

# CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

## RITUAL



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION CEREMONY

### PERSONNEL NEEDED:

LONG FORM: Commander, Chaplain, 1VC, 2VC, 3VC, Welfare Officer, Treasurer and Officer of the Day

SHORT FORM: Commander, Officer of the Day

### ITEMS REQUIRED:

Head Table – large enough to fit seats for 3 people

Altar in place and set up with Bible, One (1) vigil candle or two (2) small votive candles

Echelon and National Colors already in place

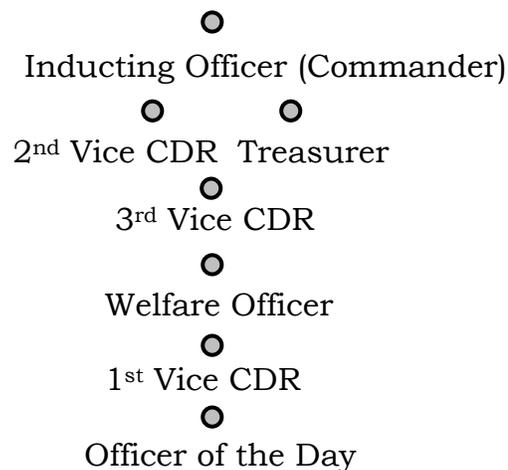
St. Sebastian statue, if desired

Copy of this Ceremony for each Officer with a speaking part

## RITUAL INDUCTION TEAM

The Ritual Induction Team consists of seven (7) members and is used for the Induction of New Members. The team consists of: Inducting Officer (Commander), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander, Treasurer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Commander, Welfare Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and the Officer of the Day.

The Team marches in to the hall (or room), in the form of a cross; they halt in front of the altar.



The Inducting Officer reports the Team to the Commander (*they exchange salutes*) and says, “Team, take your post”. Each member executes the movement to put him/her in line with the station s/he is to occupy and marches to his/her post.

**(RIGHT FACE, LEFT FACE, an OBLIQUE or ABOUT FACE)**

(Refer to the diagram “Post Meeting Room” for the posts for each member of the Ritual Team.) At the command “*Team - take your post*” each member of the Ritual Team shall go to the station corresponding to the Office s/he represents.

## RITUAL FOR INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS - LONG FORM

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day (*they exchange salutes*), present the applicant(s) for Induction.

(The OD conducts the applicant(s) to the altar and exchanges HAND SALUTE with Inducting Officers, then stands to the right of the applicants.)

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Commander, these applicant(s) are qualified for membership in the (*insert name*) Post of the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS of the U.S.A. and are seeking admission.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** On behalf of CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS, I welcome you. The CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS hold dear five principles: UNITY, JUSTICE, TRANQUILITY, WELFARE AND LIBERTY. You no doubt recognize our principles as a part of the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. We wish to stimulate the spirit of Americanism.

*\*\* If the room where the Ritual is to be conducted is large enough to permit the maneuvering of the applicants from station to station by station by the Officer of the Day, the Commander will say the applicable command below for each principle:*

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day conduct the applicants to the station of (*name of Officers station*) to be instructed in (*name of the principle*).

- OR -

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day, conduct the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander to the applicants to instruct them in Unity.

If the size of the room permits , the OD maneuvers the applicant(s) by two's or four's to the designated station and halts them facing the Officer of that Station.

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Applicants, ATTENTION! 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander”, (*they exchange salutes*) I present these applicants to you for instruction in Unity.

*(The Officer of the Day takes a position to the rear of applicants.)*

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-COMMANDER:** At Ease! The Constitution of the United States was created to unite the States in a firm Union. It was evident that American Liberty would be lost unless the States united. So too, we CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS pledge ourselves to be of greater service to our God, our Country, and to one another, and now, we charge you to unite with your fellow members in the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS of the U.S.A. and to be of greater service to our God, our Country, and to one another.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day, conduct the applicants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander to instruct them in Justice.

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Applicants, Attention! 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander, (*they exchange salutes*) I present these applicants to you for instruction in Justice.

*(The Officer of the Day takes a position to the rear of applicants.)*

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER:** At Ease! The Constitution of the United States was established to guard our liberty – to safeguard the rights of citizens against the lawless. Justice is our guide and the security of our nation depends upon it. At all times we must be vigilant and preserve Justice. By the application of this principle, our heirs will be protected and you must take an active part in CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS activities to preserve the inalienable rights of justice to our God, to our Country, and to one another.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day, conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Commander to the applicants to instruct them in Tranquility.

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Applicants, Attention! 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Commander, (*they exchange salutes*) I present these applicants to you for instruction in Tranquility.

*(The Officer of the Day takes a position to the rear of applicants.)*

**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE-COMMANDER:** At Ease! The Constitution of the United States ensures domestic Tranquility. We all long for Harmony, Peace and Order. Let us pledge our loyalty to our country and to the principles of CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS. Harmony in our Posts will make the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS an outstanding Veterans' Organization and perpetuate our ideals and ideas, and now, we want you to be constructive in the affairs of CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS and not to be faultfinders. Let us promote peace and harmony for our God, our Country, and toward one another.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day, conduct the applicants to the Welfare Officer to instruct them in Welfare.

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Applicants, Attention! Welfare Officer, *(they exchange salutes)* I present these applicants to you for instruction in Welfare.

*(The Officer of the Day takes a position to the rear of applicants.)*

**WELFARE OFFICER:** At Ease! The Constitution was framed to promote the general welfare. By the unification of the States, they pooled their resources and concentrated their energies for the common good. As CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS we dedicate ourselves to give aid in every possible way to the veterans, their widows, and orphans and you should consider it a sacred duty to cooperate and assist your Welfare Officer and fellow members in the general welfare of veterans, their widows, and orphans.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Officer of the Day, conduct the applicants to the Treasurer to instruct them in Liberty.

**OFFICER OF THE DAY:** Applicants, Attention! Treasurer, *(they exchange salutes)* these applicants have received instructions in Unity, Justice, Tranquility, and Welfare. I now present them to you for instruction in Liberty.

**TREASURER:** At Ease! The Preamble of the United States Constitution declares that the Constitution is established to secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity. The framers of the Constitution were thinking of us, their posterity and heirs, and to preserve liberty. We should be ready to sacrifice our lives and our honor. It was the faith of the forefathers that gave them the strength to plan for the future. When suspicion, jealousies, selfishness blocked the progress of the framers of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin suggested that they call upon Providence to give them guidance. Thus, they found the way to make American Liberty secure and, you should conduct yourselves at all times as true Catholics and Americans. Safeguard the foremost right of man – Liberty, Liberty to worship our God, to serve our Country, and to help one another.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** Reverend Chaplain, lead us in prayer for Divine Guidance for the Welfare of the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS, for the enlightenment of these new members, and that they may be one with us and our principles.

**CHAPLAIN: “PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT”**

Come, O Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Thy Spirit, and our hearts shall be regenerated, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray...

O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit didst instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us by the same Holy Spirit, a love and relish for what is right and just, and the constant enjoyment of His consolations' through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** *(Commander addresses the applicants.)*

Are you ready and willing to obligate yourselves to the laws and pledges expressed in the oath of the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS?

**APPLICANT(S):** I am.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** *(Three raps of the gavel.)* The members will stand at ATTENTION while the applicant(s) take the oath.

*(Commander raises his/her right hand and addresses the applicant(s))*

Applicant(s), raise your right hand. You will repeat after me the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS Oath:

**On my honor \*\* as a Catholic Citizen and Armed Forces Veteran, \*\* I promise, without reservation \*\* to uphold the Constitution of the United States \*\* to obey its laws and defend its Flag \*\* against all its enemies whosoever.\*\* That I will fulfill my obligations as a Catholic\* \* and obey the laws of the Catholic Church. \*\* That at no time will I introduce for membership \*\* any who are not entitled thereto. \*\* That I will not at anytime, through any word or deed, \*\* bring discredit to the organization.**

*(At the conclusion of the oath there should be a ten (10) second period of silence. The Inducting Officer bids the assembly to be seated, and turning to the new member(s), says:*

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** At Ease! The CWV Emblem consists of several parts.

- The **Celtic Cross** represents to us the symbol of Christianity preserved and protected by valiant forefathers.
- The **letters U.S.** on the star are for these United States and stand for the Constitution on which are based our principles.
- The **Star** stands for the glory of victory.
- The **Wreath** is for remembrance of those who died that liberty might live.
- The **Circle** denotes the perpetuity of the Church which will last until the end of time as guaranteed by its founder, Jesus Christ.
- The **Olive Branch** of peace signifies our attitude toward all men in fulfillment of our Lord's behest, Love thy Neighbor as Thyself.

Note the setting of this room. The space between the Commander's station and the altar represents **No Man's Land** in memory of those who died there on the battle fields. No one should cross that space during a meeting or ceremony. Note the following objects in this room, the Altar, the Bible, the Light, and the Flag.

- The **Altar** represents Calvary, a place of sacrifice, and serves as a reminder to us that veterans made sacrifices in the name of our Democratic Republic and that we will sacrifice our lives, if necessary, to preserve our American principles.
- The **Candle** is symbolic of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, the light of Faith. The rays of its light should fire us with a new zeal to continue to work for the cause for which we are banded together, and may this light keep before our minds the memory of our beloved dead.
- The **Bible** is the sacred book of inspired writings. The knowledge of its contents should inspire and guide us in our work.
- The **Flag** represents our republic and is symbolic of the sacrifices made by our forefathers to establish these United States. The **Red Stripes** represent the blood which was shed in the fight for Liberty. The **White Stripes** represent the purity of purpose for which blood was shed. The total of thirteen stripes (seven red and six white) represent the thirteen original states. The stars, one for each state, are grouped together in the Blue field of Loyalty. May we cherish and imitate what they represent.

(My fellow veterans)(Comrades), from the famous speech, 'Catholicism & Americanism,' of the late Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minn., this oft-quoted paragraph should be subscribed to by all CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS,

"My religious faith is that of the Catholic Church - Catholicism, unswerving and soul swaying, the Catholicism taught by the Supreme Chieftain of the Catholic Church, the Pope, the Bishop of Rome. My civil and political faith is that of the republic of the United States of America - Americanism, purest and brightest

yielding in strength and loyalty to the Americanism of none other American, surpassed in spirit of obedience and sacrifice by the none other citizen, none other soldier, sworn to uphold in peace and in war America's Star Spangled Banner.”

Let us sing the last verse of the Star Spangled Banner which was written by that great American, Francis Scott Key.

*(All join in singing – See page iv for words)*

*After singing is finished -*

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** (Comrades) (My fellow veterans), I welcome you as members of the CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS of the U.S.A.

*(Steps out in front of the altar and introduces each new member to the Post. The Officer of the Day places the new members among the members of the Post.)*

At the conclusion of the New Member Induction Ritual, the Inducting Officer commands TEAM, ASSEMBLE. The members take their places in the cross formation, facing the exit.

**INDUCTING OFFICER:** FORWARD, MARCH *(and the team leaves the room).*