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## **Guidelines Concerning the Liturgical Participation by the Fourth Degree Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus**

### **Diocese of Richmond**

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Over the years, the Knights of Columbus have been of great support in the life of the Church in our parishes, in our diocese, and in our nation. However, the role of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in liturgical celebrations is not strictly speaking a liturgical one.

The following guidelines are offered for the liturgical participation of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Color Corps in the Diocese of Richmond in Virginia.

**Guideline 1:**

The Color Corps take part in liturgical functions only when advance permission (preferable several days prior) has been received from the pastor or diocesan office in charge of the ceremony.

**Guideline 2:**

At the liturgical celebration, the Color Corps may lead the procession into the church (preceding the cross) and precede the procession out of church. This is to be done in harmony with the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 32, which states: "No special honors are to be paid in the liturgy to any private persons or classes of persons, whether in ceremonies or by external display."

**Guideline 3:**

The Color Corps will refrain from activity or external display during the Eucharistic Prayer which differs from that of the assembly. For example: chapeaux are to be removed at the start of the liturgical celebration; and gloves are to be removed for the reception of Communion.

**Guideline 4:**

During the celebration of the Eucharist, the members of the Color Corps should be seated in an appropriate place in accordance with the directives of the priest or MC in charge of the ceremony. Full liturgical participation, as members of the assembly, is always expected.

**Guideline 5:**

The members of the Color Corps and other Fourth Degree Knights may exemplify their role of service when serving as ministers of hospitality, offering welcome to those participating in special liturgical celebrations. Tuxedos and sashes add a note of elegance to this ministry. (e.g. see Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond)