

Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree

John H. Reddin Province

Arizona District



Chalice Ceremony

CHALICE CEREMONY

- a. The person in charge of the Chalice Ceremony is designated as the Lector. He is aided by an Assistant Lector. Both officers are attired in the regulation uniform of the Fourth Degree.
- b. At the appointed hour, Sir Knights in Honor Guard or Color Corps uniform and swords at "CARRY" march down the 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 Assistant Lector bearing the chalice and paten on a suitable small black cushion to the casket. The two officers halt in front of the casket, and pause a moment in silent prayer. The Assistant Lector then steps forward and places the chalice and paten on the draped stand near the head of the casket. The Lector and Assistant lector take positions at the Lectern. The Lector steps forward and speaks clearly and solemnly (from memory) as follows.

NOTE: In the case of a memorial service, where the remains are not present, the Chalice will be placed on a draped stand adjacent to the podium.

**FRIENDS, ASSEMBLY, FOURTH
DEGREE OF THE 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, 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.

WHAT A NOTE OF GLADNESS, POWER AND CONFIDENCE RINGS OUT IN THE WORDS OF ST. PAUL;

"BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY! WE SHALL NOT ALL FALL ASLEEP, BUT WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED, IN AN INSTANT, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMPET. FOR THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND, THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED."

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52)

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

MAY 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.

(Here the Assistant Lector steps to the podium.)

AND NOW I HUMBL Y INVITE ALL PRESENT TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD 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."
(SEE WISDOM 3:1)**

TODAY, WE REMEMBER A BROTHER WHOSE 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.

(Pause)

WORTHY SIR KNIGHT..... 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.

(Lector presents the Chalice to the next of kin who, in turn presents the chalice to the Celebrant when the ceremony is conducted at the Mass of Christian Burial. The Chalice is then used at the Consecration)

WORTHY SIR KNIGHT UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,

(Color Corps Commander quietly gives the command "PRESENT SWORDS." Lector and Assistant Lector render Hand Salute. Hold position for 15 seconds.

FAREWELL.

Color Corps Commander gives command "CARRY SWORDS." Color Corps Commander leads Honor Guard out of Chapel, followed by Lector and Assistant Lector.)

N.B.

IF THE CHALICE CEREMONY IS CONDUCTED WHERE DRAWN SWORDS ARE NOT PERMITTED. THEN ALL USE HAND SALUTE