

SUGGESTED PROTOCOLS FOR THE FOURTH DEGREE HONOUR GUARD OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN PARISH LITURGY

I. THE PROCESSION AND THE CARRY

The Knights are welcome to participate in the entrance procession and recessional at special liturgical celebrations and to form an appropriate Honour Guard according to customs already established, forming such in the centre aisle *only if space permits*.

Usually at the entrance, the Honour Guard members will precede the cross bearer by a significant distance thereby allowing the processional cross to be at the head of the liturgical procession. At the recessional when the Honour Guard is formed again, it precedes the president of the assembly and other liturgical ministers.

II. VESTURE: HATS, GLOVES AND CEREMONIAL SWORDS

1. Remove chapeaux immediately after the entrance procession and keep removed until ready for the recessional. Chapeaux will then be held in hand, in the prescribed manner, during the whole service. This applies to liturgical celebrations in churches, chapels and outdoor shrines or pilgrimage sites.
2. Communion will be taken in a bare hand or on the tongue but never in a gloved hand, as a sign of respect for the sacred species and to avoid any danger of dropping the host or the chalice.
3. Ceremonial swords are not to be drawn at any time in a sacred space, again in response to religious sensitivities and traditions. This includes during honour guard for entrance procession and recessional, consecration and during outdoor liturgical celebrations. At the prayer vigil for the deceased, swords may be drawn at **Athe Carry@** as a sign of respect for the deceased Sir Knight.

Swords may be unsheathed in the following circumstances only:

- a) outside, after the funeral, while the body is being taken to the hearse;
- b) at the graveside for the graveside ceremony.

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III. SEATING

In order to allow the honoured guests and family members their rightful place, Fourth Degree Honour Guard members should sit at an appropriate place other than the front rows in order not to obstruct the view of others.

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