

MOTHERS' DEGREE

To enter, the officers line up as follows:

Marshal

P#6

P#7

P#4

P#5

P#2

P#3

P#1

Orator

S.D.

Chaplain

J.C.

S.C.

Master Councilor

(They enter by the door in the N.W. corner. Marshal leads procession (with fairly slow step) up North side of room to N.E. corner. Marshal raises baton and all take two steps and HALT. Marshal lowers baton and lines step apart. Marshal comes down through the line and picks up M.C. and conducts him to the East. After M.C. reaches station, Marshal bows and returns to face line, raises baton to alert officers and as he about faces, officers turn to face East and when Marshal lowers baton, officers step in together. Marshal faces forward starts forward and line follows, dropping off as follows: JC, SC, SD, Chaplain, P#1, Orator, P#2, P#3, P#4, P#5, P#6, P#7, then Marshal returns to own station, passing in front of Chaplain and stopping opposite own seat, takes side step to left and then a right turn to face West. All officers remain standing until one rap from the M.C.).

ITEMS TO REMEMBER: When Pr. #1 & #2 arrive at stations they false West until Pr. #3 arrives at his station, then #1 & #2 take their cue from #3 and all three turn together to face the altar. The same applies on the other side when #4, #5, & #6 arrive at their stations, they face the East until #7 arrives at his station, then they take their cue from #7 and all four turn together to face the altar.

All officers with floor stations should sit up straight with NO slouching, in fact, this applies to all officers. Sit with feet flat on the floor, with left foot slightly in advance of the right and hands in lap.

After seating officers with one rap,. M.C. opens service with ritual.

M.C. "My brethren and friends, we have met tonight to pay reverence to the most sacred blessing of God to all mankind. What could be more fitting then to pause for a moment in our endeavors and pay tribute to the most beloved of all on earth, our Mothers, whose enduring tenderness for her own transcends all other affections of the heart. Therefore, as State Master Councilor of Massachusetts DeMolay, sitting in the East, symbol of the rising sun and the morn of life, I open this dedication service in honor of our Mothers, and may it kindle anew our affections for her.

M.C. - "Brother Senior Councilor, you will open the Holy Bible upon the altar."

(S.C. advances to the altar, either carrying the bible or having it already on the altar, kneels, opens the Bible and lays ribbon across the open page. Rises, steps back and says ritual.)

S.C. - "We open the Holy Bible upon our altar as a symbol of our belief in religious liberty, and the foundation of our faith in an everlasting day. Upon that altar is not the emblem of any creed, or the repository of any system of Theology, but the word of the one living and true God. May his teachings reach the heart of everyone and His representative in human form, whom we call Mother, be given the reverence of which she is truly worthy."

(S.C. bows, about faces and returns to station.)

M.C. - "Brother Junior Councilor, you will explain the significance of the flag at our altar."

(J.C. then calls upon the S.D. who then presents the flag at the altar.)

J.C. - "Brother Senior Deacon, you will present the flag of our country to the altar."

(As S.D. conducts flag, M.C. gives three raps for all to rise.)

J.C. - "Brethren and friends, you will join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to our flag."

(Done. M.C. gives one rap to seat all but S.D. and J.C. J.C. walks down to the South of the altar as S.D. walks to the North side.)

J.C. - "We place the flag of our country at the altar, as a symbol of civil liberty, without which there could be no religious freedom. The flag, whose meaning was taught to us as children by our Mothers, will soon be left in our care. In the past it has gloriously withstood all assaults upon its honor and its people. May her teachings never be forgotten, but act as a spar, if the need should come, for its defense. We now place it here as a sentinel to guard us while we worship.

(J.C. bows.- about faces and returns to station as S.D. places flag in the standard and returns to his station, both sit down together. M.C. now calls on S.D. to place schoolbooks on altar.)

M.C. - "Brother Senior Deacon, you will place the school books on the altar."

(S.D. goes to altar across East, down South, and to West of Altar, kneels, places school books, rises, steps back and says ritual.)

S.D. - "I place these school books upon our altar as a symbol of intellectual liberty, taught to us throughout the years by our devoted Mothers, and without which there would be neither civil or religious freedom. They are particularly emblematic of the great public school system of our country, and the foundation of that universal enlightenment that is the crowning glory of our institutions. Civil, religious and intellectual liberties are the three sources of our country's greatness, but they must stand alone - on separate foundations and under separate roofs. These books are as important as the Holy Bible and the flag, and without them our altar would not be complete."

(S.D. bows and returns to station and sits down. M.C. now calls on Chaplain to lead in prayer.)

M.C. Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer."

(M.C. gives three raps for all to rise, Marshal and Chaplain proceed to altar.)

Chaplain - "Our Father, who art in heaven, we ask thy divine blessing upon our altar dedicated to ideals of right-speaking, right-thinking, and right-living manhood. Wilt thou bless our Mothers as teachers of thy wishes and guardians of thy love. Wilt thou give us the power of understanding that we may not blind to our Mothers love and never be guilty of bringing sorrow to her heart. All this we ask in thy Holy Name, Amen."

(DeMolays repeat Amen, Chaplain remains kneeling and Marshal standing behind him as solo is sung. M.C. gives one rap to seat all. Solo - YOU WERE A WONDERFUL MOTHER. After solo Chaplain and Marshal return to stations.)

M.C. "My brethren and friends, flowers have been for untold ages the symbols of all the deepest emotions of the soul, expressing in their silent, but sincere way, what the halting tongue cannot put into words. They are the combined beauty of all expressions and are able to speak a universal language understood by all civilized nations. They speak a thousand messages of life, bring sweet comfort to the suffering, dull the sharpest pains of the heart and give a promise of hope and happiness to all. We now bring them to our altar dedicated to that divine one --
Mother. I commend you to the Preceptors."

(M.C. sits down and seven preceptors now bring their flowers to the altar individually.)

Preceptor #1 rises, takes flower from table, goes to altar by way of the South, kneels, lays flower on ribbon, rises, steps back, says ritual, bows and returns to station by North. Pr. #2 and # do the same. Pr. #4 goes to altar by walking down North, across East and to altar; returns by North side. Pr. #5, #6, and #7 do the same.)

Preceptor #1 - "I lay this flower of Heliotrope upon the altar in token of our Filial Devotion to our parents, especially to our Mothers whose unselfish and unending affection is a mystery that God alone can solve. We gaze with admiration upon the love and sacrifice of her devotion and we could offer no greater tribute than to pledge a never dying love to her who has given so much."

Preceptor #2 - "As my contribution to the altar dedicated to Mother, I lay this spray of Evergreen, symbolic of our Reverence for Sacred things. It represents the love of every Brother for everything sacred, our untied belief in the one living and true God, and the acknowledgment of the fact that from Him all earthly blessings flow, thus, His gift to us in the form of a Mother."

Preceptor #3 - "Upon this altar dedicated to Mother, I lay this Gardenia, symbolic of courtesy and the ideals of DeMolay. Thoughtful consideration of others is the only true refinement and a virtue never lost to sight. The courtesy which a Mother teaches her son should not be confined to the home but, on the contrary, should prevail in all his relationships with others."

Preceptor #4 - "I lay upon the altar dedicated to Mother this Blue Hyacinth, symbolic of comradeship and devotion, ever reminding us of the motto, "Semper Fidelis". May our fulfillment of our promise never be neglected and all our unspoken vows be faithfully performed. We know that the love of Brother and the true companionship of Mother and son is a virtue, and the respect due for this development of our rational faculties belong to an ever-watchful and devoted Mother."

Preceptor #5 - "I place upon this altar dedicated to Mother, this flower of Veronica, symbolic of fidelity, which is an outstanding precept of every DeMolay. To be faithful to ideals is a virtue instilled in us by our Mothers and is a DeMolay's understanding of life. Were duty to demand it, he would not only give his life for his country, but for his Mother, thinking not of himself but of her and his county's safety."

Preceptor #6 - "Upon this sacred altar dedicated to Mother, I lay this Blue Corn Flower, symbolic of cleanness and purity of thought, word and deed. The great lesson our order gives to each member and to the world is: "A clean mind in a clean body is the best preparation for the clean manhood upon which clean citizenship depends." DeMolay brings back to the mind of the youth the warnings and teachings of a devoted Mother."

Preceptor #7 - "This white Lily, symbolic of patriotism and the immortal badge of courage, I place upon this altar dedicated to Mother. Love of country as taught by a Mother is a virtue represented in the highest type of patriotic young manhood, the bravery which prompts every loyal citizen to spring to the defense of his flag and his country's honor in time of conflict, and the patriotism which inspires good citizenship in time of peace are the lessons taught to us by your Mothers and are the privileges of every DeMolay."

(At this time it should be about time for the Nine O'clock interpolation; M.C. calls on the Chaplain, after giving ritual, and Chaplain and Marshal go to altar just as before.)

M.C. - "Brethren and friends, at this hour all over our land, Mothers are bending over the beds wherein lie the children they love. At this hour also guests in homes and hospitals are preparing for the hour of rest. Let us pause a moment in our deliberations while our Chaplain offers a prayer. Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer."

(M.C. gives three raps for all to rise.)

Chaplain - "Our Father, as sons of loving and indulgent parents, we invoke thy divine blessing upon all the Mothers and Fathers of our country and of all the world, and wilt thou pour out a special blessing for our Mothers, who have watched over us with unceasing care during all the years of our lives. May we ever realize that we are brothers of the helpless and the suffering and rejoice to every call to the relief of pain or the alleviation of sorrow. We ask thy benediction upon all who labor for the relief of suffering and need. Wilt thou help us to lead upright and patriotic lives, worthy of the devotion of all who have labored for our beloved country in every field of sacrifice and service, AMEN."

M.C. - "God Bless Mother."

S.C. - "God Bless Father."

J.C. - "God Bless the purposes of DeMolay."

(All DeMolays repeat these three the same. Marshal and Chaplain rise and return to their stations. M.C. gives one rap to seat all.

Councilors now present their flowers to the altar, J.C. advances directly to the West side of the altar, kneels, deposits flower, rises, steps back and says ritual. After ritual M.C. turns right and proceeds to South side of altar where he left faces and looks to the North. S.C. advances to the altar kneels, deposits flower, rises, steps back, and says ritual. After ritual he left faces and goes to North of altar and faces South. M.C. now advances, goes through same procedure and at point in ritual where he says, "with the aid of my brothers from the West and South" all three kneel and bind flowers together. When finished all three bow and after M.C., others return to their stations.)

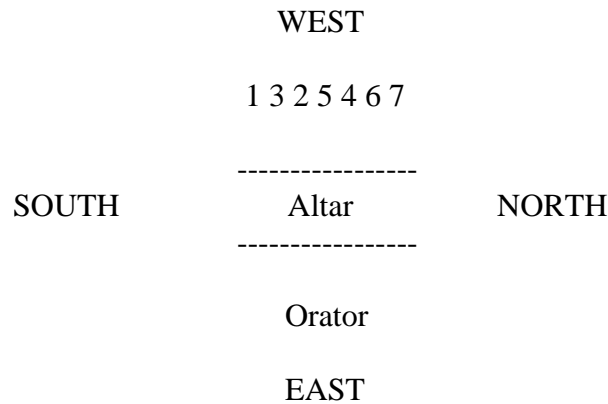
J.C. "From the station in the South, symbol of the meridian sun and the noon of life, I bring to this altar dedicated to Mother, this full bloom Red Rose, symbolic of the change from youth to manhood. We are deeply grateful for the true love of a Mother, who, in spite of circumstances demanding the trial of devotion, remains unswerving on the path where the instinct of her heart directs. We realize and are truly thankful for the sacrifices she has made for us and for the comfort she has given to us when we have been in distress. As representative of the meridian years of life, I leave this tribute of our gratitude."

S.C. - "From the station of the setting sun, symbol of the evening of life, I bring to this altar dedicated to Mother, this spray of Immortelles, emblematic of the everlasting love of a son for his Mother. In its strange course of affairs, life may be guided by the hand of destiny and our loved one taken from us to rest ever more on the land of the eternal day. But no matter what the parting may be, the memory of a pure and perfect love will always remain sacred. As representative of the West and the evening years of life, blessed with the knowledge that life is eternal, so do I leave at this altar a love for Mother which is eternal and everlasting."

M.C. - "From the station in the East emblematic of the rising sun and the morn of life, I bring to this altar dedicated to Mother this White Rose, symbolic of a pure, untainted and undying love, as a tribute to her devotion, It is from the East that the sun heralds the approach and birth of a new day, and as representative of the East, I proclaim the birth of an affection which is everlasting increasing the beauty of our memory as the years go by. Upon this altar are the many flowers symbolizing our deep love and appreciation for Mother, and with the aid of my brothers from the West and South, I bind them all together, making them one and offer them once more as sacred dedication to Mother. May this cord strengthen our feeling of respect, making it more sacred and dearer to the hearts of all."

(The Orator now rises and walks directly to the East of the Altar, when he reaches this position he faces left and at this point the Preceptors rise together and come to the altar to the West. On the South, Preceptor #2 leads with #3 followed by #1. On the North, Preceptor #5 leads with #4, #6, & #7 following. All wait until the signal is given and then all turn to face the altar. Orator then begins ritual. When preceptors are to take flowers, #1 starts on the South then #7 on the North working inward, each kneeling and taking the proper flower, after all have taken the flowers, the Orator takes a flower, rises and

concludes the ritual. The Orator then bows and turns left, returning to his station and then preceptors take cue from M.C. and return to their stations, turn to face altar and wait for one rap from the M.C. to be seated.)



Orator - "The Order of DeMolay teaches many beautiful lessons, but none more important than that of honor and true respect for all womanhood, and more especially Motherhood. It is fitting therefore that you should be called upon once more to stand before our altar in a few moments of special emphasis upon the virtue of filial love, which has been given first place among the jewels adorning the Crown of Youth."

"For our purposes tonight this altar has been dedicated to Mother. You may rise to positions of great influence in political, commercial or professional life, but you can never reach the heights of your Mother's highest hopes for you. You may sink into the lowest depths of infamy and degradations, but never below the reach of your Mother's love. There is no man so entirely base, so completely and utterly low, that he does not keep deep down in his heart, a shrine, sacred and apart, for the memory of his Mother's love."

"As we stand here, were I to draw you a picture of love divine, it would not be that of a stately angel, with a form that is full of grace. But that of a tired and toil worn Mother, with a grave and tender face."

"It was your Mother who loved you before you were born - who carried you for long months close to her heart and in the fullness of time took God's hand in hers and passed through the valley of shadows to give you life. It was she who cared for you during the helpless years of infancy and the scarcely less dependent years of childhood. As you have grown less dependent, she has done the countless thoughtful, trouble-healing, helpful and encouraging things which somehow only mothers seem to know how to do and which you have accepted more or less as a matter of course and perhaps without conscious gratitude or any expressions of your appreciation. You are rapidly approaching the time in life when you will be entirely independent of your Mother. The ties with which dependency has bound you to her being severed as you grow older; but the tie of Mother love can never be broken."

"Thinking back upon the years of your life when you have reached the threshold of manhood your mother might well say in the words of the poet:

My body fed your body, son,

But birth's a swift thing,
Compared to one and twenty years,
Of feeding you with spirits tears.
I could not make your mind and soul,
But my glad hands have kept you whole.
Your groping hands
Bound me to life with ruthless hands.
And all my living became a prayer,
While all my days built up a stair
For your young feet that trod behind,
That you an aspiring way should find.
Think you that life can give you pain,
Which does not stab at me again?
Think you that life can give you shame
Which does not make my pride go lame?
And you can do no evil thing
Which sears not me with poisoned sting.
Because of all that I had done,
Remember me in life, O son.
Keep that proud body fine and fair
My life is monumented there.
For my life make no woman weep,
For my life hold no woman cheap,
And see you give no woman scorn
For that dark night when you were born.

"These flowers which you see on our altar are symbols of that mother love, the white, the love of the mother who has gone - the red, the mother who still lives to bless your life."

Far in the deep recesses of her heart
Where all is hushed, she keeps a holy shrine,
Tis here her prayers kneel, and from above
Long shafts of golden light upon them shine.
Her heart is flower fragrant as they rise
Aquiver like a candle flame. Each prayer
Takes wing to bless the world she works among
To leave the radiance of the candles there.

"We want each of you to take a flower from this altar. If your Mother has passed over to the other shore, take a white flower and keep it always sacred to her memory. (Preceptors take flowers.) May the sight of it always quicken every tender memory of her and strengthen you anew in your efforts to be worthily of her hopes and aspirations for you.

"If your mother is living take a red flower, (Preceptors take flowers). When you go home tonight give it to your Mother. Tell her it is our recognition of God's best gift to man - his mother's love. Take her in your arms, kiss her and say "Mother, I've learned a great lesson tonight. The ceremonies have helped me realize more fully how much you really mean to me. I'm going to try to show you daily how much I appreciate the sacrifices you have made and the love and care you give me."

"Some day you'll find that flower, I know not where, perhaps in her Bible or prayer book or some other sacred place, a silent witness to what this night has meant to the one whose love for you, her son, is beyond the comprehension of any son."

"DeMolay can ask no more of you than that you shall endeavor to live as to be worthy of that love."

(Orator now returns to station followed by the Preceptors.)

(M.C. now calls on Chaplain to lead in prayer; Marshal and Chaplain proceed to the altar as before. M.C. gives three raps for all to stand. After prayer Chaplain and Marshal return and M.C. gives one rap for all to be seated.)

M.C. - "Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer."

Chaplain - "Oh Heavenly Father, wilt thou bless once more our Mothers and their undying devotion, and wilt thou sanctify the ties which have brought us together that we might learn by hearing the thoughts of others. Wilt thou broaden our understanding that we may be able to learn more and be better fitted to do thy will. We ask thy benediction upon those of our Mothers who have gone to the great beyond and are in thy care. We ask thy guidance in fashioning ourselves that they might well be proud of us. Wilt thou bless our order in its efforts to build better men, thereby making a better world, nearer to thy own ideals of perfection. Make us the men our Mothers would have us to be, and create in the hearts of all, the beautiful seed of love that we never lose sight of thee. AMEN."

(After prayer M.C. gives one rap to seat all. Then calls for Marshal to present flowers on the altar to some appropriate person (M.C.'s mother) M.C. now prepares to close.)

M.C. - "My brethren and friends, more could not be said or done to complete this ceremony in honor of our Mothers. Therefore in conclusion we would like all to take with them the thoughts that we have tried to express during this service and instead of paying reverence but once a year, let us strive to make each day, MOTHER'S DAY."

(M.C. now gives three raps for all to stand.)

M.C. - Brother Senior Councilor, you will close the Holy Bible upon our altar (DONE).
Brother Junior Councilor, you will remove the schoolbooks from our altar (DONE).
Brother Senior Deacon, you will attend the altar (DONE). Brother Marshal, you will collect the officers for the purpose of retiring.

(Marshal starts off and Preceptors fall in order, fl, #2, #3 and so on. S.D. falls in beside #7 and Chaplain falls in with the orator falling in beside him. J.C. falls in after Orator and S.C. beside him. M.C. falls in at the end. Procession now goes along South and turns to North at the altar, Marshal goes to get M.C. and proceeds back through the line with officers from end entering.)

APPLAUSE ----- if you have deserved it!