

# Official Knights of Columbus Emblems and Council Jewels



This booklet contains the official description of the Emblems of the Knights of Columbus, the Fourth Degree and the Columbian Squires, along with the Jewels of the Office for councils, as approved by the Order's Board of Directors.

SUPREME KNIGHT

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EMBLEM

The emblem of the Order dates from the second Supreme Council meeting May 12, 1883, when it was designed by James T. Mullen, who was then Supreme Knight.

A quick glance at the emblem indicates a shield mounted upon the Formée Cross. The shield is that associated with a medieval Knight. The Formée Cross is the representation of a traditionally artistic design of the Cross of Christ through which all graces of redemption were procured for mankind. This then represents the Catholic spirit of the Order.

Mounted on the shield are three objects: a fasces standing vertically, and, crossed behind it, an anchor and a dagger or short sword. The fasces from Roman days is symbolic of authority which must exist in any tightly-bonded and efficiently operating organization. The anchor is the mariner's symbol for Columbus, patron of the Order, while the short sword or dagger was the weapon of the Knight when engaged upon an errand of mercy. Thus, the shield expresses Catholic Knighthood in organized merciful action, and with the letters, K. of C., it proclaims this specific form of activity.

The red, white and blue in the background of the shield and the foreground of the Cross of Malta are the colors of our country. As such, red is the symbol of hope, of calm tranquility under God and of confidence in the protection of our country. White is the symbol of nobility of purpose, of purity of aim and of crucible — tried ideals to be carried out.

But there is another symbolism of color in red, white and blue. This is the ecclesiastical symbolism in which red becomes



the reflection of the drips of Christ's redemptive blood shed upon Calvary, and of the martyr's blood shed in defense of the faith.

Red then is the symbol of Faith, of belief in Christ, in the Redemption and in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. White is the color of the Eucharistic Host, pledge of God's Eucharistic presence among men, of the infinite love God has for man and the overwhelming affection which the God-man has for each individual. White then is the symbol of Christ-like Charity. Blue is the color of Our Lady's mantle, in which she wrapped her beloved Son, through Whom came salvation to a sinful world. Blue is then the symbol of Hope.



THE GRAND KNIGHT — *The Anchor; indicative of Columbus, the Mariner. The anchor has also been a variant form of the Cross for centuries.*



CHAPLAIN — *Isabella Cross in silver and blue. Self explanatory.*



THE DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT — *The Compass.*  
*Also used by Columbus, the Mariner. (The Knights of Columbus Compass is known as the Compass of Virtue, its 32 flame-like rays representing the 32 virtues which may be possessed by men.)*



THE CHANCELLOR — *The Isabella Cross, with Skull and Crossbones. The cross is self-explanatory while the skull and crossbones are symbolic of man's mortality.*



**THE RECORDER** — *Crossed quills. Symbolic of his responsibilities for letter and document (records) writing and preservation.*



THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY — *Crossed key and quill.*  
*The key has always been associated with an officer concerned with money, safe-keeping and secrecy. The quill is the symbol of a “scribe” — a record-keeper — one who writes letters, documents, etc.*



**THE TREASURER** — *Crossed Keys. Symbolic of his complete authority over funds (money), particularly responsible for its safekeeping.*



LECTURER — *Lyre and Scroll. These are traditionally symbolic of music and literature and the arts. Hence the lecturer is in charge of entertainment.*



THE ADVOCATE — *The Scroll (legal literature and law) with sword (the power to defend and enforce the law).*



*THE WARDEN — An axe bound with rods, known as a fasces, traditionally carried by the guards or protectors of Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority. The warden, ideally, has and exercises that authority.*



*THE INSIDE GUARD — Crossed Axes and Key. Key is symbolic of a guardian, secrecy and responsibility for safekeeping and admission. Axe is indicative of authority even to the point of punishment to maintain it. Originally, the axe was symbolic of power over life and death.*



*THE OUTSIDE GUARD — Crossed Axes and Key. Key is symbolic of a guardian, secrecy and responsibility for safekeeping and admission. Axe is indicative of authority even to the point of punishment to maintain it. Originally, the axe was symbolic of power over life and death.*



*TRUSTEE — An anchor mounted on an axe bound with rods (fasces) over crossed swords. Symbolizes Columbus, authority and the power to defend and enforce the law.*



EMBLEM OF THE ORDER DRESS JEWEL — *May be worn at any formal Knights of Columbus event by Third and Fourth Degree members.*



FOURTH DEGREE EMBLEM

## FOURTH DEGREE EMBLEM

The triad emblem of the Fourth Degree features the Dove, the Cross and the Globe. The Dove — classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and Peace — is shown hovering over the orb of the earth (Globe). Both are mounted on a variation of the Crusader's Cross — that which was found on the tunics and capes of the Crusading Knights who battled to regain the Holy Land from the pagans.

Our Honored Order cherishes as its patron Christopher Columbus.

Christopher — Christ Bearer.

Columbus — Dove of Peace, symbolizing the Paraclete.

Spiritually, the sacred symbols on the emblem typify the Union of the Three Divine Persons in one Godhead — the most Blessed Trinity.

The Globe — God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

The Cross — God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind.

The Dove — God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity.

The colors of the symbols are:

A blue Globe with the lands of the Western Hemisphere in white.

A red Cross with gold borders, and gold knobs at the end of the points forming the ends of the arms of the Cross (also known as the Isabella Cross).

A white dove.

Red, white and blue are the colors of the flag of the country in which our Order originated; and are used to stress the basic principal of the Fourth Degree...PATRIOTISM.



THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES EMBLEM — *Letters on the arms of the Maltese Cross represents: “P” — physical development; “I” — intellectual development; “S” — spiritual growth and practice of our faith; and “C” — development of citizenship and civic life. The large letters represent; “C: — Christ; “S” — Squires; and “K” — Knights of Columbus. The Squires motto “Esto Dignus,” is Latin for “Be Worthy.”*

