

DeMolay Burning Presentation

“Dad” Randy Watson

Advance PowerPoint slides after the content of the indicated audio/video files have completed. The audio/video files imbedded within the slides are set to autoplay. Run time just over 8 minutes. You can insert slides tailored to your Chapter at the beginning and/or end.

Start with Slide of MSADC and map of Maryland

Make opening and introductory comments. Advance to next slide when you're ready to begin.

Slide with large picture of Ordination

Jacques DeMolay was born in 1244 in the region of Burgundy, France, where the first Templars had originated the Order.

Advance to close-up of Ordination

In 1265, at just over twenty he became a Knight Templar.

In 1293, Jacques DeMolay was named Grand Master of the Knights Templar, a position of power and prestige.

Advance to DeMolay Portrait

He was however, in a difficult position as the Templars' reason for being had ceased with the loss of the Holy Lands. Philip IV of France, like much of the European royalty, was deeply in debt to the Templars. He set out to take over the Knights and their wealth.

On Friday, October 13, 1307, King Phillip and Pope Clement tried to suppress the Order throughout Europe, with false accusations, arrests, torture and executions.

Outside of France, the rest of Europe found the accused Templars innocent and left them to merge with other knightly orders. For seven years, DeMolay and the Templars in France suffered torture and inhumane conditions. Under severe torture, DeMolay and his principal officers eventually confessed to some of the charges brought against them, and the Papal Inquisitors condemned them to life imprisonment.

On March 18, 1314, the Pope planned for DeMolay & his dignitaries to publicly confess their guilt and be reconciled to the church. However, DeMolay stayed loyal to his comrades and their beliefs and instead professed his and the Templar's innocence. Geoffrey de Charney stood beside his Grand Master, and also denied each of the charges that had been brought against them and the Order.

Before the Pope or anyone else could intervene, King Philip ordered DeMolay and de Charney burned at the stake that very day on the charge of being relapsed heretics.

Advance to Burning Video

Video of burning scene with underlying music and superimposed text:

This brave death deeply impressed the people

The story of Jacques DeMolay and Geoffrey de Charney became a testimonial to fidelity, loyalty and friendship

Betrayed by a Pope he was sworn to obey

And a King he trusted

In his final hours DeMolay fought fervently against the false charges which had destroyed the Order of the Temple

His dying curse was powerful

And Effective

(S'en vendra en brief temps meschie) / Let evil swiftly befall
(Sus celz qui nous dampnent a tort;) / Those who have wrongly condemned us;
(Diex en vengera nostre mort.) / God will avenge our death.

King Philip IV of France Died within 8 months in a hunting accident

Pope Clement V died only 33 days later; From a severe bout of dysentery brought about by advanced bowel cancer

Although he shed the mortal coils that day, even after 700 years, the virtue, spirit, character and honor of DeMolay live on

In the memory and lives of generations that have followed.

Advance to DeMolay Emblem for Shield and Jewel Dialog

In 1919, six hundred years after the martyrdom of Jacques DeMolay and Geoffrey de Charney, a youth Order was founded to help support and guide young men. This Order took DeMolay's name as its own, and dedicated itself to the high virtues and ideals represented in his heroic life and martyr's death. Seven precepts adopted by the Order were ceremonially established as the jewels in a symbolic Crown of Youth.

1. The first jewel in the Crown of Youth symbolizes the love between parent and child; that love which existed before we were born, has remained with us all our life through,

and will follow us even beyond the grave. The sages named this love “agape”; love for no other reason than the sake of being.

2. The second jewel is emblematic of reverence for all that is sacred. A young man crossing the threshold of DeMolay for the first time, professes a deep and abiding faith in the one living and true God. Without this steadfast faith, and the grace of our Heavenly Father, our toil would be for nothing.
3. The third jewel represents courtesy; a courtesy that transcends friendships; a courtesy which reaches to the stranger, to the aged, to all men. It is this courtesy that brings a warm feeling and a smile, and makes this life more pleasant for others as it lights the pathway before us.
4. The fourth jewel is symbolic of comradeship. Millions of young men, such as ourselves, have knelt at a DeMolay altar and dedicated themselves to the same high principles of good sonship and good citizenship. As long as we remain faithful to these pledges; as long as there is an Order of DeMolay; we are one.
5. The fifth jewel is simply for fidelity. A DeMolay can never justly be false to his vows, his promises, his friends, his God. He is called upon daily to defend the bulwarks and precepts of the Order; that he might never fail as a leader, or as a man.
6. The sixth jewel is symbolic of cleanness; not only the bodily cleanness which we all practice, but the cleanness of every thought, word, and deed. Only in cleanness can a DeMolay rightly be representative of the pureness of our teachings.
7. The last jewel in the Crown of Youth is emblematic of patriotism. Perhaps we shall never be called upon to defend our country on the field of battle, but each day affords new opportunities to stand as good and upright citizens in behalf of that beloved banner and our hallowed land.

Advance to MSADC and map of Maryland

Keep slide posted for questions/comments.