

# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

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Lecture Series on Freemasonry Through the Light of Catholicism

– Instructor David L. Gray, M.A.T.



# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

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## Session Two – The Structure of Freemasonry

The objective of the second lecture is to give an outline of the structure and governance of subordinate lodges and grand lodges and of many of other the Masonic bodies.



# CATHOLIC CATECHISM ON FREEMASONRY LESSON TWO - STRUCTURE

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The Hierarchy of the Masonic Orders

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The "Other" Masonic Degrees

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Anglo vs. Continental Freemasonry

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Regular vs. Irregular Freemasonry

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Prince Hall Freemasonry

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Lodge & Grand Lodge Officers

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What Happens at Lodge Meetings

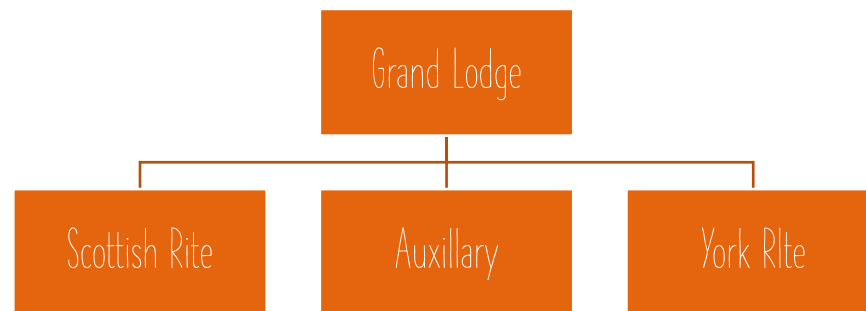
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# THE HIERARCHY OF THE MASONIC RITES

## • The Myth of Masonic Degree Matriculation

- From a Catholic Perspective, this is a descent into darkness
- With some exceptions, the instruction (not rank) degrees are not building upon the legend of Hiram Abiff or Speculative Freemasonry
- Outside of the Scottish Rite, very little continuity from continent to continent
- All Masonic Rites are Sovereign, but Either Adopted, Appendant, Affiliated, or Concordant with the Grand Lodge





# THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

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- Origin: May 1801, Charleston, South Carolina - most degrees an amalgamation
- Founders: The Eleven Gentlemen of Charleston; Degree work rituals largely composed by Albert Pike from 1857 to 1883. Various revisions thereafter
- Degrees: 1 - 3 (Unworked) 4 to 33
- Jurisdictions: Southern Jurisdiction, Northern Jurisdiction, Louisiana, France, Canada, England, and Wales
- Principals: ethics and philosophy







Order of Holy Wisdom



Order of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests



Order of St Thomas of Acon



Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City



Order of the Silver Trowel

Orders in **black** admit all faiths.

Orders in **green** admit only Trinitarian Christians.

In some cases, candidates must fulfil additional entry requirements.



Royal Order of Eri



Order of Athelstan



Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta



Order of the Red Cross of Constantine



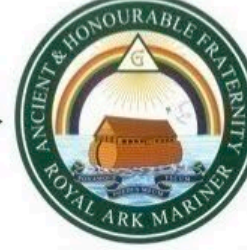
Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees



Order of Royal and Select Masters



Order of Knight Masons



Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



Order of the Scarlet Cord



Societas Rosicruciana



Royal Order



Ancient and Modern Order of the Temple



Order of the Temple

Members are required to be Mark Master Masons as well as Royal Arch Masons.



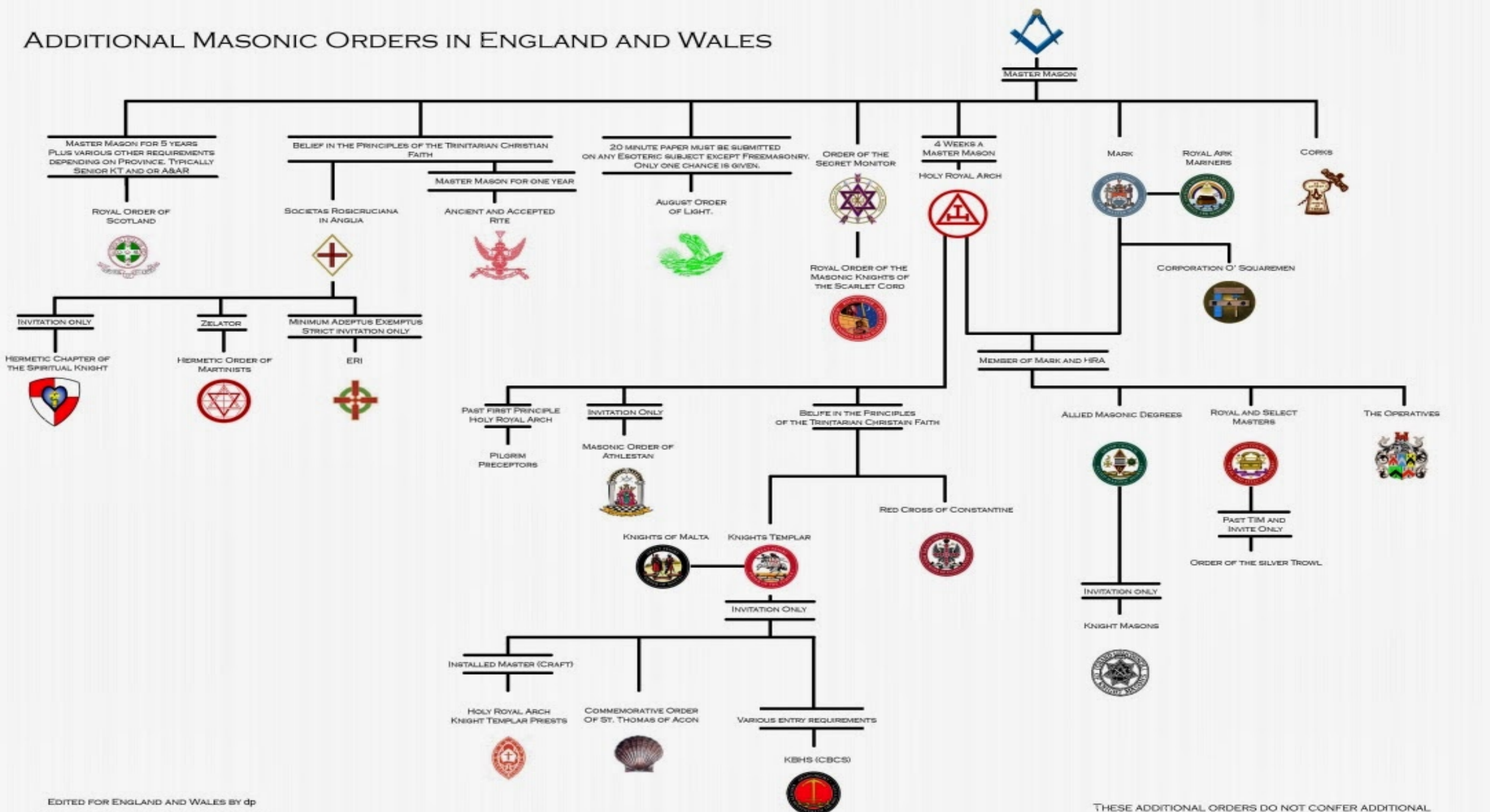
Order of Mark



Order of the Secret Monitor

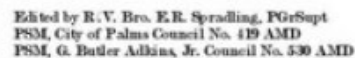


# ADDITIONAL MASONIC ORDERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES





## The Degrees We Preserve



Ver. 2014.7.1

ENGLISH AMD  SCOTTISH RAM   
(Controlling AMD Degrees) AMERICAN AMD 







# THE SHRINERS

- Origin: August 1870 (AAONMS) / 1893 (AEAONMS)
- Founders: Walter M. Fleming, and William J. Florence
- Members: Master Mason (AAONMS) / 32<sup>nd</sup> or Knights Templar (AEAONMS)
- Principals: fun, fellowship, philanthropy
- Ritual: Based claimed to be based upon an elaborate Arab staged musical comedy that Florence twice witnessed and was initiated into.



# WOMEN AND CHILDREN MASONIC ORDERS

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- Order of Eastern Star (1870 – Rob Morris) – Most prevalent option for female relatives of Freemasons, but many Masonic Rites for men have an adopted female counterpart. There might not always be a requirement to be an Eastern Star first.
- An estimated 10,000 women Freemasons around the world in over 350 craft lodges. Not including co-Lodges of men and women. Considered to be irregular.
- Various Masonic orders for children of Freemasons and other youth groups, such as DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Girls Assembly, Jobs Daughters, Knights of Pythagoras



# CATHOLIC CATECHISM ON FREEMASONRY

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## Anglo vs. Continental Freemasonry

- Continental Freemasonry, also known as Liberal Freemasonry, Latin Freemasonry and Adogmatic Freemasonry, includes the Masonic lodges, primarily on the continent of Europe, that recognize the Grand Orient de France
- Schism has existed since post-American Civil War, with the GOdF passed a resolution stating that "neither color, race, nor religion should disqualify a man for initiation" and recognized a Grand Lodge in Louisiana that was considered irregular by the mainstream Grand Lodge of Louisiana. This led to many Grand Lodges in USA withdrawing their recognitions of GOdF.
- Further widening of schism occurred in 1877 when the GOdF changed constitution to allow for those who did not believe in God to be initiated.
- It is this Continental sect of freemasonry that has the most negative and harmful intersects with the Catholic Church in France, Italy, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America.
- Different ending to the Legend of Hiram Abiff







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## Prince Hall Freemasonry

- African Lodge #459 Chartered by Grand Lodge of England in 1784
- Prince Hall, first Worshipful Master of African Lodge #459. Perhaps from England, Boston Educator and Abolitionists.. Thought he could blend Christianity with Freemasonry to elevate the condition of Blacks in America.
- Normalized racism against Blacks caused mainstream American Freemasons to discriminate against Black Freemasons and consider them irregular until the 1980's when a trend towards fraternal relations began..
- Flirtations with Continental Freemasonry, but Anglo founded, and Anglo recognized today, and uses the Anglo Legend of Hiram Abiff.
- The Black bourgeoisie class, social status, role in underground railroad, spreading Black Protestant Christianity.,
- Intersects with Catholic Church prohibition against Freemasonry in struggle to bring post-Civil War Blacks into the Church.



# CATHOLIC CATECHISM ON FREEMASONRY - OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

Lodge & Grand Lodge Officers

Not Democratic

Types of Meetings

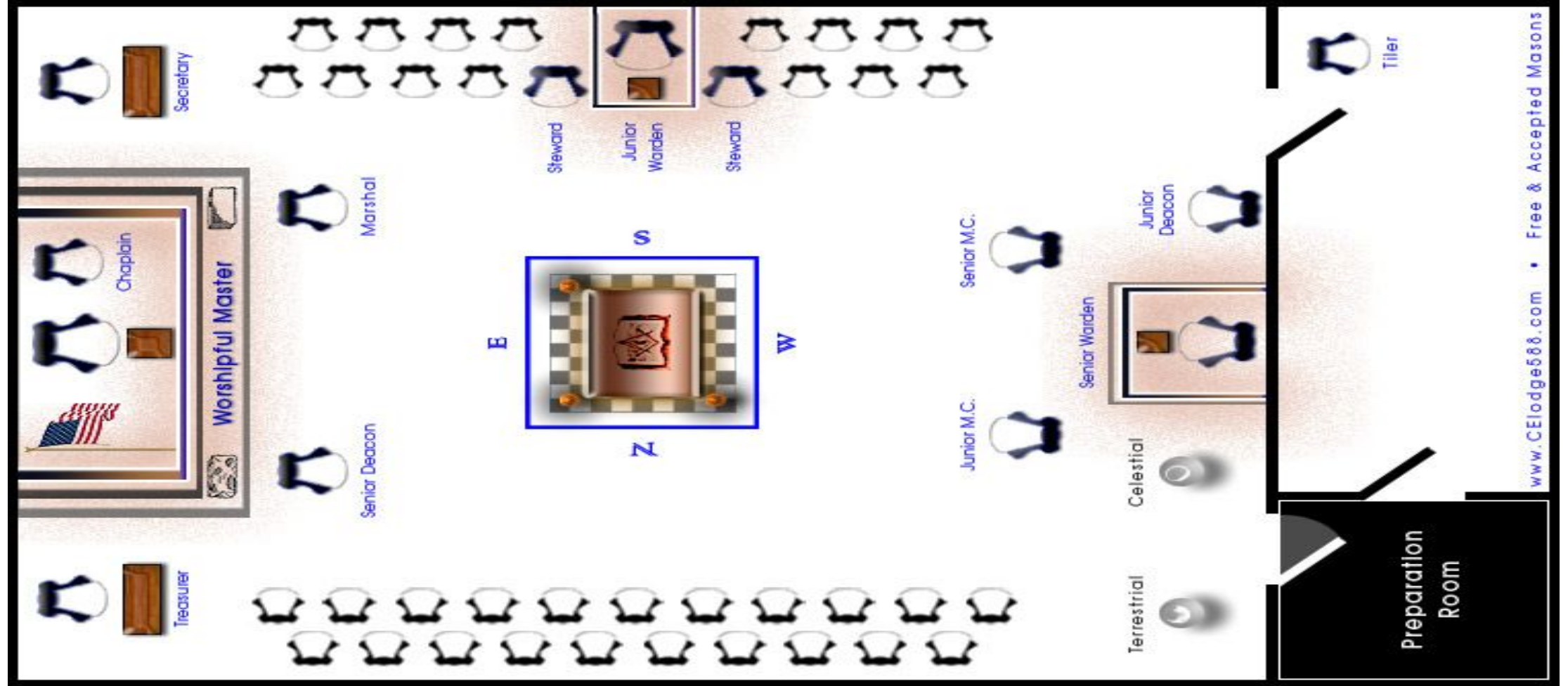
Types of Members

Becoming a Member



# CATHOLIC CATECHISM ON FREEMASONRY

## WALK THROUGH THE LODGE





# The Catholic Catechism on Freemasonry

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## Session Three – Freemasonry as a Religion

The objective of the third lecture is to demonstrate how Freemasonry is a syncretic fraternal religion according to what Freemasonry says about itself and the path to salvation that it conveys upon its candidates through its rituals (Sacraments).