



THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE NEW SAROVIAN EMPIRE

STEFAN EST NOTRE PROTECTEUR

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PRELIMINARY

Style and Name of the Order

1. Whereas the need arises to establish an order of chivalry to award the most heroic and gallant of the Sarovian peoples, the Royal Decree of 2017 established the Holy Order of the New Sarovian Empire, which is now known as the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire. The Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire is an order of chivalry founded by King Carolus XII of Sarovia in late 2017. It is the most junior order of knighthood in the Sarovian honours system, senior even to the Star of Carolus and Star of Constantine.

The Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire is the Empire's main order of chivalry in which members of both the civil and military branches are inducted into. The Order, signified by a blue sash among its recipients, are a series of Knights and Ladies who are sworn in and knighted by the Emperor.

There are three Ranks of the Order - Knight Grand Cross, Knight Commander and Companion. New members become Companions of the Order, and upon being a Companion for five months, are promoted to Knight Commander. To reach Knight Grand Cross, one must be a loyal knight for a full year. The Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire is dedicated to the image and arms of Saint Constantine, Sarovia's patron saint. The coat of arms of the Order is a white background with an orange cross.

Appointments are at the sovereign's sole discretion, and are usually in recognition of a national contribution, for public service, or for personal service to the sovereign. Membership of the order is limited to the sovereign, the Crown Prince of Kiev, the monarchs of Reuss and Nassau, and no more than 16 inductees, four of which may be Honorary Foreign Knights, given to foreign members or monarchs. Knights *may* be kicked out should they be convicted of treason, though this is incredibly rare.

The Order's emblem is a heraldic collar with interchanging griffons (a mixture of the Reussian Lion and the Nassauvian/Nafetian Eagle) with the motto *Stefan Est Notre Protecteur* (French: "Stefan is our Protector") in gold lettering. Members of the Order wear it on ceremonial occasions. Should the order be abbreviated, it should be abbreviated as OSE.

REQUIREMENTS OF ENTRY TO THE ORDER

Fount of Honour

2. The Fount of Honour for the entirety of the New Sarovian Empire, and in specific regards to the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire, is the Sovereign of the Empire. As of the 6th of February of 2021, the Fount of Honour is *His Imperial Majesty* the Emperor, Constantine IX Vasa. He has the sole right of conferring all titles of honour, including life peerages, knighthoods and gallantry awards to all Sarovians, as well as foreigners.

In order to become a member of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire, one must:

- a) Do considerable and extraordinary good to the New Sarovian Empire, in either civil or military service,
- b) Obtained two or more military or civil decorations in their service to the Empire, with exceptions given to Honorary Foreign Knights,
- c) Have the explicit approval of *His Imperial Majesty* the Emperor, and in the case of appointments to the Knighthood via Parliament, majority support in the House,
- d) To be a faithful and devout Stefanist,
- e) And to swear the Sacred Oath in a ceremony.

Code of Conducts for Knights

3. All Knights must abide by the Caenite Code, and swear to uphold it in their Sacred Oath. Failure to uphold the Code and the Oath may result in punishment, or being stripped of the honour.

“By the Grace of Stefan, and a Knight of the Realm, I solemnly swear to:

To never lay down arms,

To seek after wonders,

Not to attack one another,

To injure no one out of anger,

To fight for the safety of one’s country,

When called upon, to defend the rights of the weak with all one’s strength,

To give one’s life for one’s country,

*To seek nothing before honour,
Never to break faith for any reason,
To worship Stefan most diligently,
And to grant hospitality to anyone, each according to his ability.”*

Initiation Ceremony

4. The ceremony to induct someone into the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire has been unbroken for almost four years, and is the most unchanged tradition in the entire New Sarovian Empire. The inductee will come before the Sovereign, and bow - either by sitting on the ground or on a specially placed red stool. The oath itself is secret.

From there, the Sovereign will tap his sword on the shoulders of the inductee, and after he sheaths his sword, the new Knight will equip his/her Knight uniform and sabre.

PERKS OF THE ORDER

The Sash and Badge of the Order

5. The Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire allows its members and recipients to show off and indicate themselves to their fellow countrymen and countrywomen. All Knights will gain their sash - a light blue sash draped over their uniform from the left to the right. This sash can go over any uniform other than the grey combat uniform. Likewise, the members of the Order are given their badge - a silver star with a diamond in the centre, pinned to the chest of the recipient. The shield can either be that - a shield, or be directly added onto the Knight's uniform should they request it.



Perks of the Order

6. Entry into the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire grants considerable perks to those inside, which can be used to further one's career in and outside of Sarovia. Some of these perks include:

- a) Authority over soldiers or civilians of the same rank and/or status,
- b) Free tuition to the Kiev Staff College, and will be saluted regardless if they hold a Commission,
- c) Entry into the Imperial Court,
- d) Entry into the Assembly of Peers, as well as the College of Princes,
- e) A free estate in a luxurious neighbourhood in Sarholm,
- f) Their own heraldry, with the OSE collar around it,
- g) The right to the prefix of Sir/Dame in their name depending on gender, and the suffix OSE (eg. Lieutenant Sir John Doe, OSE)
- h) Acceleration of promotions in the Imperial Army, and increased likelihood of civil appointments,
- i) And increased likelihood to be bestowed a noble title.

Religious Connotations

7. As a member of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire, the Knight must engage in the following:

- a) Attending Stefanic mass often, if not always,
- b) Be able to lead the Pre-Battle Prayer,
- c) And to quote the Liber Stefanicus.