

Ceremonial

Grand Commander Reads

Reverend Father, Illustrious Supreme Officers, Eminent Officers and Sir/Lady Noble/s welcome to this distinguished Ceremonial of Order of the Alhambra, Inc.

We should never embark upon any serious undertaking without the blessing of the Holy Mother Church. I now ask our Reverend Chaplain, Father _____

to open the ceremonial with the prayer of the Order of the Alhambra, Inc. We invite everyone to stand and join us in the recitation of "The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi."

Good evening. Today you will become Sir/Lady Nobles of the Order of the Alhambra, Inc.

Today you and everyone present will witness a ceremonial that will welcome you, neophytes, into the proud Order of the Alhambra, Inc. The purpose of this ceremonial is to serve the neophytes. It will provide these new candidates overall knowledge of the Order of Alhambra and its inner workings.

Vice Grand Commander Reads the Three purposes of the Order

The first purpose of the Alhambra Order is sociability. From the origin of Alhambra, the Order has served to promote social, spiritual and intellectual associations among its members. All activities of the Order, whether working on projects to promote the ideals of the Order or enjoying interaction among its members, bring us to a place called sociability. Sociability is like the blood that runs through the body of an organization reaching its heart and gives it life, a feeling of warmth and wholeness. Social interaction is a catalyst for the increase in membership. When all is said and done, social activities are the glue that bind us together as an organization.

The second purpose

The second purpose of the Order of the Alhambra, Inc., which has been in place since its inception, is to identify, mark and preserve and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance. The International Order of Alhambra has placed plaques or statues at 224 historical places of significance in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama.

The third Purpose

The third purpose of the Order is to provide assistance, education and residences for persons that are intellectually disabled.

Through the appeal of Rev. William F. Jenks, a Redemptorist Priest who was in charge of Special Education for the National Catholic Education Association, the delegates at the 1959 convention in Detroit voted to support, without abandoning the Orders' past objectives, the most revolutionary change in the history of the Order of Alhambra. The delegates voted to promote the Orders' own special charity: to provide assistance, education and residences for persons who are intellectually disabled. In the past these persons were referred to as "mentally retarded children." Today we refer to them as "intellectually disabled."

The Order of Alhambra Charity Fund, Inc., through the charity fund provides housing via the Alhambra House Program and education of special education teachers through their scholarship programs. The Order and caravans also provide money to many deserving agencies.

I wish you good luck and enjoy your time as an Alhambran.

Grand Commander Reads the Obligations

Candidates and Alhambra members please stand. Raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, freely and of my own accord, /
Do assume without reservation, /
The obligations of membership, /
In the Order of Alhambra, /
I do solemnly promise, /
On my honor as a Catholic Gentleman/Lady, /
To obey the rules of the Order, /
As specified in AL Sunna, /
And the By-Laws of my Caravan, /
I promise I will be consistent, /
With the Laws of the Catholic church, /
Prescribing my duties to church and state, /
I promise to respect, venerate and commemorate, /
The places made holy in this new world, /
By footsteps of Catholic discoverers, /
Missionaries and explorers, /
Even as Christians in the Old World, /
I solemnly promise, /
I will attend the annual religious activities of my caravan, /
As prescribed by AL Sunna, /
Unless prevented by illness or other justifiable reason.

You may lower your right hand and be seated.

It is now my privilege to declare you

Sir/Lady Noble/s of the International Order of Alhambra.

On behalf of myself, your Supreme Commander, and other Supreme Officers, welcome to the Order of the Alhambra, Inc. Your active participation in your caravan will help the Order grow and prosper and achieve its goals.

I challenge you.

Do not be a member in name only, but a driving force in assisting God's Special People. Their needs are ever present and our efforts must continue to meet these needs. Please wear your Fez, Medallion or Sash at all Alhambra meetings, social events, masses, and activities.

Congratulations Sir/Lady Noble/s.