



What is the 4th Degree? The 4th Degree is the public, visible arm of the Knights of Columbus and it is also the Patriotic Degree. Whenever you see a Knight in a tuxedo you know that he is a 4th Degree member. Sir Knights focus on citizenship, patriotic and veterans support programs. Although optional, membership in the 4th Degree should be a goal every Knight should strive to obtain.

Are there other activities that are not sponsored by my Council?

The KC councils in your Diocese often meet together formally as a "Chapter" (or also informally) to sponsor or endorse other activities for all the area Councils to be involved in. For example, banquets, walks and rallies are held each year in many areas to promote Pro-Life causes. Money raised goes to support women who choose not to abort their unplanned babies, but rather give birth and raise the child or allow it to be adopted. Or, perhaps you like special-needs kids... the Knights are the backbone of the Special Olympics and lots of opportunities exist to help. There is a long and varied list of activities to choose from... consult your GK or District Deputy for more information or consult our state website at: www.tkofc.org. There is a lot of information available there.

What is Texas State Charities (TSC)?

TSC is a sponsored combination of charities that the Knights in Texas support. For every dollar raised, 70% comes back to our Bishops to use for whatever charities they choose to support. The other 30% stays with TSC to support Texas Special Olympics, Prison Ministries the Texas Disaster Relief Fund, scholarships and many other worthy charities. Please help your Council support this "unified effort" by either pledging money or devoting some time in fund raising... you will be glad you did.

SHINING ARMOR AWARD

Your challenge as a First Degree Knight is to earn the "Shining Armor Award". To qualify for this award you must accomplish the following five goals in your first year as a Knight. We hope you achieve this award, as you will truly benefit from it and so will the rest of us ... a stronger Knight makes the rest of us stronger! To earn the award you must:

1. Work on three Council Service Programs
2. Attend at least three Council Business Meetings.
3. Receive your 2nd and 3rd Degrees
4. Meet with your Council's Insurance Representative.
5. Recruit at least one new member.

All of these goals must be completed within one year from the date that you made your 1st Degree.

Enjoy the Knights of Columbus! You made a great decision in joining us. Congratulations! We look forward to getting to know you better.

Your Council Name & Number

Grand Knight Name & Phone

Business Meeting Place & Time

*I've joined the
Knights of Columbus ...
now what?*



*Helpful information you
need to know about
becoming an active member
in the
Knights of Columbus
But maybe were afraid
to ask!*

*Texas State Program
Team Members*

So I've joined the Knights of Columbus... now what? Well, the next step is up to you. There are some who have joined the Knights in the past who have gone through their 1st Degree, attended a meeting or two and we have never seen them again. There are many others who have joined the Knights who have left a positive impression upon the Church, in their community and on our Order.

The simple fact that you have joined the Knights and that you are taking the time to read this brochure is a testimony to your faith and your willingness to help improve the lives of others. As a Knight you are expected to become a better Catholic and a better citizen. As a Knight you will strive to assist those in need through acts of charity (fund raising, building projects and most importantly, prayer), to support our Church, Bishops, priests and seminarians and to support the family, youth and community activities that your Council sponsors.

But, before we get too far into all of these matters, there are some questions that frequently come up after the First Degree... so let's look at these and maybe the answers will help you as you start your journey in the Knights of Columbus.

During my First Degree I heard about a few things that I now have questions about, like...

Since the Degree is secret, can I say anything about it? Yes and no... remember that the reason for keeping the ceremony secret is so that other men who have not yet made the Degrees of the Order can be afforded the same experience you were offered. Think of it in this respect...you wouldn't want to know the ending of a movie or the final score of a game prior to seeing it would you? The beauty of the ceremony is that it provides some impressive life-long lessons as prescribed by Father Michael J. McGivney. You can show your

Rosary, pin and book to whomever you wish, but you promised to keep the rest between yourself and other Knights.

What do my dues pay for? Your dues are used to help defray the operating and communications costs of your local and State Knights of Columbus Council and our Supreme Office to support our Catholic advertising and to fund our many charitable causes. Our invaluable Catholic Advertising program places ads in national publications offering free materials to anyone interested in the Catholic faith. This no obligation opportunity to learn about our faith in the privacy of their home has led thousands of people to respond to the call and join the Catholic Church. Please commit yourself to always keep your dues current; everyone benefits when you do!



I heard something about Insurance, do I have to buy any? No, but you really need to let the agent assigned to your Council meet with you to show you what the Knights can do to protect you and your family when some unplanned event happens to you. One key fact is that if not for our insurance programs, the Knights of Columbus would be a mere shadow of what it is today.

Without our insurance reserves, your dues would be in the hundreds of dollars. Many of the special charitable causes we support as an Order would be impossible, like the \$2 million dollars given annually to the Pope for any charitable causes he may choose. The Papal Masses on Christmas Eve and other special events are broadcast world-wide by satellite, thanks to the earnings of the Knight's insurance programs. Please make time to talk with your agent... you will be very glad you did.



I promised to carry his rosary always; do I have to carry the one I was given or can I carry a different one?

The promise you made to "carry this rosary always and to pray it as often as you can" is a promise to keep a rosary with you always...any rosary. The rosary is our sword and our weapon of choice against the evils that we face. Never leave your home without your weapon, The devil fears the rosary and you can make a difference in your life and the lives of those you pray for by "carrying your rosary always and praying it as often as you can". There are times a KC meetings where you will be asked to present your rosary. If you have it, great, you are keeping your promise. If you don't have it a small fine may be levied upon you, usually \$1, which goes in the Charity fund.

What's a Major Degree and do I need to go to one? A Major Degree is when a Second and Third Degree are held on the same day at the same place. They usually take place on a Saturday or a Sunday and are typically preceded by Mass. A member of the Knights should make his 2nd and 3rd Degree as soon as possible. Remember as a 1st Degree member you are just that, a member. You are not a full Knight until you have gone through the 2nd and 3rd Degrees. Find the next opportunity.

Who's in charge of my Council?

That depends on who you ask...just kidding. The Grand Knight (GK) is the CEO of a Council with several officers and directors reporting to him. Above the GK is the District Deputy (DD) whose job it is to oversee about five Councils in the local area. Beyond the DD is the Diocesan Deputy and his assistant(s) and then the Texas State Deputy. Finally, we all count on our Supreme Knight.