

# The Archbishop's Guard of St. Sebastian



## The Structure of the Order

The **Spiritual Grandmaster** — the Commander-in-Chief of the Guard — is the Metropolitan Archbishop, with absolute authority in all matters.

The **Chief of Staff**, with the rank of Knight Commander, is the equivalent of a secular grandmaster in other Orders and is the senior administrator of the AG. The Chief of Staff is the day-to-day administrator but acts in consultation with the Spiritual Grandmaster of the Order. The senior staff officers are the **Chaplain-General**, the **Secretary-General**, and other members of the **International Council**.

The **International Council** is comprised of the Chief of Staff, the Secretary-General or the Chaplain-General, and up to seven other members, with the proviso that at least three different nationalities are represented on the council. Council business is normally conducted by e-mail, postal mail, and telephone. The council is responsible for receiving and disseminating information to and from members of the Guard at all levels. This includes matters of policy, admission, promotion, education, and worship. An e-mail **News Bulletin** will be circulated throughout the Guard from time to time.

**Local Units** may be established in dioceses, parishes, or areas where there are at least two members of the Guard. The purpose of local units is the coordination of its charitable and devotional activities, and working with members of the **Cadet Corps** if numbers permit.

## Ranks in the Archbishop's Guard

### Companion Membership

This is the entry level, with the post-nominal letters AG. Companions receive a formal letter of admission from the Commander-in-Chief.

### Knight Companion

Knight and Dames, permitted to use the letters AGKC or AGDC. They receive a formal certificate.

### **Lieutenant, Captain, and Colonel**

These are the ranks obtained by promotion, which is usually earned by personal endeavor. A formal letter of promotion is sent.

### **General**

This is an administrative rank or an awarded honor, for which a formal letter is sent from the Commander-in-Chief.

### **Knight Commander**

This is an administrative rank or an awarded honor, for which a formal letter or a certificate awarded.

## **Ranks in the Cadet Corps of the Archbishop's Guard**

**A Preliminary Note** It must be understood that at all times and in all places, the establishment and operation of the Cadet Corps, and the appointment and conduct of adult supervisors, must conform to the legal requirements of the particular state or nation. The moral and physical safety and well-being of young people must be the prime concern always.

Upon being accepted into the Cadet Corps, and at each promotion, the cadet receives a formal letter from the Commander-in-Chief. The entry rank is that of **cadet**, which is comparable to the rank of private. Above that are the non-commissioned ranks of **corporal** and **sergeant**, for which a cadet must be at least thirteen and fifteen years of age respectively.

Promotions are earned primarily by accumulating a satisfactory record of activities and service in the local church or the wider community. It is also possible to obtain **Special Service Awards**: in music, for example, first-aid, assisting in church services over a significant period of time, and so on.

The rank of **Cadet Officer** may be awarded to cadets who are at least fifteen years of age and have displayed sincere and enthusiastic participation and are deemed to possess leadership potential. On attaining the age of eighteen, a Cadet Officer may be awarded Companion Membership of the Archbishop's Guard.

An **adjutant** is a cadet of any rank who, having displayed the appropriate qualities, is recommended to serve as a liaison between the cadet corps and the other sections of the Archbishop's Guard, or as a representative to other youth groups. An adjutant would normally be awarded a promotion and/or a special-service award as recognition.

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