



# LEGION OF HONOR INVESTITURE

an open ceremony

issued by

DeMolay International

Seventh Edition, V2

© 2024

# LEGION OF HONOR INVESTITURE

*Before the Legion of Honor degree is conferred, upon either an Active, Honorary, or Civic designate, it is mandatory that the Executive Officer, or one appointed by him, give the "Secret Vow" to the designate in private. No one is permitted to be present when this vow is given to other Legionnaires. The Executive Officer cannot deputize anyone other than a regularly constituted Legionnaire to confer this degree or give the "Secret Vow."*

*The Executive Officer, upon receiving an appointment to DeMolay International, and assuming his duties and before he ever gives the "Secret Vow" of the Legion of Honor, should sign the Vow Book upon the pages set aside for this purpose.*

*Because the Vow Book has changed formats over the years, conferring officers must adapt their instructions, if any designates are receiving the Civic Legion of Honor. These recipients will sign in the section previously reserved for Honorary Legion of Honor recipients, and will follow their name with the designation, "CLOH". Then, in another field (such as "DeMolay or Masonic Title") record the designate's reason for being honored, for example, High School Teacher, Police Chief, Rotary Club President, etc.*

*This open investiture of a member of the Legion of Honor must be given exactly as stated without any deletions or additions, except that, if the only designate is for the Honorary Legion of Honor or Civic Legion of Honor, the Executive Officer may authorize appropriate deletions. The service as written has taken into account the opportunities for splendid musical effects and choral accompaniment.*

*If any Legionnaires are unable or unwilling to kneel, they may remain standing during the prayer. If any designates are unable or unwilling to kneel, they may remain standing during the obligation, with the right hand either on the Holy Bible or on the shoulder of another designate; the dubbing ceremony may be altered accordingly.*

*If any officers in the conferral team are Civic Legion of Honor recipients, the word "Brother" should be omitted whenever they are being addressed.*

*The entire ritual must be delivered from memory. If not presided over by the Executive Officer for the jurisdiction, only such Officers as he selects shall be used in the conferring of this degree. Active DeMolays may be used as Preceptors. The Seven Preceptors each carry a lighted taper or candle, if electric candles are not used.*

*Required Parts: Commander in the East: C.E., Commander in the West: C.W., Commander in the South: C.S., Grand Marshal: G.Mar., Grand Chaplain: G.Ch., Herald: Her., Seven Preceptors: 1P-7P.*

*With the approval of the Executive Officer, part of the C.E.'s work may be delegated to Assistant Commander(s) in the East (A.C.E.). Some examples are the Obligation, the presentation of the Patent and Ring, and the presentation of the Cordon and Medallion. If used, A.C.E.(s) will follow behind the C.E. in the entrance and exit floorwork.*

*All Officers take regular stations. Her., after making announcement, sits in S.D. station.*

*Required Paraphernalia: Seven candlesticks with unlighted candles arranged as on Diagram One; gavel on C.E.'s pedestal; National flag in standard; Holy Bible open on Altar with unsheathed sword across it with hilt toward Southwest corner, point toward Northeast corner; school books on Northeast corner of Altar; patents; cordons and medallions on C.E.'s pedestal; flowers:*

- 1P. Red and white carnations
- 2P. Ferns or evergreens
- 3P. White roses
- 4P. Jasmine or other yellow flowers
- 5P. Any blue flowers other than violets
- 6P. White lilies
- 7P. Red roses

*A sample ring must be on hand in the event one or more designates receiving the degree elects not to purchase the ring; kneeling pads.*

*Optional Paraphernalia: The Chapter banner in a standard placed as indicated on Diagram One; Altar cloth; pedestal covers; baton for Grand Marshal; pedestal on the right of each Preceptor station, on which each Preceptor places the appropriate flowers and the candle he carries in the procession.*

*Procession forms single file as follows: Her., G.Mar., C.E., C.S., C.W., G.Ch. 1P., 2P., 3P., 4P., 5P., 6 P., 7P. Her. moves C E V U, ascends dais, faces West.*

*Fanfare of trumpets.*

- Her.** Friends in the North, East, South and West, DeMolay International calls you from refreshment to labor. A Grand Preceptory of the Legion of Honor is now convened, dedicated to the glory of God. You will take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

*Procession led by G.Mar. moves A C E V U. C.E. drops off at C.E.'s station first, then as procession proceeds T C E V, the C.S. and C.W. drop off at their stations, then on the second circuit the G.Ch. and 1P-7P. drop off at their stations; G.Mar. moves V Z X, faces West.*

- C.E.** \* (rap)

*All except C.E. sit down.*

- C.E.** (Brother) Grand Marshal, you will present those about to receive the Legion of Honor of the Order of DeMolay.

*G.Mar. moves X Z T, then to place where designates are seated and conducts them to point U, facing East.*

- G.Mar** (Brother) Commander in the East, I have the honor and great pleasure to present to you \_\_\_\_\_ (speaks name of each designate) who have been officially designated by DeMolay International to be received and elevated to the rank, honor, insignia and degree of the Legion of Honor of the Order of DeMolay.

*Suggested music cue:*

- C.E.** We are met on this occasion for a purpose typical of the Order of DeMolay and yet one unique in its activities. It is the public investiture and recognition with which DeMolay International honors its illustrious ones, not only for outstanding leadership in some field of endeavor, but also for service to God, to country and to humanity.

This citation is not necessarily a reward for DeMolay labor. Your zeal and interest in the welfare of the Order of DeMolay is an accepted fact. Your designation to be exalted to the highest honor within the gift of DeMolay International comes as a recognition of the leadership you are manifesting in some worthwhile endeavor though it may be in an obscure field of service. We present each one of you to the world as an exemplar and an exponent of the Order of DeMolay.

Tonight the door of service opens wide to you. Your ears are attuned to a high sense of duty and honor, yet I admonish you to reflect well upon the added responsibility that now comes to you - that you may never fail as a citizen, as a leader, and as a human being. The honor which we are about to confer is one to which all may aspire but which only few can attain. Indeed the finger falls upon only the chosen few. At this moment those who have been created members of the DeMolay Legion of Honor are counted only in the tens of thousands from a worldwide membership that runs into the millions.

You not only become a part of a distinguished body determined to perpetuate the ideals of the Order of DeMolay, but you are bound together by the most sacred of vows to lead the great army of DeMolay as it marches onward to a realization of its teachings-teachings which mean so much to the young manhood of this and every other nation.

The very name "Legion" means not so much numbers as selection-not so much quantity as quality. The immortal Tenth Legion will live forever in history, yet it never fought so bravely as when under the eye of Caesar, who knew each man by name. But the Legion of Honor of the Order of DeMolay will fight under the eyes of the nation and of the world, against all the agencies hostile to their country's welfare and in behalf of everything that makes a nation strong and great.

I congratulate you heartily on the distinction that has come to you, most heartily of all because the Order of DeMolay inspires such service as that upon which this honor is based. By the authority and power in me vested, assisted by my colleagues, I am now about to confer upon you the highest decoration within the gift of DeMolay International. Before doing so, however, let us reverently ask the blessing of Almighty God upon this investiture.

\* \* \* (3 raps)

*All stand.*

(Brother) Grand Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions.

*All lights except the candles and Altar spot are dimmed.*

*G. Mar. directs designates to face West, toward Altar. G.Ch. unescorted goes to Altar, moving X Z I J. G.Ch. halts at point J, faces East and takes one step toward Altar. As G.Ch. leaves station all DeMolays and Legionnaires in East and C.W. and C.S. descend to floor level.*

**C.E.** Legionnaires and DeMolays may kneel on left knee. All others will remain standing.

*All DeMolays and Legionnaires kneel in unison as G.Ch. kneels.*

**G.Ch.** Almighty God, we humbly approach Thy throne and invoke Thy blessing upon these who are dedicated to doing Thy holy will. We pray Thy special blessing upon these leaders now about to be honored in Thy sight-in the eyes of their fellows and the world-for their devotion to the great cause represented by this Order. They approach Thee in no spirit of vainglory or pride, but with a humility that comes from a new sense of responsibility with which these honors invest them. We thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, for Thy divine favor in the past and wilt Thou be graciously pleased to reconsecrate these whom we honor here. May they become more knightly for Thee and for their beloved country-- more chivalrous for their fellowmen--more valiant for DeMolay in serving Thee by serving Thy humanity. Amen.

**ALL** Amen.

*G.Ch. and all DeMolays and Legionnaires rise. G.Ch. takes one step backward away from Altar, faces North, moves J K V Z X, faces West. As G.Ch. leaves Altar all DeMolays and Legionnaires who were in East and C.W. and C.S. return to daises. Lights raised to full. G. Mar. directs designates to face East.*

**C.E.** \* (rap)

*All except C.E., G.Mar and designates sit down.*

As Legionnaires-elect, you have heretofore taken a vow, one so secret that it is known only to those who have received it, not because it contains anything that should not be known to all, for each one of you will reveal it to the world at large by your own actions and the life you live - but that it may ever be a solemn reminder to you to be true to the ideals of DeMolay and valiant in its service throughout your life. In the presence of these witnesses you will therefore be required to make a public declaration. Are you ready to make this declaration?

**Des.** I am.

**C.E.** You must understand that from now on there is no avenue of retirement or resignation possible. You will now be conducted to our Holy Altar.

*Suggested music cue:*

*G.Mar. conducts designates, moving U T I J, facing East.*

**C.E.** \* \* \* (3 raps)

*All rise. C.E. moves X U O. At the Commander's option, he may designate one or two exemplar(s) who will kneel at the Altar. The other designates will remain standing but will repeat the obligation. If the Commander uses this option, he should use the text shown in parentheses below.*

**C.E.** (Exemplars,) You will kneel on both knees...

*Designates kneel.*

...and place your right hand on the Holy Bible and knightly sword. (Other designates in the class, remain standing with your right hand over your heart.)

*Done.*

...Say "I"

**Des.** I

**C.E.** Pronounce your name in full...

*Done.*

**C.E.** and repeat after me.

*C.E. pauses after each phrase of convenient length in the Obligation, to give designates an opportunity to repeat it. A diagonal is placed at suggested points for pausing, but C.E. should understand that he may phrase as he chooses. If an identification card is not given to the designates, the phrase "identification card and" should be omitted in the Obligation.*

In the presence of Almighty God / and these witnesses here assembled, / do solemnly promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will do all in my power to strengthen the Order of DeMolay / and to prove myself worthy / of the honor I shall here receive / on bended knee and with deep humility.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will, to the utmost of my ability, / carry the teachings of the Order of DeMolay / into my daily life; / to live in secret and before the world, / in accordance with its precepts.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will never willingly do anything / to forfeit the good opinion / of all right-thinking men.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will always heed the call of service / in any field of endeavor, / that I will never shirk / the responsibilities of citizenship, / and will, to the best of my ability, / aid in the enforcement / of law and order.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that hereafter on March eighteenth / of each year / I will, as a memorial to the martyrdom of Jacques DeMolay, / have communion with a fellow member of the Legion of Honor / wherever I may be, / and should this be impossible, / will break bread with a member of the Order of DeMolay / or a young man in his teens.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will never have communion with, / nor recognize as a member of, / the Legion of Honor, / anyone who does not possess / the (identification card and) credentials / of DeMolay International.

I furthermore promise, covenant, and vow, / that I will never take the name of God in vain.

So help me God!

*Suggested music cue:*

**C.E.** You will disengage your hands...

*Done.*

...arise...

*Done.*

...and kiss the Holy Bible.

*Done.*

*C.E. faces East, moves O U X, faces West.*

**C.E.** \* (rap)

*All except C.E. sit down.*

**C.E.** Flowers play an important part in DeMolay activities. We believe in placing them in the hands of the living and not alone on the casket of the dead. (Brother) Preceptors, you will pay tribute to these Legionnaires.

*C.E. sits down. 1P. rises, takes red and white carnations along with candle, and moves X Z F H M to candle 1, lights it and steps to point O, faces West.*

**1P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of filial love and with these flowers of affection...

*1P. places red and white carnations on the Altar.*

...I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of loving sonship.

*1P. moves O P V T Z X, replaces candle, sits down. As 1P. sits down, 2P. rises, takes ferns or evergreens along with candle and moves X Z F H P, then to candle 2, lights it and steps up to point O, faces West.*

**2P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of reverence for sacred things and with these green sprigs of immortality...

*2P. places ferns or evergreens on Altar.*

...I dedicate you anew to the faith of our fathers--a faith that builds cities, founds homes and preserves nations; a faith that makes youth strong and manhood gentle, as purpose and plan are with certainty unfolded before us. May you, through virtue, truth and righteousness, reveal a faith that will hold you steadfast to the end.

*2P. moves O P V T Z X, replaces candle, sits down. As 2P. sits down, 3P. rises, takes white roses along with candle and moves X Z E P, then to candle 3, lights it and steps to point O, faces West.*

**3P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of courtesy and with these pure roses of white...

*3P. places white roses on Altar.*

...I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of that thoughtful consideration for others which is the only true refinement.

*3P. moves O P V T C Z X, replaces candle, sits down. As 3P. sits down, 4P. rises, takes jasmine or other yellow flowers along with candle and moves X Z E S R, then to candle 4, lights it and steps to point O, faces West.*

**4P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of comradeship and with these yellow flowers of constancy...

*4P. places jasmine or other yellow flowers on Altar.*

...I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of loyalty to your fellows in all the contacts of life.

*4P. faces East, moves O R Q C Z X, replaces candles, sits down. As 4P. sits down, 5P. rises, takes blue flowers along with candle and moves X Z V T N, then to candle 5, lights it then steps to point O, faces West.*

- 5P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic altar of fidelity and with these flowers of blue....

*5P. places blue flowers on Altar.*

... that are the immemorial symbol of that virtue, I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of faithfulness to all the obligations of your life.

*5P. moves O N F H Z X, replaces candle, sits down. As 5P. sits down, 6P. rises, takes white lilies along with candle and moves X Z V T N, then to candle 6, lights it then steps to point O, faces West.*

- 6P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of cleanness and with these lilies of stainless white...

*6P. places lilies on Altar.*

...symbol of the true knight's purity of thought, word and deed, I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of clean living, clean speaking and clean thinking. The great message of DeMolay to its membership and to the world is this--a clean mind in a clean body is the best preparation for the clean manhood upon which clean citizenship depends.

*6P. moves O N F H Z X, replaces candle, sits down. As 6P. sits down, 7P. rises, takes red roses along with candle and moves X Z V T L, then to candle 7, lights it then steps to point O, faces West.*

- 7P.** In the name of DeMolay International, I light this candle at the symbolic Altar of patriotism and with these red roses--...

*7P. places them on Altar.*

... the immemorial badge of courage--I dedicate you anew to the DeMolay ideals of citizenship, the bravery that springs to the defense of this flag and your country's honor if conflict comes—and the bravery which offers the heroism of good citizenship in time of peace.

*7P. moves O N F H Z X, replaces candle, sits down.*

*Suggested music cue:*

*G.Mar. conducts designates, moving J K V T L, faces South.*

- G.Mar** (Brother) Commander in the South, I present these designates now about to be invested with the Legion of Honor.



**C.S.** For the purpose of this ceremony, I occupy the station symbolic of the years of manhood. As the sun at its zenith represents the day half done, the task incomplete, this station symbolizes the attainment of noontime years. I congratulate you most heartily upon the distinguished honor that has been accorded you. Its value will not consist of the intrinsic worth of the insignia which will be given you, but in the fact that you are hereby rededicated and reconsecrated through all the years of your lives to unfaltering championship of your Order, whose interests are bound up with those of your community and your nation. I charge you in all solemnity to prove your further merit by regulating your future conduct by the teachings of the Order upon which you have reflected credit and which, through its highest governing body, is glad to honor you. You will now be conducted to the Commander in the West.

*Suggested music cue:*

*G. Mar. conducts designates, moving L C D, faces West.*

**G.Mar** (Brother) Commander in the West, I present these designates now about to be invested with the Legion of Honor.

**C.W.** For the purpose of this ceremony, I occupy the station in the West, symbolic of the day about to close and the human life that nears its end. But above all it represents the sun that shall never set and the glorious promise of everlasting happiness in the world to come. At this station, symbolic of the end of the journey, I can, with all propriety, congratulate you on this auspicious occasion, and express the hope that--when for you in turn the sunshine of life shall turn to shadows--they will close about you like a benediction--with the promise of eternal rewards and everlasting honors. You will now be conducted to the East.

*Suggested music cue:*

*G.Mar. conducts designates moving D E S R, faces East. Places kneeling pads for designates.*

**C.E.** It is now my pleasant duty and honor to present to each of you these tangible emblems of the decoration accorded Legionnaires of the Order of DeMolay. They are the Patent of Membership, the Knightly Ring, the Cordon of a Valiant Knight of the Legion of Honor, and the Medallion of Chivalry.

This Patent is a document which you may well place beside the intimate treasures of your life and cherish as a priceless possession. By this Patent, DeMolay International has become your endorser--has issued its certificate of your good character. To the world it is a promise which you must redeem at full face value and without compromise or devaluation. To yourself it is a standing challenge to perform nobly in every contest you may enter.

The ring is a fitting symbol of all the pledges you have made, or may make in the future, to be a citizen of whom your Order and the nation may have cause to be proud. In all ages the ring has been a gauge of fidelity. It is as endless as the wisdom, power and mercy of God. It is made of gold, the immemorial symbol of worth. May it inspire you to a new devotion to God, to your country, to the cause of truth and righteousness, a devotion which will be as endless as this circlet and as priceless as the gold of which it is composed.

*If all designates are receiving a ring, omit the word "symbolically" and place ring on finger at the conclusion of the part. If one or more designates do not select the ring, the word "symbolically" should be used and the sample ring should be displayed during the speech.*

**C.E.** I (symbolically) place this ring upon your little finger and enjoin you ever to consider it a constant reminder of your vow to be faithful to the trust reposed in you.

The Cordon is the insignia of membership in an Order which has taken as its great exemplar one of the world's most knightly heroes, Jacques DeMolay, whose memory all DeMolays revere. As I place it about your neck may it robe you with knightliness, clothe you with dignity and honor and ever remind you of that humility which is the very essence of knighthood.

The medallion reveals the valor that has come down through the ages. The knights of old wore some similar heraldic device, containing the portrait of a loved one, their civil lord or some other appropriate figure attesting their knightly state. May it ever be before you as a reminder of the cause to which you have pledged your knightly honor.

*Suggested music cue:*

*C.E. places cordons and medallions on each designate after conclusion of the speech.*

*G.Mar without direction, moves R Q I J, faces East, removes sword from Altar, then moves J K V U and hands it to C.E.*

**C.E.** In the name of DeMolay International, and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, and with this sword, an emblem of power which should be wielded in defense of right and only against wrong, injustice and oppression, I dedicate you in the eyes of God, these witnesses and the world, to your country's highest good, to the defense of its honor, to the performance of all the duties of devoted and patriotic citizenship which alone make a nation great. I dedicate you anew to the championship of the public schools and to honorable warfare against all who would assail them or take the smallest stone from this citadel of our nation's liberties, and with this sword I shall now dub, create, constitute and consecrate each of you a Legionnaire of the Legion of Honor of the Order of DeMolay.

*C.E. moves to point U then to each designate in turn. If the designate is able and willing to kneel, C.E. will direct the designate to kneel. C.E. then taps the designate lightly on the right shoulder and says:*

**C.E.** For God

*...on the left shoulder...*

**C.E.** For country

*...on the crown of the head...*

**C.E.** For DeMolay. Arise Legionnaire.

*Takes sword by blade in right hand, places sword across left arm, turning the left side to Legionnaire, who places right hand on hilt and rises. After all designates have been dubbed, C.E. hands sword to G.Mar., who returns it to the Altar. G.Mar. also removes the kneeling pads. G.Ch. may assist G.Mar. with these tasks. G. Mar. then directs Legionnaires to face Altar. Meanwhile, C.E. returns to station Z X.*

**C.E.** (Brother) Grand Marshal, you will present the Patents.

*Done.*

May God bless all that has been said and done here; may these just invested with this honor press forward as a valiant phalanx, a veritable Legion of Honor, leading DeMolay's serried ranks to new victories for the prosperity, safety and honor of our beloved country, and to the glory of the Infinite and Almighty God. Amen.

*G.Mar. seats new Legionnaires and returns Z X.*

**C.E.** \* (rap)

*All sit down.*

*If the conferral team will be retiring from the room:*

**C.E.** \*\* (2 raps)

*Officers rise.*

**C.E.** The Officers will now retire.

*Suggested music cue:*

*G.Mar moves X Z C E V T C E V T A, picking up the Preceptors on the first cycle, then the G.Ch., C.S., C.W., and G.C. on the second cycle, with each taking a place in the procession just behind G.Mar.*

# APPENDIX

## Pronouncing Glossary

admonish	ăd-mŏn'ish. To remind of an obligation.
assail	ə-sāl'. To attack verbally; to ridicule.
attuned	ə-tūnd'. In agreement with; conformed.
auspicious	ô-spīsh'əs. Marked by success.
chivalrous	shīv'əl-rəs. Characterized by honor and courtesy.
chivalry	shīv'əl-rē. Customs of knighthood such as bravery, honor, and courtesy.
circlet	sūr'klīt. A small circle, especially a circular ornament.
citadel	sīt'ə-dəl. A stronghold or fortified place.
citation	sī-tā'shən. A commendation for excellent service.
colleagues	kŏl'ēgz'. Peers or allies.
communion	kə-myūn'yən. The act of sharing thoughts; fellowship.
constancy	kŏn'stən-sē. Being faithful to purposes.
constitute	kŏn'stī-tūt'. To appoint to an office; to designate.
convene	kən-vēn'. To come together for an official purpose.
covenant	kŭv'ə-nənt. A binding agreement or contract.
devaluation	dē-vāl'yū -ā' shən. A lowering in price or value.
exalted	īg-zŏl'tīd. Elevated in rank or status.
exemplar	īg-zēm'plār'. A model; one worthy of imitation.
exponent	ĕk'spŏ'nənt. One that speaks for or advocates.
filial	fil'ē-əl. Of, relating to, or befitting a son or daughter.

heraldic	hə-rāl'dīk. Something that designates or proclaims.
heretofore	hīr'tə-fōr'. Previously; up until now.
illustrious	ī-lūs'trē-əs. Well known and distinguished.
immemorial	īm'ə-mōr'ē-əl. Reaching beyond the limits of memory.
insignia	īn-sīg'nē-ə. A badge of rank; an emblem.
intrinsic	īn-trīn'zīk. Related to the essential nature of a thing; essence.
manifest	mān'ə-fēst'. Clearly apparent or obvious.
perpetuate	pər-pěch'ū-āt'. To cause to be remembered for all time.
phalanx	fā'lāngks'. A formation of infantry with shields and spears.
propriety	prə-prī'i-tē. Appropriateness; quality of being proper.
reconsecrate	rē-kōn'sī-krāt'. To rededicate solemnly to a service or goal.
reverence	rěv'ər-əns. The act of treating with respect.
righteousness	rī'chəs-nəss. State of being morally upright, without sin.
serried	sēr'ēd. Pressed or crowded together, especially in rows.
shirk	shūrk. To avoid or neglect a duty.
steadfast	stěd'făst. Fixed or unchanging; steady.
tangible	tān'jə-bəl. Possible to touch; having a value.
unfaltering	ūn-fōl'tər-īng. Being steady in purpose or action.
vainglory	vān'glōr'ē. Boastful pride in one's accomplishments.
valiant	vāl'yənt. Brave; possessing valor.
veritable	věr'ī-tə-bəl. Being real or genuine.
wield	wēld. To handle with skill and ease.
zenith	zē'nīth. The highest point reached by a celestial body, as in the sun; the peak.