

MEMBERSHIP PRINCIPLES

Membership in the Order of the Crown of Thorns is an honor requiring genuine Christian commitment and understanding of an obligation of service, emulating the example of medieval knights over a period of a thousand years. Members have a particular duty to provide moral leadership both by individual example and by collective action.

It is after learning of the Order, its history, purposes, and objectives, specifically in the commitment to support the Scholarship Fund, which provides grants to graduating high school seniors and to undergraduate college students to further their education, that Members become willing to make the Order a high priority in their charitable activities.

A prospective member (Aspirant) understands that to be considered for membership in the Order is an invitation. Membership is not available by “application.”

Prospective members must be well known to current members of the Order so that the sponsors, in nominating them, are in a position to validate the aspirant’s worthiness, generosity, Christian commitment, and desire to be of “Service to Mankind”.

To avoid embarrassment, a prospective member should not be informed that he or she is being proposed until after the Supreme Council has elected the Aspirant. The sponsors complete membership nomination documents and forward them to the Prince Grand Master and the Supreme Council. If a prospective member is approved and accepts the invitation to be considered an aspirant for membership, he or she provides a Biography with personal data, i.e. vocation/profession, family, religious affiliation, honors, society memberships, achievements, and most importantly, current charitable activity.

After examination of the documents and on approval, the aspirant is advised of election by letter including the dates and times of the investiture.

New members are ceremonially invested at the Annual Service of Investiture or a special investiture occasionally planned at other times during the year, with a major representation of the membership in attendance. These occasions bring together formally a unique family, commonly joined by their profession of dedication to the work of the Order of the Crown of Thorns.

CRITERIA AND CHARACTERISTICS REQUIRED OF THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- Citizens of good merit with a history of volunteer service and charitable work.
- A pre-exhibited spirit of generosity of time, talents, and treasure.
- A history of Christian philanthropy.
- Unquestioned ability to support the Order of The Crown of Thorns Scholarship Fund through an *annual* oblation.
- All Confreres should be ambassadors for The Order and constantly seek to bring in worthy members of the community, with interests and values compatible to those stated above.

SPONSORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- A sponsor should be very familiar with the aspirant, and desire to propose the prospect as an aspirant for the honor of being accepted by and to materially support the Order.
- A sponsor is responsible for determining the aspirant’s suitability to be a Candidate for Membership, i.e. noting the aspirant’s worthiness, values, accomplishments, desire to be “of service”, religious commitments, and examples of generosity.
- **To inform the prospective Aspirant that there is no fee connected with nomination, but that each member is obligated to make an Oblation each August of at least \$100.**