



KNIGHTS
of the Republic
EQVITES RES PVBLICA

Sacred Military Order of Knights of the Republic and the Most Victorious Heart of Jesus
SACRUM MILITUM ORDO EQVITES RES PVBLICA ET VICTRICISSIMVM COR IESV

CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER AND CODE

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SECTION I: THE ORDER AND ITS NATURE

Article 1: Origin

The Order was founded on December 12th, in the year of our Lord 2019, within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by Parishioners of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Roswell, GA, USA.

Article 2: Nature

The Order is a Sacred Military Order for Catholic gentlemen, at least eighteen years of age, who are baptized, within good standing, and in communion with the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Article 3: Purpose

The Order's founding purpose is to defeat modernism, the synthesis of all heresies, and rebuild Christendom by defending the Faith, Holy Mother Church, the faithful, and reinforcing Christian virtue in the Republic. This mission will be accomplished by means of confessing, educating, and safeguarding the Divine Truth in the Real Presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and the mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Article 4: Three Fields of Battle

The primary fields of battle are the domestic church (the family), the parish, and society at large. Knights will engage the enemy in the spiritual and temporal realms, focusing on education, the conversion of souls, and the wellbeing of the family.

Article 5: Educational Means

Drawing inspiration from early Church Fathers and Saints of the Counter Reformation, who risked their lives to save millions of souls, the Order must stand firm in proclaiming Catholic Truths. Knights should exemplify their sacrifices and educational missions to bring souls into the Mystical Body of Christ. As the Lord commanded his Apostles to be Fishers of Men and to Make Disciples of All Nations, Knights are called to confess and defend Truth. The Order's primary focus is defending the Holy Eucharist and the Mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Similar to the parable of the Mustard Seed, we must nurture, strengthen, and grow our knowledge of faith so that God's graces live in our branches.

Article 6: Devotion

The Order's special devotion is to the Most Victorious Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, an extension of the Most Sacred Heart and His Victory over sin, present in the Holy Eucharist and continued through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Article 7: Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus

The Order affirms, by the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Church's teaching that outside the Church there is no salvation.

Article 8: Holy Patrons

- St. James the Greater, Ap

O glorious Apostle, Saint James, who by reason of thy fervent and generous heart wast chosen by Jesus to be a witness of His glory on Mount Thabor, and of His agony in Gethsemane; thou, whose very name is a symbol of warfare and victory: obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending warfare of this life, that, having constantly and generously followed Jesus, we may be victors in the strife and deserve to receive the victor's crown in heaven. Amen. - The Prayer Book, Catholic Press, 1954

- St. Michael the Archangel

O glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the heavenly host, be our defense in the terrible warfare which we carry on against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, and spirits of evil. Come to the aid of man, whom God created immortal, made in His own image and likeness, and redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. Fight this day the battle of the Lord, together with the holy angels, as already thou hast fought the leader of the proud angels, Lucifer, and his apostate host, who were powerless to resist Thee, nor was there place for them any longer in heaven. That cruel, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil or Satan, who seduces the whole world, was cast into the abyss with his angels. Behold, this primeval enemy and slayer of men has taken courage. Transformed into an angel of light, he wanders about with all the multitude of wicked spirits, invading the earth in order to blot out the name of God and of His Christ, to seize upon, slay and cast into eternal perdition souls destined for the crown of eternal glory. This wicked dragon pours out, as a most impure flood, the venom of his malice on men of depraved mind and corrupt heart, his spirit of lying, of impiety, of blasphemy, and the pestilential breath of impurity, and of every vice and iniquity. These most crafty enemies have filled and inebriated with gall and bitterness the Church, the Spouse of the Immaculate Lamb, and have laid impious hands on her most sacred possessions. In the Holy Place itself, where has been set up the See of the most holy Peter and the Chair of Truth for the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that when the Pastor has been struck, the sheep may be scattered. Arise then, O invincible Prince, bring help against the attacks of the lost spirits to the people of God, and give them the victory. They venerate Thee as their protector and patron; in thee holy Church glories as her defense against the malicious power of hell; to thee has God entrusted the souls of men to be established in heavenly beatitude. Oh, pray to the God of peace that He may put Satan under our feet, so far conquered that he may no longer be able to hold men in captivity and harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that they may quickly conciliate the mercies of the Lord; and beating down the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, do thou again make him captive in the abyss, that he may no longer seduce the nations. Amen.

- Sts. Peter and Paul, Aps

O glorious Saint Peter, who, in return for thy lively and generous faith, thy profound and sincere humility, and thy burning love, wast honored by Jesus Christ with singular privileges, and, in particular, with the leadership of the other Apostles and the primacy of the whole Church, of which thou wast made the foundation stone, do thou obtain for us the grace of a lively faith, that shall not fear to profess itself openly, in its entirety and in all of its manifestations, even to the shedding of blood, if occasion should demand it, and to the sacrifice of life itself in preference to surrender. Obtain for us likewise, a sincere loyalty to our holy mother, the Church; grant that we may ever remain most closely and sincerely united to the Roman Pontiff, who is the heir of thy faith and of thy authority, the one, true, visible Head of the Catholic Church, that mystic ark outside which there is no salvation. Grant, moreover, that we may follow, in all humility and meekness, her teaching and her counsels, and may be obedient to all her precepts, in order to be able here on earth to enjoy a peace that is sure and undisturbed, and to attain one day in heaven to everlasting happiness. Amen

*Pray for us, Saint Peter the Apostle,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray.*

O God, who hast given unto Thy blessed Apostle Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and the power to bind and loose: grant that we may be delivered, through the help of his intercession, from the bonds of all our sins: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

O glorious Saint Paul, who, from being a persecutor of the Christian name, didst become its most zealous Apostle, and who, to carry the knowledge of Jesus, our divine Savior, to the uttermost parts of the earth, didst joyfully suffer prison, scourgings, stonings, shipwreck and all manner of persecutions, and who didst finish thy course by shedding the last drop of thy blood: obtain for us the grace to accept, as favors bestowed by the mercy of God, the infirmities, sufferings and misfortunes of this life, that we may not grow slack in our service of God by reason of these vicissitudes of our exile, but that we may the rather show ourselves ever more devoted. Amen.

*Pray for us, Saint Paul the Apostle,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray.*

O God, who hast taught the multitude of the Gentiles by the preaching of blessed Paul the Apostle: grant unto us, we beseech Thee, that we who keep his memory sacred, may feel the might of his intercession before Thee. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Article 9: Civil Patrons

- Emperor Constantine the Great

*We acknowledge Thou art God alone;
we recognize Thee as our King and implore your succor.
By Thy favor we have received victory,
through Thee we are made mightier than our enemies.*

*We render thanks for Thy past benefits,
and hope in Thee for future blessings.
Together we pray to Thee, and beseech Thee
to preserve us, safe and victorious, our emperor Constantine
and his pious sons. - Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, 1890*

- Blessed Emperor Charlemagne

O mighty Emperor, you who of old was the arbiter of the whole European family assembled under your scepter, have mercy on this society that today is being destroyed in all its parts. After more than a thousand years, the Empire that the Church placed in your hands has collapsed as a chastisement for its infidelity to the Church that founded it. The nations still remain, troubled and afflicted. Only the Church can return life to them through the Faith; only she continues to be the depositary of public law; only she can govern the powerful and bless the obedient. - Dom Prosper Gueranger O.S.B.

- Saint King Louis IX, C

*O holy King St. Louis,
worthy son of our Holy Father St. Francis
and patron of the Third Order,
intercede for me with our Heavenly Father.*

*Obtain for me the grace to follow in thy footsteps,
to be always a dutiful child of St. Francis,
and to observe exactly, all the days of my life,
that holy rule which thou loved so ardently and kept so faithfully.*

*Be my guide and protector,
so that I may never stray from the path of virtue
but increase daily in holiness and perfection,
and finally merit to be numbered among the chosen ones
of our Seraphic Father in Heaven. Amen. – Litany of Saint Louis IX, Franciscan*

Article 9: Sovereignty

The Order is subject to Church canon, domestic state, and international law. As a Sacred Military Order, legislative, executive, and judicial functions are reserved to the competent bodies of the Order according to the provisions of the Constitution and Code.

Article 10: Relations with the Apostolic See

The Order is in full communion with the Apostolic See and the Supreme Pontiff in Rome, and subject to Canon Law in accordance to Apostolic Tradition.

Article 11: Sources of the Order's Law

The Constitution and Code, hereby displayed in this approved document, are the sources of the Order's Law. Executive orders by the Supreme Consul, Consuls, and Proconsuls, and legislation passed by the Grand Senate and *Comitia Curiata* of Commanders are extensions of and must cooperate with the Constitution and Code.

Article 12: Insignia and armorial bearings of the Order

The Chi-Rho, with the Alpha and Omega, emblazoned in red, as God displayed to Emperor Constantine the Great at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, is the insignia and armorial bearings of the Order. The Order may also be represented by the Most Victorious Heart of Jesus, emblazoned with the Holy Eucharist of Christ Crucified or the Chi-Rho, with the Alpha and Omega.

Article 13: Language

English and Latin are the official languages of the Order.

SECTION II: MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

Article 14: Educational Mission

Knights are called to join the ranks of Confessors and Doctors of the Church in the Kingdom of Heaven. It is by knowledge of the divine Word and Wisdom that the Paraclete will guide and aid the Knights into restoring the Faith, belief in the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and return souls back to the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We must, by our fiat, allow the Paraclete to help us grow the Mustard Seed into the great tree of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Article 15: Prayers and Practices

Knights and member candidates are required to adhere to the following prayers and practices:

- Receive the Blessed Sacrament during Holy Communion kneeling and on the tongue, while mentally repeating "*Domine non sum dignus.*"
- Attend the Holy Tridentine Mass of the Roman Rite for Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receive Holy Communion, or make a spiritual communion if unable to receive the Blessed Sacrament, weekly.
- Recite the Leonine Prayers, of Pope Leo XIII, after every Holy Mass.
- Make a good confession weekly.
- Pray before the Blessed Sacrament, as an act of adoration, exposed or veiled in the tabernacle, weekly.
- Pray the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily.
- Pray the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily; Matins and Compline are required.

- Dedicate 30 minutes daily for spiritual reading.
- Devote 15 minutes daily for meditation on Divine truth and mysteries. A good meditation on the Joyful, Sorrowful, or Glorious mysteries, while praying the Holy Rosary, will fulfill the devotion.
- Offer your daily labor, with a special intention, as an oblation to God.
- Consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, dawn a Blessed Brown Scapular for all the days of your life.
- Confess a vow of chastity to the Immaculate Mother of God.
- Partially abstain from meat for all Wednesdays, as the day that Judas betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Abstain from meat for all Fridays, as the day that the Lord gave his Flesh and Blood for the forgiveness of sins.
- Partially abstain from meat for all Saturdays, as the day that the Blessed Virgin Mary maintained the Faith.
- Adhere to all requirements to partially abstain, abstain, and fast for major Feast Days, Ember Days, and Rogation Days.
- Adhere to the traditional rules, by St. Thomas Aquinas, for Lent.

Article 16: *Benedictio Novi Militis*

As a Solemn Rite of Profession of Faith and Investiture of New Knights, the Order practices the *Benedictio Novi Militis*, as affirmed by the Pontifical of William Durand and the *Pontificale Romanum*, for the eternal blessing of Knighthood. With pontifical approval, Knights Grand Cross have the faculties, with a presiding Priest, to conduct the *Benedictio Novi Militis*.

Article 17: Branches and Disciplines

The branches of the Order are designated by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief, and approved by the Grand Senate, for office disciplines and the needs of the Order.

Article 18: Classes and Ranks

The three classes of the Order are: Knights, Knight Commanders, and Knights Grand Cross.

The ranks of member candidates, who have yet to receive the Solemn Rite of Profession of Faith and *Benedictio Novi Militis*, are: Private, Private First Class, and Specialist. Approval for promotion is given to the first Knight Commander as the member candidate's Company Commander.

The ranks of non-commissioned officers, who have received the Solemn Rite of Profession of Faith and *Benedictio Novi Militis*, are: Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Sergeant First Class, Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major, and Command Sergeant Major of the Order. Approval for promotion, up to and no further than Sergeant, is given to the first Knight Commander as the non-commissioned officer's Company Commander. For Staff Sergeant, the approval for promotion is given to the second Knight Commander as the non-commissioned officer's Battalion Commander. For Master Sergeant and First Sergeant, the

approval for promotion is given to the first Knight Grand Cross as the non-commissioned officer's Brigade Commander. Approval for promotion, for Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major, and Command Sergeant Major of the Order, is given to the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief.

The ranks of commissioned officers, who have received the Solemn Rite of Profession of Faith and *Benedictio Novi Militis*, are: 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General, and General. Approval for promotion, for 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain, are given to the *Comitia Curiata* of the Commanders, which approves annual promotion lists for the needs of the Order. For Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel, the approval for promotion is given to the Grand Senate, which approves annual promotion lists for the needs of the Order. Approval for promotion, for Brigadier Generals, Major Generals, Lieutenant Generals, Generals, and Generals, is given to the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief.

Article 19: Promotions

Promotion guidelines are set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief, and approved by the Grand Senate, for Knights' experiences and accomplishments and the needs of the Order.

Article 20: Commissions

Commissions are approved by the Grand Senate and signed by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief, according to the guidelines established by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate for the merit of the candidate and the needs of the Order.

Article 21: Obligations of the members

Members are required to adhere to all codes and legislation drafted, invoked, and enforced by the governing body of the Order.

Article 22: Assignment of members

Members are assigned to a Company, or superior unit in the Order, with respects to location, branch, duty, and office.

Article 23: Duties and offices

Members, of good standing and rank, will be appointed specific duties and offices, on the Company Grade level and superior units, to further support the Order and its missions.

Article 24: Monastics

Knights, who surrender their lives and temporal affairs, as monastics, for the work of God and mission of the Order and Holy Mother Church, are assigned a lifelong appointment to the Praetorian Guard.

Article 25: The Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis

On December 12th, in the year of our Lord 2019, within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Supreme Consul of the Order reinstated the Order of Saint Louis as the Regent Grand Master (as there is a vacancy to the King of France.)

SECTION III: GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER

Article 26: Subordinate and Superior Units

The Order is composed of various subordinate and superior units: Platoons, Companies, Battalions or Squadrons, Brigades, and Corps.

Article 27: *Comitia Curiata* (Curiate Assembly) of the Commanders

Composed of the Order's Company Commanders, the *Comitia Curiata* is the representative body of the Company Grade level. As the lower chamber of the Order's legislative government bodies, the *Comitia Curiata* is responsible for debating, drafting, and voting on legislation to send to the Grand Senate for approval. If legislation received two-thirds support in the Curiate Assembly, the proposal can be sent directly to the Triumvirate for approval. The Curiate Assembly of the Commanders also has powers to override Triumvirate vetoes and issue judicial reviews, both of which would be sent to the Grand Senate for a second analysis and vote.

Article 28: Tribunes

Elected by the *Comitia Curiata*, from amongst serving members of the Curiate Assembly, four Tribunes, each having two-year terms, have the authority to bring legislation to the Curiate Assembly for open debate and for vote. Legislation can only be brought to the *Comitia Curiata* for open debate and vote by elected Tribunes.

Article 29: Grand Senate and Praetors

As the higher chamber of the Order's legislative government bodies, the Grand Senate is composed of Knights Grand Cross, who are responsible for debating, drafting, and voting on legislation to send to the Triumvirate for approval. The Grand Senate also has powers to override Triumvirate vetoes, issue judicial reviews, hold Consul elections, and approve Supreme Consul appointments.

Praetors, as Knights Grand Cross, are former Grand Senators or former Knight Commanders, with distinguished service, who accepted lifelong appointments from the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief to be removed from government and a normal career progression to

command the Praetorian Guard. As the vanguard of the Grand Senate and the Order, the Praetorian Guard is composed of monastics, who surrender their lives to the work and mission of the Order and the Church.

Article 30: Master of the Horse

The Master of the Horse, is an appointed position by the Supreme Consul, that commands the Praetors in the Praetorian Guard, which is the vanguard for the Knights Grand Cross in the Grand Senate. The Praetorian Guard is composed of Praetors, who command the Order's monastics. As a unit of higher standard, the Praetorian Guard is responsible for maintaining order and peaceful transitions of power within the Order.

Article 31: Consuls and Proconsuls

Elected by the Grand Senate for 2-year terms, Consuls hold the two executive positions on the Order's Triumvirate. Along with the Supreme Consul, the Consuls vote to issue executive orders and sign legislation into law. Both Consuls, like the Supreme Consul, have the power to veto executive orders, legislation, and judicial reviews, but can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in the Grand Senate and/or *Comitia Curiata* of the Commanders.

As former Consuls, the Proconsuls of the Order have the privilege to fulfill subordinate executive offices, like governors, viceroys, and chairmans of various task forces.

Article 32: Triumvirate

At the executive level, the Order is governed by three Magistrates: the Supreme Consul and two Consuls. To issue executive orders and sign legislation into law, the Triumvirate must approve by majority vote.

Article 33: The Supreme Consul

Appointed for life, by the previous Supreme Consul, and approved by the Grand Senate, the Supreme Consul is the superior executive of the Order. With the Consuls in the Triumvirate, the Supreme Consul votes to issue executive orders and sign legislation into law. The Supreme Consul has the power to veto executive orders, legislation, and judicial reviews, but can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in the Grand Senate and/or *Comitia Curiata* of the Commanders. Additionally, the Supreme Consul is the Commander and Chief of the Order.

Article 34: Sovereign

The Sovereign, appointed the Supreme Roman Pontiff, is the external patron and caretaker of the Order. In the best interest of the Order, the Sovereign has the power to request all policies, executive orders, and legislation, before execution or being signed into law, as well as consult and participate in private and public discussion on government affairs. The Supreme Roman Pontiff has the authority to appoint a Prince of the Church or the Holy Roman Emperor as his representative, to fulfill the authorities of the sovereign in lieu of the Pontiff.

SECTION IV: THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDER

Article 35: Establishment of organizations

Knight Commanders and above, with the approval of their direct superior, have the authority to establish organizations to support the work and missions of the Order and the Church. Once established, Knight Commanders and above have the faculties to manage or appoint officers to manage the organization's operations.

Article 36: Government of Companies

Companies are governed by the full judicial authority of the Knight Commander, as the local magistrate. Superior commissioned officers, in the Chain of Command over the Knight Commander and the Company, have the judicial authority to issue policies, orders, investigations, and court martials, unless in violation of undue command influence.

Article 37: Term of Office of Commanders

Company Commanders have a term of office for no more than two years. Knight Commanders can command no more than two companies during their knighthood. Depending on the guidelines set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate, the same parameters may apply to the commanders of superior units.

Article 38: Company Commanders

Company Commanders, appointed by the Brigade Commander, have judicial authority over the assets, resources, and members of the Company. Company Commanders are responsible for the effectiveness and readiness of the unit, and have the power to promote member candidates up to and no further than the rank of Specialist, and promote non-commissioned officers up to and no further than the rank of Sergeant. Additionally, Company Commanders have the authority to make all company grade appointments except for the Platoon Leaders, Company Executive Officer, and First Sergeant. Lastly, Company Commanders earn a seat in the *Comitia Curiata* of the Commanders, which is the lower legislative chamber of the Order. Depending on the guidelines set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate, the same parameters may apply to the commanders of superior units.

Article 39: Executive Officer and Lieutenants

Each Company will have an appointed Executive Officer and three Platoon Leaders, all being Knights and with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant or 1st Lieutenant, to assist the Company Commander in maintaining and improving the effectiveness and readiness of the unit. Company Executive Officers and Platoon Leaders are appointed by the Battalion or Squadron Commander. Depending on the guidelines set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate, the same parameters may apply to the staff officers of superior units.

Article 40: First Sergeants of Companies

First Sergeants, appointed by the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, as the highest ranking non-commissioned officer in the Company, have the responsibility of supporting the Company Commander in maintaining and improving the effectiveness and readiness of the unit. First Sergeants, particularly, are held accountable for the status of the formation and its members. Depending on the guidelines set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate, the same parameters may apply to the non-commissioned officers of superior units.

Article 41: Platoons and Company Grade Appointments

Other Platoon and Company Grade Appointments, authorized to the Company Commander to appoint for non-commissioned officers, are: no more than four Section or Squad Leaders per Platoon, Supply Sergeant, Communications Sergeant, and other appointed positions for Company run organizations. Depending on the guidelines set by the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief and approved by the Grand Senate, the same parameters may apply to the non-commissioned officers of superior units.

Article 42: Superior Units of the Order

To the needs of the Order, the requirements for additional superior units, such as Battalions and Squadrons, Brigades, and Corps, and the appointments thereof, are to the discretion of the Supreme Consul as Commander and Chief, his Chief of Staff and subordinate chain of command, and limited to the budget and provisions legislated by the Grand Senate.

Article 43: Constitutional Discretion

For powers and stipulations not contained within the Order's Constitution and Code, the authority resides with the *Comitia Curiata* of Commanders, Grand Senate, and/or the Triumvirate.