

DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT



Policies Relating to The Knights of Columbus in the Liturgy

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Solemnity of All Saints

Most Reverend Dennis G. Walsh
Bishop of Davenport

§IV-215 POLICIES RELATING TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN THE LITURGY

Introduction

The Knights of Columbus are an important community of service within the Diocese of Davenport; their presence at parish and diocesan liturgies is therefore most fitting and may serve as an important witness to others. In particular, the members of the Color Corps and other Fourth Degree Knights may exemplify their role of service when serving as ministers of hospitality, offering welcome to those participating in special liturgical celebrations. Uniforms add a note of elegance to this ministry.

§IV-215.1 The Knights of Columbus at Celebrations with the Bishop

IV-215.1 Policy

Reflecting paragraph 32 of the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* ("No special honors are to be paid in the liturgy to any private persons or classes of persons, whether in ceremonies or by external display."), if the Knights are taking a special role in the liturgy, then the following norms should be followed:

Procedures

1. The Master of Ceremonies is charged with ensuring that the liturgy flows appropriately and the full, conscious, and active participation of all is fostered.
 - a. Therefore, the Color Corps should meet with the MC before the liturgy to go over the processions and other issues and should follow the MC's directions in regard to the liturgy.
 - b. It is especially helpful if the MC is aware that the Color Corps will be present ahead of time. Therefore, the Corps should take part only if advance permission has been received from the Office of Liturgy.
2. In regards to the entrance, the Color Corps will precede the liturgical procession into the church.
 - a. Once the Knights are in place, the liturgical procession begins.
 - b. Swords may be worn, but must remain sheathed.
 - c. After the liturgical procession has passed, the Knights then process to where they are to sit.
 - d. The processional routes and position which the Knights will take are determined with the MC ahead of time.
3. The Knights are part of the assembly; therefore, they should fully participate in the liturgy as other members of the assembly. Specifically,
 - a. They should take the postures of the assembly: kneeling, sitting, and standing as the assembly does (and as they are able).
 - b. They should refrain from activity or external display during the Eucharistic Prayer that differs from the rest of the assembly (for example, standing and saluting the Blessed Sacrament in some manner).
 - c. Outside of the opening and concluding processions, chapeaux should be removed.
 - d. Gloves are to be removed for the reception of communion on the hand.
 - e. The Knights should be seated in such a place that facilitates their movement with minimal distraction and avoids obscuring the view of others (for example, in a row of pews/chairs at the back of the church).
4. The Knights also precede the liturgical procession out. Depending on the space, the following options are possible
 - a. They may simply move from their seats to form an honor guard at the back of the center aisle, again allowing the liturgical procession to pass between them.
 - b. They may precede the liturgical procession from the front to the back and then form the honor guard as above.
 - c. The actual route and final position of the knights is determined with the MC ahead of time.

§IV-215.2 The Knights of Columbus at Celebrations without the Bishop

IV-215.2 Policy

For the sake of consistency, even if the Bishop is not present, the above procedures should be followed. In those instances where the above procedures have "Master of Ceremonies" or "MC" or "Office of Liturgy" substitute "pastor or his delegate" as appropriate.