

York Rite College

Installation Ceremony

IG = Installing Governor

IM = Installing Marshal

IS = Installing Secretary

IP = Installing Primate

IG: I am about to install the officers of _____ York Rite College Number _____ in due and ancient form. Eminent Secretary, call the roll of officers, who will then assemble west of the Altar.

IS: *(reads the roll and officers assemble in a line west of the Altar, Governor-elect to the South.)*

IG: Companion Knights, behold your officers. If there be any reason or just cause for delaying their installation, make it known at this time, or hereafter abide in peace. *(pause)* Hearing no objection, we may proceed in harmony.
* **(seat officers)**

IM: *(Presents Governor-elect at the Altar)* Preeminent Governor, I present to you Companion Knight _____, who has been elected to serve this York Rite College as Governor for the ensuing term, and now awaits your will and pleasure.

IG: Companion Knight, the high station to which you aspire brings to him who fills it both honor and grave responsibility. The members of this College have evidenced their belief that you rightfully merit the former and may be expected to faithfully perform the latter. As a Knight of York, you have assumed certain obligations which must now have for you a doubly heightened significance. In addition to these, I must require at this time your acceptance of certain articles and points pertaining to the duties of your office, and your affirmation that to the utmost of your ability you will perform the same. You may answer "I do" after each point.

1. Do you promise to govern your College with judgment and humility, ever placing the welfare of the College and its members above your own?
2. Do you promise to preserve the solemnity of our ceremonies and to conform to all the established forms, customs and usages of our Order?
3. Do you promise to conduct all meetings in order, cheerfully yielding to the will of the majority, and to promote harmony in all the affairs of your College?
4. Do you promise that you will never suffer your College to be opened unless there be present nine regular Knights of York?
5. Do you promise that you will do your utmost to guide and assist all Brothers in search of Light, ever remembering that he who is foremost in rank must also be foremost in Service?
6. Do you promise that you will admit no one to membership in your College who is not a member in good standing in a regular Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery?
7. Do you promise that you will ever strive to foster a spirit of unity among the several bodies and order of the York Rite?
8. Do you promise to bear true allegiance to the York Rite Sovereign College of North America as the final and supreme authority in all matters pertaining to this Order and to the government of the York Rite Colleges?
9. Do you promise to pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the officers of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, when acting in their official capacity and in conformity to established laws and customs?
10. Do you promise to observe and support such by-laws as may be adopted by your College in conformity to the Constitution and Laws of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America?
11. Do you promise to observe and support the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America?

12. Do you promise that you will bind your successor in office to the observance of these several articles and points before relinquishing your station and seating him in the same?

IG: Please kneel at the Altar. * * * (*all rise for prayer*) Eminent Primate, lead us in prayer.

IP: Supreme Architect of the Universe, in whose presence we move and live, and in whose name we perform all of our laudable endeavors, we humbly ask Thy blessing upon our present engagement. By Thy Heavenly grace, guide and assist this Companion Knight, now kneeling before Thee, in the honorable and faithful discharge of the duties of his office. Enlighten his mind and spirit with Thy divine refulgence, that he may share still greater light with those about him. Set his heart upon Thy way, that he may be a true and faithful guide to those who journey at his side. Grant him wisdom to plan, zeal to perform, and self-discipline to regulate every thought, word and deed, that they may be works well pleasing unto Thee. And on that fateful day when the heavenly trumpets shall sound the final call for assembly, may the record of his accomplishments bring naught, save upmost joy and deepest satisfaction. In the name of our Blessed Redeemer. Amen.

Response: So mote it be. * (*seat everyone except Governor-Elect*)

IG: Companion Knight, you will say "I", give your name in full and repeat after me:

I, _____, in the presence of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, do promise and vow, that I will serve this College as Governor, during the designated term of office, and until my successor, has been duly installed, that I will perform, all of the duties, pertaining to that office, to be best of my ability, and that I will bear true allegiance, to the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, and will ever support and maintain, its Constitution, Laws and Edicts, together with the by-laws of this College, these here assembled being my witnesses.

You may rise.

Companion Knight, I salute you as Preeminent Governor of this York Rite College, invest you with all the rights and prerogatives pertaining to that office, and charge you with the acceptance and faithful performance of all duties contained in the articles, points and obligations to which you have given assent. May your term of office bring to you pleasure and satisfaction; and to your College: prosperity, harmony and laudable accomplishment.

Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Preeminent Governor with the Jewel of his office and escort him to the East. *(done)*

* * * *(all rise)*

IG: Companion Knights, behold your Governor. Together, attend the Grand Honors of Masonry, taking your time from the Eminent Marshal.

(Grand Honors given three times five) * * * * *

IG: * *(seat everyone)*

IM: *(presents remaining officers west of the Altar)* Eminent Governor, I present to you several Companion Knights who have been elected or appointed to serve this College for the ensuing term, and now await your will and pleasure.

IG: Each will place his right hand over his heart, say "I", give your name in full and repeat after me:

I, _____, in the presence of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, do promise and vow that I will serve this College in my new office during the designated term of office; that I will perform all the duties pertaining to that office to the best of my ability; and that I will ever bear true allegiance to the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, and will ever support and maintain its Constitution, Laws and Edicts, together with the by-laws of this College; these here assembled being my witnesses.
(seat all but Deputy Governor)

IM: *(Introduces each officer in turn at the Altar, invests them with the Jewel of Office and escorts them to their stations after the appropriate Charge to each by the IG.)*

*(Eminent Deputy Governor; Eminent Chancellor; Eminent Treasurer;
Eminent Secretary; Noble Primate; Noble Preceptor; Noble Seneschal;
Noble Marshal and Noble Sentinel)*

(Charge to Deputy Governor)

IG: Eminent Deputy Governor, The duties of the important office to which you have been elevated will require your constant and earnest attention. In the absence of the Governor, you are to preside and perform his duties: at all times you are to aid and support him in all the requirements of his office. Having been honored by being selected for the second seat in this College, let the bright example of your Illustrious Predecessor at York stimulate you to the faithful discharge of your duties, and induce you to emulate his every virtue. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Deputy Governor with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his station.

(Charge to the Chancellor)

IG: Eminent Chancellor, in the absence of your superior officers you will be called upon to preside over this College, you will therefore perceive the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency. Having been admitted to the fellowship of kings and princes, be reminded that the office of mediator is one of great responsibility as well as honor. Let it be, therefore, your constant care to preserve harmony among the members of your College, discountenancing whatever may tend to create dissension and division. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Chancellor with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his station.

(Charge to the Treasurer)

IG: Eminent Treasurer, to your care is committed all of the property belonging to this College. Your demonstrated interest in this Order, your attachment to the York Rite and your known integrity of character, are a sufficient guaranty that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Treasurer with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his station.

(Charge to the Secretary)

IG: Eminent Secretary, the possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion Knight for this office, and I do not doubt that you will discharge its duties with fidelity and diligence. And when you have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you be admitted into the Supreme College above, and find your name recorded in the book of life eternal. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Secretary with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his station.

(Charge to the Primate)

IG: Noble Primate, from its earliest days, York was an important center of Christianity, and the Archbishop of York was known as the Primate of England. He was closely associated with the original Lodge at York, and you are his representative in the York Rite College. As such, it is your duty to supervise carefully the spiritual welfare of your College, a duty perhaps as important as that belonging to any other office. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Primate with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Preceptor)

IG: Noble Preceptor, the most ancient Lodges possessed an officer known as the Preceptor, whose special duty it was to serve as a teacher or lecturer. It is therefore your particular duty to see that all lectures and charges are properly given, and to assist in bringing more light to all those who seek it in your College. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Preceptor with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Seneschal)

IG: Noble Seneschal, guard well your post and admit none into the College but the select, the worthy and the faithful, for the future of our Order rests in the hands of those who pass your station on their first entrance into your College. Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief and prompt to execute them. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Seneschal with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Marshall)

IG: Noble Marshall, it is your duty, at all meetings of your College, to establish the bounds of the College and to make sure that the assembly is secure. Be zealous in preparing yourself for the effective discharge of this duty by establishing within your life and character those due bounds of morality, brotherly love and truth enjoined upon us by our Blessed Redeemer. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Marshall with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Sentinel)

IG: Noble Sentinel, at your station without the door, you are to guard your College against all intruders and eaves droppers. In like manner, it is the duty of us all to set a guard at the entrance to our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, and to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word and deed. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Sentinel with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Heralds)

IG: Noble Heralds, you have been appointed to an office which can do much to enhance the dignity and solemnity of our ceremonies. When the College is at work, you have a very important part as assistants to the other officers in performing their respective duties. In your hands also rests the preparations for those social accomplishments to our more serious endeavors. Your regular and prompt attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the College. Eminent Marshall, you will invest the Heralds with the Jewel of his office and escort him to his place.

(Charge to the Governor) [Governor will please rise]

IG: Preeminent Governor, you have accepted a trust bearing a weight of responsibility which will require all of your efforts to discharge with honor to yourself and satisfaction to the College. You are to see that your officers are capable and faithful in the performance of their duties, that your members are given proper instruction, that due solemnity governs the carrying out of all ceremonies and that your College does its utmost to accomplish the avowed purposes of our Order. In fine, you are to provide an

example to your officers and members which they need not hesitate to follow, this securing to yourself the favor of Heaven and the applause of your Companion Knights.

IG: (* *) Companion Knights in office, you have been honored by being given the privilege of serving your fellow members of this College. It is hoped that you will regard this as an opportunity to strive diligently and faithfully to perform all those duties with which you are to be familiar. If such be your resolve, and if success attends your efforts, your reward shall be as certain as that the dawn shall follow the night. Harmony shall prevail, light shall shine forth from this College to illumine the steps of the lesser informed and all shall be in order. To this end may we labor together, this day and in the years to come, until that final hour when the Great Governor of Heaven shall sit in judgment upon all our works. And may your reward measure truly and fully to your accomplishments, and your accomplishments to your highest aspirations.

IG: (* * *) Companion Knights of the College, no Governor, nor indeed any full corps of officers can by their own efforts achieve that which should be the full measure of performance of ever College. As York Rite Masons we are bound together by common vows and unity of purpose. See to it that as members of this College you are bound by those same ties, ever acting as one for the good of all. Act in harmony and with zeal, and surely you shall attain the realization of our highest aspirations.

IG: Eminent Marshall, you will make the proclamation.

IM: In the name of and by authority of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America I declare and proclaim the officers of Trinity York Rite College Number 154 duly and constitutionally installed therein. You will take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly. This proclamation is made to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South.

IG: Together Companion Knights, attend the Grand Honors of Masonry by three times five, taking your time from the Eminent Marshall.

IM: * * * * *

IG: * (*seats all*)