

Chapter of Rose Croix

18th Degree - Knight Rose Croix

KNIGHT ROSE CROIX
EIGHTEENTH DEGREE



The apron is white satin bordered with crimson on one side and black on the other. On the white side is embroidered the pelican side of the jewel. On the black side is a large red passion cross.

The cordon, worn from left to right, is of velvet or silk, crimson on one side and black on the other; it is plain on the crimson side. A red passion-cross is embroidered on the black side and worn over the heart. The colors of the cordon and apron, white and crimson, are symbols of light and the dawn of day and represent Faith, Hope, and Charity.

The jewel is the compasses with points opened to sixty degrees and resting on the segment of a graduated circle. On the lower part, on one side, is an eagle, with his wings extended and head lowered. Among the Egyptians the eagle was the emblem of a wise man because his wings bore him above the clouds into the purer atmosphere and nearer to the source of light, and his eyes were not dazzled with that light. Since the eagle also represented the great Egyptian Sun god Amun-ra, it is a symbol of the infinite Supreme Reason or Intelligence. On the other side is a pelican, piercing its breast to feed its seven young in a nest under it. The pelican symbolizes every philanthropist and reformer who has offered up his life for the benefit of humanity, and so teaches us an exhaustless munificence toward all men, especially the needy and defenseless. It also represents the large and bountiful beneficence of nature, from whose bosom all created things draw their sustenance. Thus, the pelican and eagle together are symbols of perfect wisdom and perfect devotedness. There is a crimson cross showing on both sides; at the intersection of its arms on the

pelican side, is a crimson rose in bloom. The cross, pointing to the four cardinal directions, and whose arms, infinitely extended would never meet, is an emblem of space or infinity. The cross has been a sacred symbol in many cultures from the earliest antiquity. The rose was anciently sacred to the sun and to Aurora, Greek Goddess of the dawn. As a symbol of the morning light, it represents resurrection and the renewal of life, and therefore immortality. Together the cross and rose symbolize immortality won by suffering and sorrow. On the summit of the compasses is an antique crown. On the segment of the circle, on the pelican side, is the word of this degree in special cipher. This jewel is of gold; the pelican and eagle upon it of silver.

DUTIES

Practice virtue that it may produce fruit.
Labor to eliminate vice, purify humanity.
Be tolerant of the faith and creed of others.

LESSONS

We should have faith in God, mankind and ourselves.
We should hope in the victory over evil, the advancement of humanity, and a hereafter.
Charity is relieving the wants and tolerating the errors and faults of others.

FOR REFLECTION

Do evil and calamity exist to provide an opportunity for the practice of virtue?
Do your attitudes and actions reflect faith, hope and charity?

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

The constellations called Faith, Hope and Charity, the punishments and terrors of Hell, the rose, the cross, the pelican, the eagle.

The regalia pictures and excerpts from the degree descriptions are from the book,
" A Bridge to Light" by Ill. Rex R. Hutchens, 33°.
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