (Active) Green
Color Corp Commander (Active) Purple

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

Information for
candidates prior to taking
the Exemplification of the
Patriotic Degree



Candidate Information



Facts about the Patriotic Degree -

The Fourth Degree of the Order.

Q. Who is eligible to join ?

A. Any Third Degree member in good standing may apply to take the Fourth Degree.

Q. What is a "Sir Knight"?

A. Members are knighted and considered a "full Knight" in the Order after taking the third degree. Upon taking of the Fourth Degree he is given the title "Sir Knight" a man who is Religiously Devoted and Patriotically Proud.

Q. What is an Assembly?

A. An Assembly consists of Sir Knights from one or more councils that make up a group. Typically an Assembly meets once per month like a council and has elected officers with a structure similar to that of a council. The elected officers are:

1. Faithful Navigator, 2 Faithful Captain, 3. Faithful Pilot, 4. Faithful Comptroller, 5. Faithful Scribe, 6. Faithful Purser, 7. Faithful Sentinels (inside and outside), 8. Faithful Admiral, Faithful Trustees (three) Additionally a Faithful Friar and Faithful Color Corp Commander are appointed by the Navigator to serve the needs of the Assembly.

Q. What is the official uniform of the Fourth Degree?

A. The uniform varies from country to country - In the USA the uniform for Fourth Degree Knights are:

* Black Tuxedo, White Collared Shirt, Black Cumberbund, Black Bowtie, Black Shoes and Socks, Social Baldric (Red, White and Blue) and the Fourth Degree Pin, name tag and current Jewel of office and/or miniature jewel of past or former office.

Q. Do I have to join the Color Corp and wear the cape and chapeau?

No, you do not have to join the Color Corp to be a 4th Degree Knight. Membership in the Color Corp is voluntary, however, only Fourth Degree Knights in good standing are eligible to join and must be willing to participate in organized drill practice. Members deem it a great honor to be part of the "Visible Side of the Order"

Q. What is the official uniform of the Color Corp?

A. In the USA the base uniform is built upon the Black Tuxedo (as described earlier) however the social baldric is replaced with a "Service Baldric" and Ceremonial Sword, which is worn on the outside of the tuxedo but under the cape. A black handle on silver sword is standard. A white handle on silver sword is for Faithful Navigators and Past Faithful Navigators, A gold sword is carried by Masters, past and present and ranks above. The pin of the order is replaced by the official Color Corp Pin which contains the emblem of the 4th Degree and the flag of the country in which the Sir Knight is a member. Name tags are not worn with the Color Corp Uniform, however, the current Jewel of office is permitted as well as any official miniature jewels denoting Papal service or past /former K of C office. For additional information visit the official website of the Knights of Columbus at: www.kofc.org or consult the current Color Corps Drill Manual.

History of The Patriotic Degree

Our history is linked to the social and political climate in the United States at the turn of the 19th century. The idea of adding a new degree to the Order's original three, (Charity, Unity, Fraternity) first came to light in 1886. Supreme Knight James T. Mullen appointed a committee to look into forming two new "commander" degrees. That same year the Connecticut Catholic, a local newspaper, carried an advertisement calling members of local Knights of Columbus councils to meet to form a "Uniformed Legion." The idea for this new unit arose from a growing nationwide sense of Patriotism. The Order's leaders balked at the idea of a Uniformed Legion for the simple reason that the cost for the "Uniform" was well over \$100.00. They feared the "Legion" would cause an economical class split between wealthy and poorer members of the Order. Following the Spanish American War, it was decided that there should be one new Degree added based on the principle of Patriotism. In 1899, Edward L. Hearn was elected Supreme Knight and he immediately appointed a committee to establish and format the new Degree to be given the following year. In order to qualify for this Degree each candidate had to be a Third Degree member of the Knights of Columbus in good standing for three years, and show evidence of distinctive service to the Order, church, and community. Finally the candidate had to have a letter from his priest stipulating that he had received communion within the past two weeks.



The first Exemplification of the new Degree was scheduled to be held in the Astor Hotel in New York City on February 22, 1900. However, there were so many candidates, the Exemplification had to be moved to a larger venue. Therefore the site was moved to the Lenox Lyceum. At this first Exemplification of the Fourth Degree 1,000 candidates, 283 choir members and 100 NYC police officers that served as section guides and all being in good standing took the fourth degree Exemplification. The second Exemplification, held in Boston on May 8, 1900 saw another 750 Third Degree knights join the ranks of Sir Knights. In the early years of the Fourth Degree, members met as part of their councils, mostly after meetings. In 1910, during a reorganization of the Order's leadership, the first Assemblies were created. Additionally the position of Supreme Master was established to lead the Fourth Degree internationally. Vice Supreme Masters lead Provinces and Masters head Districts. This system has spread and flourished as Sir Knights not only serve their local Church through their service to local councils but also their joint efforts in these Assemblies. The Honor Guard, first called for in 1886 was officially formed in 1902, for ceremonial purposes. Since that time, the uniforms of the Color Corps have varied, however all have shared the similar theme of mariners. Most noticeable in today's current uniform is the chapeau worn with ostrich feathers. In the year 2000, the Fourth degree celebrated its 100th anniversary with approximately 252,000 member Sir Knights!!!

Ceremonial Regalia (Uniforms) of the 4th Degree can be purchased through several official suppliers. The contact information for these companies are provided as a courtesy to our candidates and do not constitute any endorsement..

In the United States, the current suppliers are:

The English Company, Inc. www.kofcsupplies.com or
Lynch and Kelly, Inc. www.lynhckelly.com