

**THE CHAPTER OFFICE: RITUAL FOR THE CHAPTER MEETING**

***All Face the Crucifix, The Chaplain or Preceptor Says or Intones, Making the Sign of the Cross:***

V: + IN NOMINE DOMINI NOSTRI JESU CHRISTI.

R: AMEN.

V: AVE MARIA, GRATIA PLENA, DOMINUS TECUM.

R: BENEDICTA TU IN MULIERIBUS ET BENEDICTUS FRUCTUS VENTRIS TUI.

V: VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS.

R: REPLE TUORUM CORDA FIDELIUM, ET TUI AMORIS IN EIS IGNEM ACCENDE.

 (and fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle within them the fire of your love.)

V: EMITTE SPIRITUM TUUM ET CREABUNTUR.

 (Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.)

R: ET RENOVABIS FACIEM TERRAE. (and you will renew the face of the earth.)

***Chaplain or Preceptor*** OREMUS: DEUS QUI CORDA FIDELIUM SANCTI SPIRITUS ILLUSTRATIONE DOCUISTI, DA NOBIS IN EODEM SPIRITU RECTA SAPERE, ET DE EJUS SEMPER CONSOLATIONE GAUDERE. PER CHRISTUM DOMINUM NOSTRUM.

(O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit, we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord.)

R: AMEN

***All Sit and the Appointed Reader goes to the Lectern to read a Portion of the Rule, He Bows to the Chaplain and Says or Intones:***

V: JUBE, DOMINE, BENEDICERE. (Lord, give me your blessing.)

***To which the Chaplain responds:***

R: NOS CUM PROLE PIA BENEDICAT VIRGO MARIA.

 (May the Virgin Mary and Her beloved Child bless us)

***If No Priest is present the Reader says or intones:***

V: JUBE, DOMINE, BENEDICERE. (Lord, give us your blessing.)

R: NOS CUM PROLE PIA BENEDICAT VIRGO MARIA.

 (May the Virgin Mary and Her beloved Child bless us.)

R: AMEN.

***The Reader continues:*** A READING FROM THE RULE OF THE KNIGHTS OF OUR LADY, CHAPTER

***At the conclusion of the Reading, again bowing to the Chaplain, he says or intones:***

V: TU AUTEM, DOMINE, MISERERE NOBIS. (May you, O Lord, have mercy on us.)

R: DEO GRATIAS. (Thanks be to God.)

***The Reader then Returns to his place, and whoever is Presiding at the Chapter, comments on the Reading or he may delegate this to another Knight. Then following The Rule, Chap. XV, he gives News of The Order, deals with the Agenda, hears reports from members and allocates tasks. A Conference may be given at a Chapter. When all has been dealt with all present face the crucifix and tire Closing Prayers are then Said:***

V: DOMINUS VOBISCUM. (The Lord be with you.)

R: ET CUM SPIRITU TUO (And with thy spirit.)

***Or, If there is No******Priest Present:***

V: DOMINE, EX AUDI ORATIONEM MEAM. (Lord hear our prayer.)

R: ET CLAMOR MEUS AD TE VENIAT. (And let our cry come unto thee.)

***After which the Chaplain or Preceptor says the Closing Prayer:***

OREMUS: ECCLESIAE TUAE, QUAESUMUS DOMINE, PRECES PLACATUS ADMITTE: UT DESTRUCTIS ADVERSITATIBUS ET ERRORIBUS UNIVERSIS, SECURA TIBI SERVIAT LIBERTATE. PER CHRISTUM DOMINUM NOSTRUM.

(Graciously hear, O Lord, we beseech you, the prayers of your Church. Remove from her all error and adversity, that she may serve you in perfect freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.)

R: AMEN

*or*

OMNIPOTENS SEMPITERNE DEUS, QUI AD INSTRUMENTUM DIVINISSIMAE TUAE VOLUNTATIS PER ORBEM, ET AD GLADIUM ET PROPUGNACULUM ECCLESIAE SANCTAE TUAE, MILITAREM ORDINEM CONSTITUISTI: CAELESTI LUMINE, QUAESUMUS, MILITES SANCTAE MARIAE SUPPLICANTES SEMPER ET UBIQUE PRAEVENI: UT EA QUAE AGENDA SUNT AD REGNUM TUUM IN HOC MUNDO EFFICIENDUM VIDEANT, ET AD IMPLENDUM QUAE VIDERINT CARITATE ET FORTITUDINE PERSEVERANTER CONVALESCANT. PER CHRISTUM DOMINUM NOSTRUM. AMEN

(Almighty and Eternal God, who has set up this Order of Chivalry to be both a sword and a bulwark of your Holy Church and to be an instrument of your divine will throughout the world. Grant, we beseech Thee, the prayers of the Knights of Holy Mary and bestow on them always and everywhere a heavenly light, that they may see what they must do to establish your reign in this world, and that, in order to accomplish what they have seen, they may grow in strength and charity. Through Christ Our Lord.)

***All then Say:*** SANCTE MICHAEL ARCHANGELE, DEFENDE NOS IN PROELIO. CONTRA NEQUITIAM ET INSIDIAS DIABOLI ESTO PRAESIDIUM. IMPERET ILLI DEUS, SUPPLICES DEPRECAMUR: TUQUE, PRINCEPS MILITIAE CAELESTTS, SATANAM ALIOSQUE SPIRITUS MALIGNOS QUI AD PERDITIONEM ANIMARUM PERVAGANTUR IN MUNDO, DIVINA VIRTUTE IN INFERNUM DETRUDE. AMEN.

(Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast down to Hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through this world for the ruin of souls. Amen.)

***To End the Code of Honour is recited, Antiphonally, one group giving the V the other replying with the R. Chaplain or Preceptor.*** IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON,

V: THE KNIGHT FIGHTS FOR CHRIST AND HIS REIGN.

R: THE KNIGHT SERVES HIS LADY THE VIRGIN MARY.

V: THE KNIGHT DEFENDS THE HOLY CHURCH EVEN WITH HIS LIFE.

R: THE KNIGHT MAINTAINS THE GOOD TRADITIONS OF HIS ANCESTORS.

V: THE KNIGHT STRIVES FOR JUSTICE, CHRISTIAN ORDER AND PEACE.

R: THE KNIGHT WAGES WAR AGAINST THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD.

V: THE KNIGHT HONOURS AND PROTECTS THE POOR, THE WEAK AND THE DISINHERITED.

R: THE KNIGHT DESPISES MONEY AND THE POWER OF THIS WORLD.

V: THE KNIGHT IS HUMBLE, MAGNANIMOUS AND LOYAL.

R: THE KNIGHT IS PURE, COURTEOUS, ARDENT AND FAITHFUL.

***Chaplain or Preceptor:*** OUR LADY, KEEP US FROM PERJURY.

R: OUR LADY, KEEP US FROM PERJURY.

***Chaplain or Preceptor:*** DIGNAREME LAUDARE TE, VIRGO SACRATA.

R: DA MIHI VIRTUTEM CONTRA HOSTES TUOS.

***Chaplain or Preceptor:*** CHRISTUS VINCIT.

R: CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT.

***Chaplain or Preceptor:*** PAXCHRISTI VENIAT.

R: REGNUM CHRISTI VENIAT. DEO GRATIAS. AMEN.

***Chaplain*:** BENEDICTIO DEI OMNIPOTENTIS: PATRIS, ET FILII ET SPIRITUS SANCTI, DESCENDAT SUPER VOS ET MANE AT SEMPER.

***If a private Chapter is to follow, the Commander says:*** LOQUAMUR DE ORDINE NOSTRO".

***At this point all who are not members of the Militia leave the room. The business of the Chapter is then continued. If there is a Chapter of Faults this will conclude the proceedings.***

***Closing Sentence:***

V: ADJUTORIUM NOSTRUM IN NOMINE DOMINI. (Our help is in the name of the Lord.)

R: QUI FECIT CAELUM ET TERRAM. (Who hath made Heaven and Earth.)

(Note from the preamble to the Ritual by the founder of the M.S.M., Dora Gerard Lafond O.S.B. --Chapters are, "sacred meetings; in the presence of God, to examine questions relating to his reign" (Rule Chap XV) that have a ritual framework which shows forth their spiritual character, This rite is inspired by the monastic tradition received into the Orders of Chivalry: Opening prayers, reading of a passage of the Rule, commentary, doctrinal teaching, questions concerning the order of the day, faults and closing prayers. All takes place in a suitable place properly arranged. This framework, like the uniform worn, helps to create and preserve a recollected interior attitude.)

SEQUENCIA

(Composed traditionally in the late Middle Ages by a blind man to defend Our Lady's virginity, who received his sight as a reward for his piety)

**INVIOLATA INTEGRA ET CASTA ES MARIA**

(*Inviolate, pure and chaste art thou, O Mary,)*

**QUAE ES EFFECTA FULGIDA CAELI PORTA.**

*(Who hath been made the bright gate of heaven.)*

**O MATER ALMA CHRISTI CARISSIMA**

*(0 most dear and loving Mother of Christ,)*

**SUSCIPE PIA LAUDUM PRAECONIA**

*(Receive our sweet hymns of praise.)*

**TE NUNC FLAGITANT DEVOTA CORDA ET ORA:**

*(Our devoted hearts and lips beseech thee,)*

**NOSTRA UT PURA PECTORA SINT ET CORPORA**

*(That both our hearts and bodies may be pure)*

**TUA PER PRECATA DULCISONA**

*(Through thy sweet sounding prayers)*

**NOBIS CONCEDAS VENIAM PER SAECULA**

*(Grant us pardon throughout eternity.)*

**O BENIGNA! O REGINA! O MARIA!**

*(O kind one! Our Queen! O Mary!)*

**QUAE SOLA INVIOLATA PERMANSISTI**

*(Who alone hast remained immaculate.)*