

# Ceremony of Instituting a New Chapter

*The officers to be installed after the Chapter is instituted will be seated in a triangle formation between the altar and the west with the Master Councillor at the apex. The Instituting Officers (Instituting Master Councillor (IMC), Instituting Senior Councillor (ISC), Instituting Junior Councillor (IJC), Instituting Marshal (Marshal), and Instituting Chaplain (Chaplain) along with a Scribe, Standard Bearer, and seven Preceptors (preferably the Scribe, Standard Bearer, and Preceptors are from the Mother Chapter of the Club that is being instituted) enter from the outer door of the Chapter room by the Instituting Marshal. The officers in single file proceed clockwise around the Chapter room in order of rank, dropping off at their particular stations. The Executive Officer, and all Active and Deputy Members of Supreme Council should already be in the East. When all the officers are in place, the Instituting Master Councillor begins.*

**IMC** Brethren and friends, we have met on this occasion to institute a new Chapter under the sponsorship of (name of the sponsoring body) and solemnly dedicate this Chapter to the great purposes for which the Order was established. For the benefit of those who may not be fully acquainted with its cardinal tenets, let me say in brief that it is consecrated to the inculcation and practice of clean, patriotic manhood as the best preparation for the citizenship that awaits these young men, and which must be clean and patriotic if it to be effective in perpetuating our national institutions. While we have secret signs, words and modes of recognition, we have no secrets from the world so far as our central purposes are concerned. In our meetings we inculcate only those principles which are in harmony with this exalted purpose and in our daily lives we seek to carry them into effect. We feel that we can rightly bespeak for our Order in general, and ourselves in particular the hearty assistance of all good men and women.

Brother Scribe, you will read for us the Letters Temporary which have been issued to this Chapter which is about to be instituted.

*(Scribe stands and reads document - IMC raps once)*

**IMC** Brother Marshal, you will escort to the altar the Master Councillor who has been elected to serve.

*(Marshal leads the Master Councillor of the Chapter to be instituted to the altar)*

Brother Master Councillor as you will be, when you are formally instituted, I have summoned you to the altar of your Chapter, that you may be thoroughly informed as to the duties developing upon you and your Chapter, and that you may give strict attention to the inculcation of the cardinal teachings of this Order.

Brother Marshal, you will escort the Master Councillor to his seat.

Marshal leads Master Councillor back to his seat.

Brother Preceptors, you will form at the altar.

*(Preceptors turn to the east, come to the marching line in the east in the same manner used for the obligation)*

Our forefathers were well aware that the religious liberties represented by the Holy Bible, civil liberties represented by the flag of our country, and the intellectual liberties represented by the school books, must go hand in hand in order to be effective. Around these bulwarks, the Order of DeMolay places seven candles, symbolic of the cardinal virtues of a DeMolay.

*(In turn each preceptor lights his candle, takes one step back and says:)*

**1st Preceptor** We light this first candle at the altar as a symbol of filial love. Remember your duties to your parents, as they have remembered their duties to you, and do not feel ashamed to display the affection that every right thinking man should feel within his heart.

**2nd Preceptor** The second candle is symbolic of our reverence for sacred things. We are all children of a universal Father acknowledging that he is all and in all. In our Order, we teach no religious creed, but urge you to frequent the holy places of worship, and to enjoy the companionship of the devout.

**3rd Preceptor** Courtesy is the third cardinal virtue of a DeMolay. We do not reserve our courtesy for strangers alone, but practice it in our every day life in the home, in the school, and in the community. May your courtesy always be natural and unassumed.

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**4th Preceptor** The light that flames from this candle is symbolic of the comradeship that exists between one brother and another. No man, young or old, can enjoy a higher honour and than to be valued as a friend or trusted as a brother. May this light glow brighter and brighter as the years go by.

**5th Preceptor** We light this candle as a symbol of fidelity of which our Order is based on. Jacques DeMolay was burned at the stake rather betray his brethren or be false to a trust. May you live your lives that you may enjoy the esteem of being a man whose word is as good as his bond.

**6th Preceptor** This candle is symbolic of cleanness. Cleanness in thought, word, and deed. A clean mind in a clean body is the best equipment for clean manhood upon which clean citizenship depends.

**7th Preceptor** The seventh candle represents the virtue of patriotism. That patriotism which makes us live worthily for country, as well as die bravely for it, if the need should come. We firmly believe that there is a patriotism of peace as well as a heroism of war. And, may we never lose sight of this important virtue.

*(When all candles are lit, and before the preceptors leave their respective stations, the IMC concludes by saying:)*

**IMC** As the light from these candles permeates this Chapter room, let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven

*(Preceptors return to their stations)*

From time immemorial the Holy Bible has been the rule and guide of our faith, a heritage of which we should be justly proud, and a symbol of the religious liberty which we, as Canadians, firmly believe is the birthright of all our people.

Brother Senior Councillor, you will have the word of God placed on the altar and opened in recognition of our acceptance of this great heritage.

*(Senior Councillor carries the bible which has been on his pedestal, to the altar and opens it in the usual manner, steps back and says:)*

**ISC** From the station in the West, emblematic of the night of life, we place the Holy Bible, the foundation of our faith in everlasting days, upon the altar as a symbol of religious liberty which is the birthright of all people. Upon that altar it is not the emblem of any religious creed or the repository of any system of theology, but the word of the one living and true God, whose universal Fatherhood teaches the inescapable lesson of the brotherhood of all his sons. Without the opportunity to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, our freedom would be a mockery and therefore, as the foundation of all our liberties, we place the word of God upon our altar and solemnly enjoin the members of *(name of chapter to be instituted)* Chapter ever to walk in the light of its teachings, and never to meet save around its opened pages.

*(Senior Councillor returns to his station)*

**IMC** We recognize the glorious banner into which has been woven all the hopes and aspirations of the Canadian people. Its presence at each of our meetings should inspire a greater love for our beloved country, and a sincere hope of attaining our highest ideals.

Brother Junior Councillor, you will see that the flag of our country is presented at the altar.

**IJC** Brother Standard Bearer, you will place the flag of our country at the altar. *(3 raps)* Brethren and friends, you will stand at attention.

*(Standard Bearer places flag at the southeast corner of the altar. When he returns the flag to the East, he goes between the altar and the Master Councillor of the Chapter to be instituted)*

**IJC** Brethren and friends, join me in pledging allegiance to Her Majesty, the Queen of Canada.

**ALL** I do pledge that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, her heirs and successors according to the law, so help me God.

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**IJC** Brethren and friends, let us sing our national anthem.

*(After anthem, the IJC advances from his station to the flag and says:)*

From the station in the South, emblematic of manhood's approaching years. we place the flag at the altar as a symbol of civil liberty without which there could be no religious freedom. It is especially appropriate that this flag should be committed to the country of these young men, so soon to become the citizens by whose patriotism its honour must be defended, whether on the battlefields where good citizenship wages war with bad. In all crises of our nation's history, we have called upon our young manhood and thank God it has never failed to respond. Young men have fought every war our country has ever waged and the red upon the glorious banner is dyed a richer hue with the precious blood this nation's youth has shed. We, therefore, present it at our altar as a sentinel to guard us while we worship, and I solemnly enjoin the members of *(name of chapter to be instituted)*. Chapter never to meet save beneath its protecting folds and outside the Chapter walls ever to live worthy of that sacred banner.

*(After IJC has returned to his station, the Standard Bearer returns the flag to the East)*

**IMC** *(IMC goes to east side of the altar with school books)*

From the station in the East, emblematic of the morning years of our life, we place the school books on the altar as a symbol of the intellectual liberty, without which there could be neither civil nor religious freedom. They are particularly emblematic of the great public school system of our country, the foundation of that universal enlightenment which is the crowning glory of our institutions. Devoted championship of our public schools is a cardinal teaching of the Order of DeMolay. We are unalterably opposed to the same building housing a school, a church, and a seat of civil government. Civil, religious, and intellectual liberty are the sources of our country's greatness, but they must stand alone, upon separate foundations and under separate roofs. These books, representative of those being carried to and from the public schools by millions of boys and girls each day are just as vital symbols of our liberties as the Holy Bible, which is the rule and guide of our faith, or the flag which protects the church, the school, and the seat of civil power. We therefore, place these books upon the altar, and I solemnly enjoin the members of *(name of chapter to be instituted)*. Chapter ever to stand unswerving for the protection and perpetuity of the public schools, the citadel of our safety and the source of the only real democracy possible in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

*(IMC returns to the East)*

As no great undertaking should ever begin without first asking the blessing of almighty God, let us give our attention to our Chaplain as he leads us in prayer.

Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer. DeMolays will kneel on left knee, all others will remain standing.

*(3 raps) (Chaplain is escorted to the altar by the Marshal)*

**Chaplain** Our Father who art in heaven, we thank thee for the many blessings our Order has received from Thy hands. We are all thy children, whether we be young or old; whether we stand at the beginning of our journey with the morning sun upon our faces and our hands stretched out wistfully towards the prizes of the noon time; whether we stand at the summit of our journey with the meridian sun shining all about us, with half our years behind us and half before; whether we stand near the ending of our journey, with the western sun greeting the shadows of the evening. Our Father, we who are elder of the children bring to thee this hour, these our younger brothers and commit them to the loving care. Bless them as Thou seest they have need. Band them together to do Thy Holy will. They are dedicated to manly living and helpful service. They are consecrated to the preservation of the threefold, born of true citizenship, religious liberty, civil liberty, and intellectual liberty. Help us to help them to be true to these ideals. May Thy richest blessing be sent, and may its accomplished good be multiplied in the years that are to be. We ask it all in Thy Holy name. Amen.

*(Chaplain and Marshal return to their stations)*

## Ceremony of Chapter Institution - page 4

- IMC Brother Marshal, you will again present the Master Councillor-elect of (name of chapter to be instituted) Chapter at the altar.  
(*Marshal conducts MC-elect to the altar*)  
Brother Master Councillor, you have heard the inculcation of the cardinal tenets of our Order. Do you solemnly pledge yourself to do all in your power as the official head of this Chapter, to Carry out these teachings?
- MC I do.
- IMC Do you promise that you will be cautious in your own behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Chapter?
- MC I do.
- IMC All the members of (name of chapter to be instituted) Chapter about to be instituted, please rise. You have heard the pledges made by your Master Councillor. Do you, in turn solemnly bind yourselves to assist him to the utmost of your ability, to carry out these teachings, both while in the Chapter, and abroad in the world?
- Members We do.
- IMC Do you also promise a faithful obedience to the cardinal teachings as they have been inculcated?
- Members We do.
- EO Brethren, your answers being satisfactory and having complete confidence in the sincerity of your promises, by the authority invested in me as the Executive Officer, I do now declare (name of chapter to be instituted) Chapter, located in name of city in the Jurisdiction of province, under the sponsorship of name of sponsoring body, to be duly instituted and authorized to meet and work, subject to the rules and regulations of the Canadian Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.  
(*1 rap*)  
Brother Marshal, you will make the official proclamation.  
(*Marshal goes to the altar, places right hand on the Holy Bible, and raises left hand*)
- Marshal In the name of the Canadian Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, and by the direction of the Executive Officer, Dad E.O.'s name of the province of province, I proclaim the name of newly instituted chapter Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and its members, sponsored by name of sponsoring body, duly instituted as a Chapter in the Jurisdiction of province.  
(*IMC then turns the meeting over to the Installing Officer to proceed directly into the Installation of Officers ceremony*)

*This ceremony was adapted by Dad Lloyd Carver, a past Executive Officer of Ontario, from a ceremony originating in the United States. It was retyped and edited by Dad John Ticknor, of the G. Fred Kingsmill Chapter, London.*