

LETTER FROM FORMER SUPREME ADVOCATE REGARDING MASONS

Re: Membership in the Knights and the Masons

Dear

You have recently inquired about the present position of the Church and the Knights of Columbus regarding a member of the Knights of Columbus being also a member of a Masonic association. I have attached some information regarding this subject that you will find informative.

As in all matters, the Knights of Columbus follows faithfully the teaching of the Catholic Church with respect to membership in Masonic associations. That teaching has been constant and has been expressed recently in a clear and direct statement from the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. This statement states unequivocally that membership in Masonic associations is “forbidden,” their principles “have always been irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church,” and “[t]he faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.” A copy of the full text of this statement is enclosed for your review along with other materials regarding Freemasonry.

Given the clear teaching of the Church in this matter, it is evident that members of Masonic associations do not meet the central requirement for membership in our Order: being a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See. Candidates for membership in the Knights of Columbus must resign their membership in Masonic associations before gaining admission to our Order. Should there be an existing member of the Knights who also holds membership in a Masonic order, he likewise must resign his membership in the Masons if he wishes to remain in good standing as a member of the Order.

I trust these will answer your inquiry in this matter but, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Devin
Supreme Advocate
and General Counsel

PRD/mv