

## Fathers' Degree

The Assembly is set up in the usual manner, omitting the small Bible, the charter, and the Pot of Gold. The large Rainbow Bible on the Altar is closed.

The following articles are needed:

1. Rainbow emblem
2. Sm. Masonic emblem or pin
3. Sm Eastern Star emblem or pin
4. Sm. house or similar
5. Two sm. garden tools
6. a white candle (3 inches)
7. a gold ring
8. Sm. American Flag with staff
9. Sm white cross

5 red flowers and one white flower to form cross at the head of the Bible

songs: Star Spangled Banner; Dear Lord, Father of Mankind; Face to Face; Faith of our Fathers; The Father that means the most to Me; The Lord's Prayer

Worthy Advisor- "Sister Drill Leader, you will present our Flag at the Altar."

Drill Leader presents Flag.

Worthy Advisor- "You will join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country, followed by one verse of our National Anthem."

Worthy Advisor- "I wish to welcome everyone here this evening. It gives \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly a great deal of pleasure to exemplify a degree tonight for our Fathers. In the past it has been the custom to honor each Mother by exemplifying the Mothers' Degree. Tonight we will try to show you that we have not forgotten another person, equally dear to us, our fathers.

The Worthy Advisor takes a red flower and goes to the Altar.

Worthy Advisor- " I hope that as this flower rests upon the Altar beside the Bible, it will remind each father as he hears the words of this degree, given in the deepest sincerity, will know they are meant especially for him, whether he be the father who is a Mason, a father who is an Eastern Star, or the father of a Rainbow Girl." Places flower on the Altar.

Treasurer, Recorder, and Drill Leader approach the Altar from the East at the same time.

Treasurer- "For every Father that is a Mason, I place this emblem on the Altar."

Recorder- "For every Father that is a Eastern Star, I place this emblem on the Altar."

Drill Leader- "For every Father of a Rainbow Girl, I place this emblem on the Altar."

All return to their stations.

Worthy Associate Advisor - Approaches Alter. "On this White Altar that reflects its rays of Faith and purity through the pages of the Holy Bible, I place this red flower as a symbol of the living Father and may the sun never set that I am not thankful for all that He has done for me." Return to station

Song- Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

**Charity-** approaches Altar “As I place this red flower upon the Altar, I think of the many sacrifices a father makes so that he can provide his daughter and his family with material as well as spiritual gifts that make their lives happier ones. To me, as I represent Charity, a Father is truly the greatest treasure a girl can have.” Return to station

**Song-** God of our Fathers

**Hope-** approaches Altar “ Along with life’s days of wonder and fulfillment come those days of darkness and uncertainty, when a Father’s strong hand and encouraging word of Hope seem always to turn that darkness into pure light. It is in His honor that I place this red flower as a token of my sincere thanks on our Altar. “ Return to station

**Song –** Breathe on me Breath of God or suitable

**Faith -** approaches Altar “Faith is a difficult word to define, yet our whole life’s existence depends on it. It is the trust and understanding between a Father and daughter that makes both of their lives worth living. As I place this red flower on the Altar, I am indebted to him whose candle of Faith never burns out.” Return to station

**Song-** Faith of our Fathers

**Worthy Advisor-** “Sister Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.”

**Chaplain-** “O heavenly Father, bestow Thy blessings upon each Father of the world tonight that they may understand that their constant toil and service for mankind will never go unnoticed. Make them feel confident that we know in this world today we could not have happiness, security, or freedom, if it were not for them. Also, teach us, as their daughters, never to say one unkind word or sharp remark, but rather to be always ready with a kind thought, a sincere word, and a pure deed. It is to you, dear Lord, that we are especially grateful for placing such a wonderful friend as a Father on this earth, and may we never take his name in vain. Amen. “

**approaches Altar**

“This flower that I bring to place on our Altar is white, given in memory of Fathers who have passed away, and especially for the Father of Rainbow, Rev. W. Mark Sexson, the founder of our Order. As I place this white flower in memory of the Fathers who have passed on, I complete the cross, and may it glow with new hope as we hear the words of Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service.”

**Places flower in center of cross, completing it. Returns to station.**

**Love-** “One of the many gifts given to man is the power to love someone with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. This love none of us can do without, that is the reason for this symbol. For it is only a Father’s love that can turn a house into a home.”

**Place house on Altar**

**Religion - "In ancient times it was the Father who fought war after war and survived through massacres and deep dungeons in order to preserve for us the words and lessons of our Holy Bible. Again, in our present day it has been their constant preparedness and religious Faith that enable all of us to freely choose our own religion and practice that religion without fear and persecution. It is for this we are deeply grateful."**

**Place Bible on the Altar.**

**Nature- "In the out-of-doors, away from the crowded cities, farming takes on all responsibilities. Often we are forgetful for the great tasks involved before a balanced meal can be served to us. With these tools some of our fathers spend long, tedious hours getting the most out of our God given nature. Perhaps Thanksgiving should not only come once a year, but rather before each meal. "**

**Place garden tools on Altar.**

**Immortality- "As God has the power to give, He also has the power to take away. Death is always hard to understand, when it comes to someone close to us, especially if it should be our Father. He has so influenced our lives, that although he may be taken from us in body, his spirit of life will live with us as constant and as bright as this candle."**

**Place candle on Altar.**

**Fidelity - "This gold wedding ring symbolizes the trueness and loyalty which nothing else can express. There is something about this ring that binds two peoples lives together and thus begins the trueness and loyalty that is found among members of the family."**

**Places gold ring on the Altar.**

**Patriotism- " The Flag of our country is loved and respected by every living American. Many fathers have not only cherished it, but have also been called upon to stand strong and firm in its defense so that it will continue to represent their patriotism and our freedom. May this Flag of Red, White, and Blue never again be stained with the blood of war, but rather let it wave in peace and tranquility."**

**Places Flag on Altar.**

**Service- "Throughout our Father's life, service calls on them time and time again, depriving them of their rest and pleasure. The greatest of these services is represented by this white cross, that of giving of their lives for us; for us who represent our country. No one can ask for a greater service than giving of ones life which thousands of Fathers have done in the past.**

**Places cross on Altar**

**Song- The Lord's Prayer**

**Service- "On the Altar beside this Holy Bible is the cross formed by the words of the East, the West, Faith, Hope, Charity, and Chaplain. We would like to present each of you with these five flowers that form the points of the cross because we believe that you represent the Fathers we have described here tonight."**

**Worthy Advisor- Sister of Faith, you will gather the flowers that form the cross on our Altar and bear them to the East. (To the Master of the Lodge or presiding officer, or father of the Worthy Advisor- saying name) \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly you will accept these flowers from our Altar on behalf of all fathers. To all Fathers and guests, we hope you have enjoyed our tribute to Fathers as much as we have enjoyed being here."**

**If flowers have been provided for all guests, they should be distributed at this time.**

**Worthy Advisor- "Our Chaplain will now give the benediction."**

**Chaplain- "O Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for teaching us Love and Service to mankind for the freedom of Religion and Nature's wonders. We also thank Thee for teaching us about Immortality, the trueness of Fidelity, and Patriotism to our Flag and Country. For all these teachings we offer thanks to Thee in our prayers. Amen. "**

**Worthy Advisor- "Sister Drill Leader, you will retire with the officers."**