

BY-LAWS
Knights of Columbus
Fourth Degree



Assembly 1099
Austin, Texas
Adopted September 11, 1989
Amended August 2012

WHEREAS, This Assembly is known as – Bishop Louis J. Reicher Assembly 1099 and

WHEREAS, This Assembly has received its Charter pursuant Article VII, Section 18, Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, and

WHEREAS, These Bylaws are promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in Article VII, Section 21 of the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, deemed necessary for the conduct of the Assembly’s affairs to better clarify and define the local needs of the Assembly. Should there be conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws, it is understood that the provisions and their construction as provided in the Supreme Laws shall prevail.

Article I – Name

The official name of this body shall be “**Bishop Louis J. Reicher Assembly 1099**, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus.”

Article II – Elections

Section 1. A slate of officers shall be presented to the General Assembly in April so the names can be published in the newsletter. Elections will be held at first Assembly meeting during the month of May. The officers shall hold office for a term of one year, beginning July 1, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Trustees shall be elected for a three year staggered term, as provided in Section 24(i) of Article VIII of the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Section 2. The election of officers for any contested position shall be by ballot. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect; except that where several of equal degree are to be chosen, a majority shall not be necessary, but all shall be voted for on one ballot and no ballot containing names of more or less candidates than there are such offices to be voted for shall be

counted, and those receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected in the order of the number of votes received.

Section 3. The Faithful Navigator shall appoint two members who shall not be candidates in the election to act as Tellers. After all who are entitled to do so have voted, the ballot shall be declared closed and the Tellers shall then proceed to count the votes. One of the Tellers shall examine each ballot singly and pass the same to his associate, who shall read aloud the name or names written or printed on all legal ballots. The Scribe shall tally the same and the result thereof shall be announced by the presiding officer.

Section 4. Each officer elected must qualify and fill the office to which he is chosen, with or without installation, at the first regular meeting in the month of July succeeding his election, unless excused by a vote of the Assembly, and must present himself for installation at the time specified in the notice issued by or through the District Master, unless excused by such officer. Otherwise such office shall be considered vacant.

Section 5. Vacancies in elective offices shall be filled, after notice to the members, by election at the regular business meeting next succeeding the regular meeting at which the vacancy was created.

Section 6. An office is considered vacant if the officer for that office has 3 consecutive unexcused absences. The vacant position will be posted following the 3 unexcused absences and voted at the next regular meeting. The nominating committee will consist of two current officers and the Faithful Navigator. An absence is considered unexcused if an officer fails to notify Faithful Navigator his intent to be absent. If the Faithful Navigator is not available to take the notification, one of the current officers may be notified. The Faithful Navigator will make the final determination if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Article III – Officers

Section 1. Each Assembly shall elect a Faithful Navigator, a Faithful Captain, a Faithful Pilot, a Faithful Comptroller, a Faithful Scribe, a Faithful Purser, Faithful Inner and Outer Sentinels, a Faithful Admiral and three Trustees. The Faithful Navigator, Faithful Captain, Faithful Admiral and Faithful Pilot shall annually appoint a priest to act as Faithful Friar or Chaplain but such selection must be made in accordance with any rules established by the bishop of the diocese in which the Assembly is located. The Faithful Admiral shall be chosen from the Past Faithful Navigators of the Assembly, if any there be.

Section 2. The faithful Navigator shall act as presiding officer, with all powers and duties incident to such office. In his absence, or inability to perform such duties of office, the Faithful Captain shall perform such duties and exercise such powers.

Section 3. The Faithful Captain shall, in the absence of the Faithful Navigator, perform the duties and exercise the powers of that office. He shall also, to assure a good attendance at meetings and other functions, have charge of social and other activities under the Good of the Order.

Section 4. The Faithful Admiral shall preside in case of the absence of both preceding officers, and may have such other powers and perform such other duties as herein prescribed.

Section 5. The Faithful Pilot shall have charge of all properties of the Assembly except moneys, accounts and record books of the officers but including ceremonials, shall be responsible for arrangement of the Assembly chamber and shall direct and be responsible for the activities of the Sentinels.

Section 6. The Faithful Comptroller shall collect and receive all moneys due the Assembly and all funds obtained from any source and transfer the same to the Faithful Purser and obtain a receipt from that officer; he shall keep accounts of the charges and receipts of each member; he shall keep a roll of the members, their ages, residences and occupations, with the date of their initiation in the Fourth Degree; he shall, upon request by a member transferring to another Assembly, issue a transfer card, signed by the Faithful Navigator and attested by the Faithful Comptroller; he shall issue to each member not indebted to the Assembly for dues, a Fourth Degree membership card, duly signed and attested as above, which card shall entitle a member to admittance to any meeting of the Fourth Degree within the period specified on said card and upon further compliance with the rule requiring that the member produce a Third Degree membership card; he shall keep such necessary official records and forms as will be furnished by the Supreme Secretary of all suspensions, withdrawals, deaths, reinstatements and transfers to or from other assemblies occurring during the period; and he shall generally perform all duties incident to this office as required by the Order's laws, the laws and rule of the Fourth Degree and of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Faithful Scribe shall keep a record of the minutes of all regular and special meetings in a bound book furnished for that purpose by the Assembly.

Section 8. The Faithful Purser shall act as the treasurer of the Assembly, keeping necessary records in a bound book furnished for that purpose by the Assembly; give a receipt to the Faithful Comptroller for all moneys given him by said Faithful Comptroller. He shall pay all orders drawn on him which are signed by the Faithful Comptroller and countersigned by the Faithful Navigator. All such orders shall have the approval of the Board of Trustees, except demands of the Supreme Council, initiation fees due the District Master, the regular and usual stated payments of the Assembly and payments authorized by the Assembly.

Section 9. The Faithful Inner and Outer Sentinels shall be responsible to see that all in attendance at meetings are in possession of appropriate valid Third and Fourth Degree membership cards and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Faithful Pilot.

Section 10. The Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Purser shall each give a bond for the faithful performance of the duties of his office in such amount and form as may be from time to time determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 11. The Trustees shall before each meeting carefully examine all bills and present same to the Assembly with their recommendation; and the approval of at least two members of the Board of Trustees shall be required for the payment of any bills or statements. They shall annually during the month of July make an audit of the books of the Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Purser, as of each June 30, and report their finding to the Assembly and file the original audit report with Supreme and distribute copies to Knights of Columbus State Office in Austin, Master, and to each of the trustees. The Faithful Navigator shall be chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Article IV – Delegates to District Assembly

Delegates and their respective alternates to the District Assembly shall be elected at the February meeting in the year in which such district Assembly is convened; prior notice of the holding of such election having been given to all members of the Assembly.

Article V – Committees

The Faithful Navigator shall be ex-officio a member of all committees and of the Board of Trustees of the Assembly, and shall be empowered to appoint, in addition to the permanent committees herein listed, any such committee or committees as he may deem proper and as shall be directed by the Assembly. The standing committees of the Assembly shall be:

Admission Committee: consisting of seven (7) members of the Assembly including the Faithful Admiral who shall be the Chairman. Its duty shall be to pass on all applications for membership in conformity with the provisions of Article IX, Section 28 of the laws and Rules of the Fourth Degree.

Welfare Committee: to visit the sick of the Assembly.

Membership Committee: to encourage increase of membership and to encourage worthy Third Degree Members of the Knights of Columbus to apply for advancement to the Fourth Degree.

Article VI – Meetings

The regular meetings of the Assembly shall be held on the second Monday of each month at such time and place as the Assembly may designate. Special meetings may be called as provided in Article VII, Section 20, of the Laws and Rules of the Fourth Degree. Fifteen (15) members shall

constitute a quorum at a meeting, except that at a meeting where a change in these By-Laws is to be voted upon, or other resolution, then twenty-five (25) shall constitute a quorum.

The order of business shall be such as is provided in Section 22 of the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree and in all matters not expressly covered by the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree, the procedure shall be the same as that provided by the Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus and Robert Rules of Order.

Article VII – Dues

The dues shall be recommended by the budget committee and presented to the General assembly. The dues shall be per annum and payable during the month of January of each year. Changes to the dues shall be published in the newsletter for a minimum of 2 months prior to the effective date.

Article VIII - Funds

Section 1. All monies obtained from any source, by or through any person or persons, acting for or in the name of the Assembly or under its direction or authority, shall be considered Assembly funds and shall be forthwith delivered to the Faithful Comptroller who shall give his official receipt therefor and who shall report at the close of each meeting the amounts so received and from what source and shall deliver the same to the Purser and take his receipt therefor.

Section 2. The Purser shall deposit all monies received from the Comptroller in a bank to the credit of the Assembly. Disbursements from this fund shall be made only by check signed by the Faithful Navigator and Purser. The depository shall be furnished with a copy of this section.

Section 3. No money in excess of \$500.00 shall be paid or transferred from the treasury of any Assembly (except such moneys as the Assembly is called upon to regularly pay for its current expenses, demands of the Supreme Council, purposes approved by the Supreme Council or Board of Directors, or initiation fees due the District Master) unless by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular meeting held subsequent to a regular meeting at which notice in writing of a resolution of intention to pay or transfer such money and the purposes and amount to be paid or transferred shall have been given and regularly read.

Section 4. All bills shall be presented to the Scribe and then referred to the Board of Trustees. In case a bill is not approved the Board of Trustees, it shall be referred back to the Assembly for action.

Section 5. No officers shall receive any compensation for services rendered the Assembly, except the Faithful Comptroller, who shall be entitled to a fee of eight percent (8%) on all collections of dues from members; such amounts being payable semi-annually at the meeting at which the Trustees shall file their reports.

Article IX – Annual Communion Sunday

The Assembly shall set aside at least one Sunday each year for the purpose of attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion in a body, the time and place thereof to be fixed by vote at a regular meeting. The Faithful Captain shall make arrangements and gain approval of the parish where Corporate Communion will be held. The dress for the mass will be tux and social baldric. Wives, widows of Sir Knights, and significant others will be invited to sit with the Sir Knights. No fallouts will be performed at this ceremony. Sir Knights may serve as Eucharist Ministers or Readers.

Article X – Death of Member

Upon the death of any member of this Assembly who is in good standing, five (5) Memorial Masses shall be offered for the repose of his soul. Notice of time and place of such Masses shall be given to the family of the deceased. All arrangements for such Masses shall be made by the Faithful Navigator.

[Or]

Upon the death of any member of this Assembly who is in good standing, the gift of a chalice or other religious memorial shall be made by the Assembly to a church or Priest as selected by the deceased member's family or the Assembly in memory of the deceased member.

The Adoption of either/or both provisions shall apply.

Article XI – Amendments

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be presented in writing at a regular meeting of the Assembly, but shall not be voted upon until the next succeeding regular meeting. Notice in writing of such proposed amendment shall be mailed to all members at least five (5) days before meeting at which such resolution is to be voted upon, and a two-thirds vote of those present shall be necessary for the adoption of any such amendment.