

## Getting Started: The Degrees of DeMolay

The basic purposes of our organization are outlined in our ceremonies, and you should endeavor to conduct yourself in accordance with these principles. While some of the phrases used in the ceremonies of DeMolay may, on occasion, seem a little out of date, the basic concepts still hold true, and you can make the world a better place by attempting to practice them.

The obligation you took is very important. In fact, it is so important in establishing and maintaining the principles of DeMolay that we ask you to memorize it. It is called the Initiatory Degree Proficiency. Repeating this obligation in your Chapter is one of the things you must do before you are allowed to hold an office or become a voting member of the Chapter.

The Initiatory Degree outlines the basic teachings of the Order of DeMolay. They are:

**FILIAL LOVE** – Respect for your parents and appreciation of your family.

**REVERENCE FOR SACRED THINGS** – Acknowledgement of spiritual values and respect for the religious beliefs of others. (While belief in a Supreme Being is a requirement for membership in DeMolay, we do not dictate any particular religious creed or denomination. We do, however, encourage you to explore your spiritual beliefs and set and pursue a spiritual course for yourself.)

**COURTESY** – Treating others as you would like to be treated.

**COMRADESHIP** – A recognition of the value of brotherhood and friendship.

**FIDELITY** – Being loyal to your commitments and true to your promises.

**CLEANNES** – Practicing responsibility in your thoughts, words and actions, as well as being physically clean and well-groomed.

**PATRIOTISM** – An appreciation of your nation's past, present and future, and a continuous effort on your part to be a good citizen.

When reviewing your Initiatory Degree obligation, notice that it closely follows these teachings in order. If you learn a paragraph a day, you should have no trouble with the obligation. It's much easier to learn than it looks.

After you receive your Initiatory Degree, you will receive your DeMolay Degree. Unlike the first Degree, this one is like watching a play. It illustrates how Jacques DeMolay (a 13th century martyr) and three of his associates were tried before the French Inquisition.

After the play, there is a final obligation that revolves around the principles of loyalty and toleration, which you will also be expected to memorize. When the memorization is completed, you will then hold voting privileges within your Chapter. You will also be entitled to hold an office.

## Who Was Jacques DeMolay?



In the late 1200s and early 1300s, Jacques DeMolay was the leader of an organization called the Order of the Temple, better known as the Knights Templar. His title was Grand Master. The Knights Templar were Christian soldiers who served as escorts for pilgrims traveling to and from the Holy Land. Over time, through gifts bestowed on the organization by barons, landowners, the church, and fees they charged for their services, the Knights Templar became a very wealthy organization.

The King of France at the time, King Philip, began to fear that the Knights Templar would use its wealth and power against him. Because of his fears, King Philip began to persecute the Knights Templar in an attempt to confiscate their wealth and dissolve the organization. The persecution went on for several years until on Friday, October 13, 1307, soldiers of the King descended on Knights Templar members all across France, arrested them and imprisoned them. Jacques DeMolay and three of his top aides, known as preceptors, were brought before the Inquisition to stand trial on a number of false charges.

The Inquisition was a panel of judges appointed by the King. In a series of hearings and trials that stretched over a period of seven years, the Inquisition tortured DeMolay and demanded that he surrender all of the properties of the Order of the Temple and reveal the names of any of its members who were not already in custody. Because the charges against him and his fellow Knights were false, DeMolay continually refused to give in to the demands of the Inquisitors. He refused to betray his organization or his fellow members. His steadfastness so angered King Philip that DeMolay was ordered burned at the stake, along with one of his most trusted aides, Guy of Auvergne.

During his imprisonment, DeMolay showed unfaltering loyalty, bravery and comradeship, despite bribes, threats and torture from the Inquisition. Jacques DeMolay's commitment to his ideals and to his fellow Templars is what inspired the original nine young men who started the Order of DeMolay to choose Jacques DeMolay as the namesake and the exemplar of the organization.

To learn more about the history of DeMolay, its founder, Frank S. Land, and the original nine members, consult your *Leaders Resource Guide* when you receive it. You may also want to read the story of the founding and the early days of the Order of DeMolay by ordering the book **HI DAD!** by Herbert Ewing Duncan, one of the early members of DeMolay. **HI DAD!** is available through the DeMolay and More Store at DeMolay International headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.



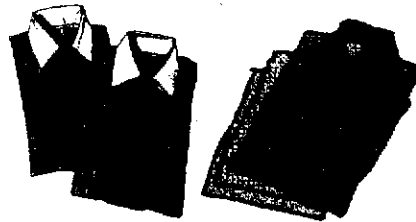
**CHAPTER SWEETHEART** The Chapter Sweetheart is a young lady who has been elected to serve as the official hostess at Chapter functions. At some point during the year, you may be asked to make recommendations for this position. When providing the name of a young lady to be considered for Chapter Sweetheart, be prepared to give some information about her along with her name and address. Remember that the young lady whose name you submit, if she is selected to be the Chapter Sweetheart, will help shape the impression that others have of DeMolay in general, and of your Chapter in particular. So give careful consideration before submitting a name for this position. Check with your Chapter Advisor to learn about how the nomination and election process works for the Chapter Sweetheart.



**ADVISORY COUNCIL** Each DeMolay Chapter has a group of interested men assisting it, known as the Advisory Council. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to assist with the operation of the Chapter, by providing advice and assistance in planning and executing the Chapter's program of activities. Generally the members of the Advisory Council are members of a Masonic Lodge. The Masonic order is a fraternal organization that traces its roots back hundreds of years. Its members are constantly striving to improve themselves as well as striving to be of service to their fellow man and their community. Sometimes a member of an Advisory Council is a Senior DeMolay. A Senior DeMolay is a DeMolay member who is over the age of 21.

The Chairman of the Advisory Council is the head of the Council and also is the primary contact between the Chapter and its sponsoring body. The Chairman also appoints the advisors who work on specific areas of the Chapter's overall program, such as fundraising, civic service, or membership. The Chairman also handles many of the administrative duties related to the operation of the Council and, in certain cases, the operation of the Chapter. The Chapter Dad works most directly with the Chapter and the Master Councilor in the day-to-day activities of running the Chapter. At least one member of the Advisory Council is appointed to work with each committee of the Chapter. Even though these adult Advisors are involved in the planning of activities, remember, it is the responsibility of the members of the Chapter to take the lead in putting the plan into action.

**PARENTS' CLUB** Parents of members of the Chapter, and other interested adults, can provide support to the Chapter by becoming members of the Chapter's Parents' Club. The Parents' Club provides support in a number of ways. Most often they provide refreshments for special occasions, such as the Installation of Officers. Some Parents' Clubs use their time together to learn more about DeMolay through taking DeMolay education courses such as the Leadership Correspondence Course (LCC). Parents' Clubs also hold fundraisers for such things as helping pay for refreshments, assisting with the purchase of materials needed by the Chapter, helping fund the repair or replacement of old or worn equipment, or sponsoring members of the local Chapter to state or other DeMolay activities. Encourage your parents to get involved in the local Parents' Club. If they can't be active with the Parents' Club on a regular basis, ask them to assist with Parents' Club activities as often as they can. Also, encourage your parents to learn more about DeMolay through taking at least the first two lessons of the Leadership Correspondence Course. This will help them understand better what the Order of DeMolay stands for, and exactly what you're involved in. Maybe you and your parents can take the LCC together and all be more knowledgeable about it.



**Proper Dress for Chapter Activities**

As you might imagine, different types of Chapter activities call for different styles of dress. Generally, chapters encourage their members to wear a shirt, tie, and dress-casual slacks to the regular meetings, or a suit if you prefer. This style of dress is encouraged at Installations of Officers and when visiting the meetings of other Chapters or groups. This appearance on the part of the members sets the tone of the meeting as a place where important business is taken care of. It also serves to make a good impression on any visitors who may be present for the evening's meeting. Obviously, athletic functions or other outdoor activities call for a completely different style of dress. As you get involved in the Chapter you will come to know what style of dress is appropriate for what occasion or activity. Remember, however, whatever the occasion or activity, your appearance is a reflection on the organization itself and everyone associated with it. Dress appropriately and be a good ambassador for DeMolay in general and for your Chapter in particular.



**DeMOLAY AWARDS**

During your initiation or at some other function, you might have noticed DeMolay members wearing ribbons or medals. These are awards that are given for service to DeMolay or to the community, or they may be awarded in recognition of some personal accomplishment. The most common awards are known as Merit Bars. Merit bars are earned in categories as diverse as athletics (for participation in an organized athletic program), civic service (for service to your community in some way), scholastics (for maintaining a "B" average in your studies) and chapter attendance (for one year perfect attendance at your chapter's meetings), to name a few. There are many other Merit Bars that can be earned, as well as other awards that are given for specific activities or accomplishments. Ask your Chapter Dad or Master Councilor about how you can get started earning these awards. Or better still, read up on the awards in your Leader's Resource Guide.

## Chapter Activities

Each Chapter has a variety of activities to keep every member busy as much or as little as he would like. Chapter members are expected to attend as many functions as possible. By getting involved and taking part in the activities of the Chapter, you will gain the most from your membership in DeMolay. Most Chapters include activities from a number of categories in their overall schedule. Included in those categories are civic service, athletics, fundraising, social and several others. Indeed, the program of a Chapter can be broad and should include a cross-section of activities. A few of the regularly scheduled Chapter activities are:

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS** This is the method DeMolay has of setting up a new slate of Chapter officers. "Installations" as they are often referred to, are open to the public and you are encouraged to bring your parents and other relatives as well as your friends to the installation ceremony. Often chapters will have a social hour or a party after the installation. Generally, installations are held two times a year.

**FUND RAISING PROJECTS** These projects serve to put money in the Chapter treasury for use for Chapter activities and projects. The money raised from these projects might go to help cover the cost of postage or printing or some other such expense. Or the funds may be used to pay for decorations for a party or other Chapter function. Sometimes funds are even used to help cover the costs of members' registration for state events. Check with your Chapter Advisor and your Master Councilor to learn more about how the funds raised by your Chapter are used.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** DeMolay members enjoy getting together periodically with Rainbow Girls or Job's Daughters (girls organizations similar to DeMolay) or other groups for a pool party, a dance, a bowling night, or some other type of social activity. These gatherings may be sponsored by the DeMolay Chapter or by the other group. In any case, they are fun and allow you to meet new friends while you are having a good time. Often, you are encouraged to bring prospective members to these gatherings so they can meet the other members of the Chapter and learn more about DeMolay.

**ATHLETICS** DeMolay Chapters often organize sports teams to play other local youth groups or to participate in the local community sports league. Among the sports are basketball, softball, volleyball and horseshoes, as well as others. Besides playing other local teams, Chapters can and many times do challenge other Chapters. In addition, Chapters field teams to participate in state DeMolay-sponsored sports competitions at state DeMolay events held during the year.

**CIVIC SERVICE** Removing litter from the side of the highway, organizing a post-election sign removal campaign, assisting with a local festival, washing police cars and purchasing books for the local library are only a few of the ways that DeMolay Chapters work to improve their communities. The ways to be involved in building a better community are limited only by the imaginations of the members. Talk with members of the Chapter and with the Advisors about the types of civic service projects that have been held in the past and that are planned for the future.

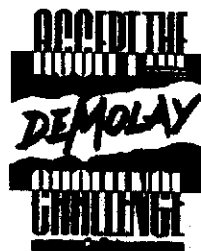
## Some General Rules

Your involvement in DeMolay is intended to be both fun and rewarding. As you have seen, there are many "Do's" to involvement in DeMolay, several of which have been outlined in this **WELCOME TO DEMOLAY** packet. However, as you might expect, there are also a few "Don'ts." Your fellow DeMolays and your advisors do not try to establish what you should do with your life. You either already have made that decision, or it is likely that you are in the process of making it.

However, as you participate in DeMolay activities there are some general rules you must follow for your own benefit, as well as the benefit of others.

1. The presence and/or use of alcohol or any illegal or controlled drug is prohibited at DeMolay functions, unless the drug is prescribed by a licensed medical doctor. This includes immediately before or after the function.
2. The possession of any type of weapon is prohibited at a DeMolay function. The only exception is when the weapon is an integral part of an organized and supervised Chapter function, such as a rifle team competition or other such activity.
3. Aggressive or disruptive behavior has no place at a DeMolay function. Remember, everyone associated with DeMolay wants to be your friend and to have you as their friend. Act and respond in that manner.
4. Remember, even when you are away from DeMolay functions, your appearance, words and actions are a reflection on the organization and on your fellow DeMolays. Don't let inappropriate dress, words or actions be a detriment to the organization and to your Brothers.
5. When attending a DeMolay function or going on a DeMolay-related outing, don't try to be "Mr. Independent." At any DeMolay function, you are responsible to the advisors in attendance. Naturally, your first responsibility is to the Advisors from your own Chapter. However, ultimately you are responsible to all advisors. (Even though at times you might feel that an advisor's ruling on a matter isn't correct, remember that he may have information of which you are not aware and that his ruling is intended to ensure the safety and well-being of you and all associated with the activity.) Anytime you are attending a DeMolay function or traveling with advisors, always let them know where you are and what you are doing.

Obviously, there are other rules and guidelines that apply to specific situations. Your advisors and fellow DeMolays will help you learn those as you get more involved. In any case, if there is a question in your mind about what is appropriate in a particular situation, don't hesitate to ask the Master Councilor, the Chapter Dad, or the lead advisor for that particular function or activity.



## A Few Last Thoughts

We encourage you to get involved in the activities of your Chapter. Your involvement is the only way you will become more familiar with DeMolay. And your involvement is the only way your Chapter will grow and prosper. It is also the only way your Chapter will truly benefit from having you as a member.

### What can you do to "get involved?"

First and foremost, attend the meetings and functions. Your attendance makes the meetings and events more successful and ensures your standing as an active and integral part of the Chapter. Your attendance also ensures that you will have a voice in the activities of the Chapter.

Another way to get involved is to become an officer. Starting with an appointed office, you have the opportunity to show your willingness to be a part of the Chapter leadership team, even as you work toward an elective office and ultimately the Master Councilor's position. Being an officer also shows your willingness to accept responsibility and to be part of the "engine" that moves the Chapter forward.

Still another way to get involved is to participate as a member of one of the Chapter's committees. Committee membership not only ensures you a place in setting the direction of the Chapter's activities, it also builds your understanding and sharpens your skills as a planner of events and functions.

Whatever your level of involvement with the Chapter is, in DeMolay you always seem to get a lot more out of your membership with just a little

more effort. So get active and support your Chapter!

As you get involved, remember, your Brothers and the advisors in the Chapter depend on you, just as you should depend on them. If you promise to do something, make sure you do it. If, for some reason, you see that you cannot carry through on your promise, let the Master Councilor and the Chapter Dad know right away. Don't leave it to the last minute for them to find out. When they find out late, the entire Chapter suffers, and it puts someone else in the tight spot of having to handle your duties without adequate time to do a good job.

If you enjoy DeMolay, you can thank your friend who sponsored you into the Chapter by following his example. Invite some of your friends to become members of DeMolay. You are the biggest salesman your Chapter has. If you don't know what to tell him, tell him about the good times you have as a member. Remember, you can always ask another member or an advisor how to explain DeMolay, or you can ask one of them to go with you to talk to your friend.

We hope this "shortcut to success" in DeMolay is helpful to you. But don't let your DeMolay education stop with this brief overview. Read your **Leader's Resource Guide** when you receive it and enroll in the Leadership Correspondence Course, both of which will greatly enhance your knowledge and understanding of this great organization.

Feel free to let your parents read this **WELCOME TO DEMOLAY** packet so they may better understand DeMolay, what it stands for, and the quality of the organization to which you now belong.

Finally, **GOOD LUCK** in your DeMolay career! Both you and your Chapter will benefit by your active and dedicated involvement.



# The DeMolay Emblem

## What is its meaning?



Every part of the official DeMolay emblem has its significance to a member of the Order of DeMolay.

**The Pearls and Rubies and the Crown** honor the founder, Frank S. Land, and the nine young men whose ties of friendship drew them together in the formation of the Order of DeMolay. The pearls represent those of the original 10 (the Founder and the original nine DeMolays) who are living. A pearl turns to a ruby as the Founder and each one of the original nine DeMolays goes to his heavenly reward.

The **Helmet** is emblematic of chivalry, without which there can be no fineness of character.

**The Crescent** is a sign of secrecy and constantly reminds DeMolays of their duty not to reveal the secrets of the Order nor to betray the confidence of a friend.

**The Five-Armed White Cross** symbolizes the purity of intentions to always remember the motto of the Order: "No DeMolay shall fail as a citizen, as a leader, or as a man."

**The Crossed Swords** denote justice, fortitude and mercy. They symbolize the unceasing warfare of DeMolay against arrogance, despotism and intolerance.

**The Stars** surrounding the Crescent are symbolic of hope, and should always remind us of those obligations and duties that one DeMolay Brother owes to another.

**Wear the emblem proudly!**