



Bishop James A. Healy Province – Jurisdiction of Maine August 2017



Unveiling of New Patriotic Uniform

At the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis, Missouri held on 01 – 03 August, a historic announcement was made by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson: the introduction of the new uniform of the Fourth Degree. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors took this action motivated by the best interests of the Order as a whole and of the Fourth Degree in particular. The new uniform is part of a comprehensive and necessary effort to keep our Order relevant and attractive to men, particularly younger men.

In light of this significant change, I thought it would be helpful to address some of the questions that have been asked about the new uniform.

- The cape and chapeau, while popular among some Fourth Degree members, have become dated and are increasingly cited as a reason that eligible Catholic men, especially young men, do not join the Knights.
- Today there are nearly 2 million members of the Order, but only 358,000 of them are Fourth Degree Knights — less than 20 percent. The old regalia was one reason often given by brother Knights for why they did not want to advance to the Fourth Degree.
- We understand that some Fourth Degree members are fond of the old regalia. The cape and chapeau will still be allowed, for a time, in those assemblies and districts that wish to use it, though the preference is the new uniform.

- Ceremonial swords will continue to be part of the Fourth Degree.
- The new uniform is designed to be much more versatile than the older regalia and can be worn at a much wider range of functions.
- Our choice of uniform, while important, has always been ancillary to the work we do carrying out the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, and this should always be the case.

“We commend all of the faithful Sir Knights who have proudly worn the Fourth Degree regalia, bringing much respect to the Order. With the new Fourth Degree uniform, recently approved by the Board of Directors, this honor and respect associated with Sir Knights will remain, and it will open the door more widely for a new generation to join their ranks. In a spirit of unity, let us assist with a smooth transition to this new uniform and encourage it to be worn with great dignity and pride.”



Black Beret with Patriotic Symbol in gold

White button down shirt (no buttons on the collar) and unique Blue Tie with Patriotic Emblem in Gold

Navy blue jacket with gold buttons and the Patriotic Emblem in regular colors surrounded by gold leaves

Dark Gray pants

Black shoes (does not have to be patent leather as was for the tuxedo)



The photo above is from the Supreme Convention Necrology Mass held on 03 Aug 2017 at which Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard is leading the Vice Supreme Masters during the recession.

NOTE: District Master Philip Lizotte states to “please be patient” as this transition occurs and some formalities are still being reviewed. If you have any questions, please contact him via the State Directory.

We have been testing the new uniform over the past year with key groups of Knights, including those brother Knights who participate in our annual “Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage”. The feedback we received from these groups has been very positive.

During the Supreme Convention, the Good of the Order Committee spoke in words I wish to make my own: