

DESCRIPTION OF REGALIA

KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE GREEN CROSS

OUTER-GARMENTS

SURCOAT

Description

The Knight's surcoat is sleeveless, covering the torso and legs to mid-calf. It has two slits—one in the front, one in the back—that run perpendicular to the ground and stop about mid-thigh. There is also a V-shaped slit in the neck that ends about mid-chest.

The garment is primarily green in color, save for a column of white that runs down the center of the front of the garment, wide enough to accommodate the official cross of the Order. This cross is green and marked with the five wounds of Christ: the head, the feet, the hands, and the right side.

At the four corners of the garment, at the base, there are four blue tassels.

Significance

The surcoat is the main covering of the Knight and his primary means of identification as being a member of the Order during ceremonies and appearances. Green signifies the Knight's separation from the world (green martyrdom); the white signifies moral purity (white martyrdom); the red signifies the Knight's willingness to die for the faith (red martyrdom); and the blue marks the Knight's adherence to the Word of God and his pursuance of the transcendent cause of God's kingdom.

The tassels on the garment are borrowed from the Jewish tradition of Bar Mitzvah, signifying the Knight's completing his rites of passage and entering into his authority as a man.

BELT

Description

The Knight's belt is black or brown. The Knight's sword and dagger are kept on the belt. The Knight received this belt at his induction as a Junior Squire.

Significance

Black and brown both signify humility, reminding the Knight that from dust he was made and to dust he shall return.

WEAPONRY AND ARMOR

SWORD

Description

The Knight's sword is a weapon of European medieval design, chosen or made according to the taste of the Knight. The Knight received his sword at his induction as a Senior Squire.

Significance

The sword is the central symbol of Knighthood. It symbolizes skill and preparation, in using the Word of God (the Sword of the Spirit) to battle deception and evil powers. It symbolizes defense of the Gospel and protection of God's flock the Church. It symbolizes responsibility, for they with skill and power must use them with prudence and discretion. It symbolizes honor, for to fight honorably is to show respect to your fellow man. And it symbolizes heritage, for often the sword was passed down from one generation to the next and represented the authority of the entire family.

DAGGER

Description

The Knight's dagger should be designed for utility; it is to be sheathed and worn on the Knight's belt. The Knight received his dagger at his induction as a Junior Squire.

Significance

The dagger is a symbol of utility, service, resourcefulness, and defense of the Gospel of Christ. It is to remind the Knight that his primary duty is to be a servant to all.

CHAIN HAUBERK AND COIF (OPTIONAL)

Description

A hauberk is a shirt of metal rings, worn under the surcoat of the Knight. A coif is made of the same material, though it covers the head—much like a hood. In medieval times, mail was the primary protective gear of Knights in battle, and served well to protect against many types of attack (especially against slashing weapons).

The hauberk should cover the torso and part of the thigh, with sleeves half-length (to the elbow) to full length (to the wrists), depending upon the taste of the Knight. The coif should cover the head with a small mantle covering the shoulders, and it is usually worn down so as to leave the head uncovered.

The hauberk and coif would have been given the Knight at his induction as a Senior Squire.

Significance

Though the Order of the Knights of the Green Cross relies on no earthly covering for protection, the simple armor of the Knight shall remind him of the Armor of God that he is to clothe himself with in prayer every day.

JEWELRY

SIGNET RING

Description

The signet ring of the Knights of the Order of the Green Cross is silver set with an engraved signet made of bloodstone. The signet contains the Latin mottoes *FIDEI DEFENSOR* (defender of the faith), *ECCLESIAE PROTECTOR* (protector of the

church), as well as the Scriptural reference Jude 3 and the Knight's initials. A torch is also portrayed in this signet.

Around the signet are the Latin words *IN MUNDO, NON MUNDI* (in the world, not of the world) and *EQUITES CRUCIS VIRIDIS* (Knights of the Green Cross). On each shoulder of the ring is a depiction of the official cross of the Order. The cross is engraved in the ring, and the five wounds of Christ are set with rubies.

The ring is to be worn on the Knight's right-hand index finger, or on the right-hand pinky finger (if worn over the gauntlets).

Significance

The signet ring symbolizes the Knight's authority under Christ to bind evil, defend the defenseless, fight for the helpless, and uphold the holy truths of Scripture. It also allows the Knight to seal documents and speak in the authority of the Order as a whole.

CHASTITY RING

Description

The chastity (also called a purity, or promise) ring shall be silver in color and be worn on the ring finger of either hand. The design is that of the Knight's choosing. The chastity ring was given the Knight at his induction as a Junior Squire.

Significance

The chastity ring embodies the Knight's vow of white martyrdom and moral purity, always keeping his eyes and heart from the lusts of the flesh and from lewdness in conduct. It is to be removed on the Knight's wedding day.

LOXLEY CROSS

Description

The Loxley cross is a pewter cross of Celtic design worn around the Knight's neck. In the center of the cross is set a green stone. This cross was given the Knight at his induction as a Page.

Significance

The Loxley cross is the oldest outward symbol the Knight possesses that ties him with the Order of the Knights of the Green Cross (at his induction as a Page), representing the Knight's ever-present fealty to Christ as his Savior and Lord. The green stone represents green martyrdom: it is a humble reminder for the Knight to separate from worldly pleasures and idolatry, always fleeing immorality and youthful lusts.

UNDER-GARMENTS

PANTS AND SHIRT (GAMBESON)

Description

These elements are to cover the whole body down to the ankles and wrists. The material shall be of the Knight's choosing, and they are to be black in color. In lieu

of a simple shirt, the Knight may instead wear a black gambeson: a padded, shirt-like garment that provides more comfort when wearing mail.

Significance

The blackness of the under-garments symbolizes the Knight's humility, associating him with dirt and dust, the humble stuff from whence he was made.

BOOTS AND GAUNTLETS

Description

The Knight's boots and gauntlets shall be black or brown in color and be made of leather. The Knight received these accouterments at his induction as a Senior Squire.

Significance

Boots and gloves for the Knight symbolize preparedness, as do the Boots of the Gospel of Peace from Ephesians 6.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPURS (OPTIONAL)

Description

In medieval times, being given a set of spurs was a mark of distinction for a knight. In our Order, the spurs are to be given the Knight as a gift from the Arma Patria. During the knighthood ceremony, the Arma Patria are to present the spurs to the Knight and place them on his boots.

Significance

The spurs are a symbol in our Order of the covering and brotherhood of the Knight's fathers in the faith, and an embodiment of the Arma Patria's acceptance and blessing of the Knight and his character as a man of God. If given, the spurs are often among the Knight's most prized of his knightly accouterments.