

The Fourth Degree Chalice / Crucifix Ceremony

Lector

Good morning. I am _____, the _____ of St. Jude Assembly, of which Sir Knight _____ was a member.

(pause)

Friends, St. Jude Assembly, Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, is once again called upon to bid a last farewell and to celebrate the entry into eternal life of one of its members. With deep respect we pay tribute to the memory of Sir Knight, _____, who God in his infinite wisdom and mercy, has seen fit to call to his eternal reward.

The occasion that brings us here today is one of sadness, but it is also one of celebration. It is sad indeed to realize that the ties of friendship and fraternal affection, which bound our brother to our Assembly, have been dissolved here on earth. It is one of celebration, because he now walks eternally with God.

Yet in our sadness, we celebrate the fact that our Brother, whom we know and still love, is rejoicing with gladness in God's steadfast and ever enduring love. He has finished his labors here on earth. A faithful servant has been called to the joy of eternal life.

As we realize the uncertainty of life, and the debt we owe to our departed Brother, an occasion such as this reminds us to dwell in serious thought on that time, when we too, traveling as fellow pilgrims in Baptism, shall join all of God's children in the joyful fulfillment of God's reign.

What a note of gladness, power and confidence rings out in the words of St. Paul: "Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed."

Today our hearts go out in deep sympathy to those who remain here to mourn. Their loss is great, but we, mercifully ask our loving God in His goodness and kindness, to console his gathered Church. For those who knew Sir Knight _____, may I borrow a word from Saint Ambrose: "We loved him in life, let us not forget him in death." With our minds filled with tenderness and sorrow, let us cherish our memories as we listen to the words of the poet.

SAFELY HOME

– Author unknown

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect Joy and beauty in this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over, every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever, safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly trod the valley of the shade?
Oh ! But Jesus' love illumined every dark and fearful glade.

And He came himself to meet me, in that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on, could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely, for I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows, pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you, so you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remains, you shall rest in Jesus land.

When that work is all completed, He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!

Lector

Today, we remember a brother whose life has given our lives meaning. We remember him who enriched our lives with love, friendship, kindness, compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding. Departed indeed from this life, he now shares with the saints, the joy of the Church triumphant. And now, we renew our bonds with him.

(pause)

Worthy Sir Knight _____, in the presence of your loved ones and friends, on this solemn occasion, honor you as a beloved Christian witness. In loving testimony, we present this chalice on which your name is engraved. It will be entrusted to a community of the Universal Church, there to be used in the Eucharistic celebration. It will serve to unite the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in that sacred banquet, in which you already share and for which we who remain still hope.

(pause)

Worthy Sir Knight,

(pause)

Until we meet again,

(pause)

Farewell.