

Rainbow Service for Mothers' Day

(Written by W. Mark Sexson and dedicated to the memory of his own beautiful Mother, who passed away in July 1940, shortly after her 91st birthday.)

To observe the Ceremony, the assembly will be set up in the regular form. The Officers enter using their regular Assembly Opening March. Faith does not enter with the Officers, but remains on the outside until she is asked to enter during the Ceremony. When Officers have taken their respective stations, the Worthy Advisor will say:

Worthy Advisor: My friends, we have invited you to join with us in this service in order that as a group of Rainbow Girls, we might pay loving tribute to our Mothers. We thank you for your presence and sincerely hope that those of you who are not members of the Rainbow, or of the Orders sponsoring Rainbow will be impressed with our service and will hold it in loving remembrance.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Drill Leader, you will present our Flag at the Altar. (Raps Assembly up.)

Drill Leader marches west, thence north, thence east, observing square corners, to the position of the Flag, at the station of Patriotism, gives slight bow, secures the Flag, holding it directly in front of her body at a slight angle, and presents it at the Altar by retracing her line of March to Hope's station thence North to the Altar. After the Pledge and Song, she returns the Flag to the position by leaving the Altar from the North.

Worthy Advisor: My sisters, you will join me in saluting the flag and giving the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Song- The Star Spangled Banner

Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, in sounding the gavel in the East, I have called this court , which I have designated as a court of beauty, in order that we may pay due respect and honor to our mothers.

There should be two persons with good speaking voices to act as Monitors for the Ceremony. The first Monitor should be in the West and the other Monitor in the East. They should wait ten seconds between each speaking voice. If the Assembly Room can be blacked out, it will add to the impressiveness of the Ceremony. Soft music played while monitors speak. Usually use Charity in the West and Hope in the East.

First Monitor: It was she who went down into the valley in order that she might receive from the Great Giver of all life my trembling soul and carry it back into the sunshine of living day.

Second Monitor: It was she who toiled and sacrificed and denied herself that her child might take its place of honor and trust among the useful citizens of our country.

First Monitor: "We are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill can not be hid."

Second Monitor: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Lights on if blacked out.

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Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, interrupted by these voices that come out of the distance, I feel a sense of insecurity. For a moment, I find myself wavering.

Worthy Associate Advisor: Worthy Advisor, have you forgotten that through Prayer comes countless and unexpected blessings and that through Prayer there is an inexhaustible source of power opened to those who feel the need of Divine guidance. God alone lifts us as we attempt to reach such heights as we must reach if we pay due honor to her who gave us life.

Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, your words are inspiring, as well as saving. For a moment, I was lost, error had taken hold of me instead of truth. My mind is now serene, it is peaceful. Rainbow Girls must always remember that in moments of indecision, they should recall the teachings of their home and their Church and lean upon the power of prayer.

Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, it is my order that our Chaplain kneel at the White Altar, where we have made our promise to each other, and lead us in prayer.

Worthy Associate Advisor: Sister Chaplain, it is the order of the Worthy Advisor in the East that you proceed to the White Altar of Holy Promise and invoke the Divine Blessing to rest upon this meeting.

(Chaplain leaves her station and goes to the Altar, kneels for Prayer)

Chaplain: Our Father in Heaven, with an earnestness in our voices flowing out of a deep conviction, we pray Thy blessings, rich and abundant to rest upon our Mothers. Thou knowest, dear Lord, that mother-life is from the beginning and to the ending, made of courage. Life is as though a bird had flown through a window, crossed the room, and then flown out of another window, bearing a new song enriched by patient sweetness of Mother. Dear Lord, it was Mother who taught me my simple child prayer. She taught me to come to you in every moment of trial, in hours of disappointment, or in victory and you would understand. At this Altar, we do partly know how to appreciate mother. We pray for strength to know her better. Teach us how we may repay her for the fine, brave things she has done for us. Let us never forget to put our arms about her, and kiss her. Let us always remember to tell her how we appreciate her. Thus may we in a way honor her who has done so much for us. Amen and Amen.

Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, your words were timely and good. Greater light has come to all of us through Prayer, as well as greater understanding. I, therefore, declare this Court open for those who care to report at its Altar and pay loving tribute to our mothers. Color stations you will take your positions in this Court of Beauty.

(Love, Religion, Nature, step back of stations, on south side of Altar- Love leading. Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service on north side of Altar, Service leading. They march to the East and stand on their respective sides between the Altar and the East. Immortality advances just back of the Altar.)

Love: Worthy Advisor, I deem it one of the greatest privileges of this life to stand before the Altar of White Light and pay tribute to Mother.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Love, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

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(Sister Love marches west until she is on a direct line with Immortality, then turns north and marches to her. Immortality turns facing south and they face each other.)

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

(Immortality takes her flowers. Love retraces her line of march.)

Religion: Worthy Advisor, I crave permission to speak in this Court that I may testify to the grace and beauty of mother as she comes to us in our moments of prayer and worship. I, therefore ask that I be allowed to stand before the White Altar and give further testimony to mother.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Religion, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

(All Color Stations follow the same instructions as given to Love.)

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

Nature: Worthy Advisor, I, too; ask that I may have permission to speak in this Court and thus do honor to that lovely person who bears the name of Mother. Many of her sublime teachings come to us from the out-of-doors; from the garden, field, and the valley; out of the blooming flowers, and the songs of the birds. I, therefore, ask permission to stand before the White Altar and give further testimony to Mother.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Nature, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

Fidelity: Worthy Advisor, may I at this time, approach the White Altar, remembering one power that has kept me in the narrow path of righteousness, and pay tribute to Mother? Out of a life that never wavered; out of one whose course was ever true as the Star of the North. I have drawn my deepest inspiration. I therefore, ask that be permitted to stand before the White Altar and give further testimony to Mother.

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Worthy Advisor: Sister Fidelity, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

Patriotism: Worthy Advisor, when I think of the lessons taught me by Mother, the lessons of my country and those who have in the past died for it, I feel that I have not done my duty in this Court unless I be permitted to stand before the White Altar and give further testimony to Mother.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Patriotism, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

Service: Worthy Advisor, to me there is no life so full of doing things as that of the life of Mother. From her we have received encouragement to devote our time, our talent, and our energy to the worthwhile things of life and it is to honor her who has given us these helpful lessons of service that I ask permission to stand before the White Altar and give further testimony to Mother.

Worthy Advisor: Sister Service, since you bear the name you do, and since the teachings of your station have always been beautiful and sublime, you may leave your station and stand before the White Altar to pay your tribute.

Immortality: My sister, I observe you approaching the White Altar for the purpose of paying tribute to Mother. I observe also that you carry upon your arm a gift of flowers symbolic of your deep love and devotion for her who gave you life. Yet, I am sorry to inform you, that you cannot lay your tribute upon the Altar because you have forgotten one of the most important of all lessons taught to our Rainbow Girls. You will therefore leave your gift with me until some future time.

(After the last girl is back)

Worthy Advisor: Worthy Associate Advisor, upon request of six members of this Court of Beauty, I have permitted them to leave their stations and journey to the White Altar where they might pay tribute to Mother. However, I have observed they all have returned and no tribute has been paid. Why is this misunderstanding in the Court and why is it that these members have not made report?

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Worthy Associate Advisor: Worthy Advisor, this Court has not been properly opened. One of the most important things has been overlooked in our preparations. Since, however, I have observed from my station that the attendant at the Altar has for some reason refused the members of the Court the privilege of standing before the Altar and since she has requested that they leave their floral offerings in her care until some future time, I, therefore; ask that you demand of her the reason for this obstructing the words of the Worthy Advisor.

(Immortality rises without any word from the Worthy Advisor)

Immortality: Worthy Advisor, I need no command from you to explain my action. I am Immortality, I was before the beginning and I shall be after the ending. I am the soul that speaks only the Truth. Your Court does not have in it one of the most sacred things that belongs to Mother, Faith in God. Since it is lacking, no tribute can be made to her who must forever stand upon a golden pedestal, and forever have first place in the heart and mind of those to whom she gave life.

Worthy Advisor: It is well, Sister Immortality. Many times in this life we are too hasty. Many times we fail to make the preparations becoming the dignity of the task we approach, and do so within our own power. Many times we pray and seem refreshed and strengthened for a moment, only to find that we cannot win because we do not ask in faith. Many times we half heartily pay tribute to our flag in words of the lips, and our hearts remain untouched. That we may renew our Pledge to our Country and its Flag, that we may make the Altar a Prayer again and a greater part of the American way of life, I shall order the Confidential Observer to invite Faith to enter the Assembly Room.

(Confidential Observer opens the door where Faith is in waiting dressed in white, carrying a white Bible with a corsage of Seven Colors, enters the Assembly room, marches (soft music) once around the Assembly room then entering the bow from the South and proceeds to the Altar. Immortality returns from her position at the Altar to her own station. At the same time the Color stations go back to their regular places in the bow. All turn facing west, Nature leads her line, Fidelity leads her line and all go back of the color stations to their chairs. Immortality is standing at her station, then all are seated as one.) (Faith is still standing at the Altar.)

Faith: Faith in Him who was, is, and always will be, that Divine, invisible and sweet power, the very breath and perfume of the soul was in the beginning with God. It was the power that moved the spirit upon the face of the deep when God said, "Let there be light and there was light." It was blended with all its colors in the life of the first man and woman. It was the living breath of the first child. There is no sculptor that can convey its meaning no lover can tell its story no musician touch its note, nor no painter know its blending power. It is God Himself in man. Such oh, Worthy Advisor, is Faith.

(Solo, suitable for Faith. After song Faith returns to her station.)

Worthy Advisor: Members of this Court, and friends, being now illuminated by the power of Faith, and thus being able to understand and appreciate more keenly than we ever have, we shall proceed to pay tribute. Sister Immortality, since you are the open gateway through which life comes and through which it goes, may it please you now to return to the Sisters of Love, Religion, Nature, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service, the floral offerings that they may pay tribute.

(Sister Immortality steps back of her station and distributes flowers beginning with Love and ending with Service. Each Color Station comes to the Altar, beginning with Love, and ending with Service. After tribute, lays flowers on Altar around closed Bible.)

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Love: To you Mother, I bring this red flower. You taught me how to love. I loved you first and every year that unfolds increases that love. As surely as God so loved the world, you loved me. From you I drew my first breath. God gave it to you for me. From you I learned to live, walk, and to talk. Beauty came from you because it came out of love. I lay these flowers on the White Altar near the Book you taught me to read and study, to do honor to you....and by this act, I pledge to you again filial obedience. May God bless you is my prayer.

Religion: To you Mother, I bring these flowers. It seems you have always been by my side. Your whisper and counsel have been music to me when discord disturbed me. You taught me my first Prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep", you taught me to love the Lord, my God, with all my heart. You showed me how to sacrifice, and showed me how beauty could come out of suffering and sorrow. No less to me than an angel of God, and to do honor to you now fills my soul with delight, and thus I lay these flowers on this White Altar near the Holy Bible.

Nature: To you, Mother, I bring these flowers. You who taught me how to love the day, the sunshine, the flowers, the song of the birds, and the music of flowing waters. In God's out-of-doors, you have been my queen. I have garlands of leaves and roses for you hair. Your sweet tunes and soft blended words were like the winds that shaped and toned the flowers. I have been made to believe that I am a part of the earth, the air, the sky, and the seas because of you. I lay these flowers on this White Altar near the Holy Bible in memory of the sacred and holy hours I have spent with you in the out-of-doors.

Fidelity: To you Mother, I bring these flowers. Well do I remember when I looked into your eyes for the first time. In them I found a trueness that never wavered. I have seen them misty with tears, but eternal fidelity shown through. No storm clouds ever shut out the light of your eyes to mine, or covered your beautiful face. No distrust ever came from you. You made it by example easy for me to trust in God, and in loving memory and honor, I lay these flowers on the White Altar near the Holy Bible whose records of Fidelity you taught me.

Patriotism: To you Mother, I bring these flowers. You who gave me my first lesson in love of country and taught me the beauty and glory of my Flag. Next to the lessons of the Son of God and His wonderful sacrifice was the story of my country and its Flag. You told me how it was made and who made it. You told me that those who carried it in conflict never retreated. "The Star Spangled Banner, Oh long may it wave, Over the land of the free and the home of the brave," was the theme you taught me next to the Church hymns of our Father. I place these flowers on the White Altar in loving remembrance and honor of you and in doing so tell you now that I will die for my Flag. It is and always will be above all other flags and no foreign foe shall pull it down.

Service: To you Mother, I bring these flowers. You who taught me how to work and serve and who by example showed me the way. To work is to be noble, while an hour lost can never be found was a lesson you tried so hard to teach me. Before you took time to rest, you came to see if I needed you, or you went some place to find someone who needed you. I am coming every day now to know how valuable is an hour. There is so much to do among our people. You not only taught me this, but you let me become a Rainbow Girl and that is what they taught me in the Assembly. I lay these flowers on the White Altar near the Holy Bible you love and the words shine through its cover. "Whosoever would be great among you, let him become a servant."

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Immortality: I will place this sprig of acacia (cedar) upon the White Altar of Rainbow in honor of Mother. I am Immortality. I have no beginning... no ending. Mother love approaches me more closely than all else. God made me and through me mother-love came. It will not die. This sprig of acacia will mark the spot where we have made these vows and before it fades others will come to renew it. Such is the tribute that Rainbow Girls pay to their Mothers and thus join with all the rest of the world in the ceremonies of this sacred day.

(Solo- suitable for Mother)

Worthy Advisor: Will the Assembly please stand while the Chaplain pronounces the benediction.

Chaplain: Our Father in Heaven, as we leave this Assembly and go our respective ways- Be thou close to us; hold our hands that we may walk right paths. Breath Thy spirit upon us that we may be surrounded by thy goodness., that we may love beauty. Let no day ever pass that we do not thank Thee for our Mother. Thus may we pay our debt of gratitude to her, and to our country. "May the Lord watch between Thee and me while we are absent one from another." Amen.

(One rap of gavel)

Worthy Advisor, or Drill Leader, will collect flowers from Altar, including corsage, and bring them to the East. A large bow will be tied around the bouquet. She will then present the flowers to someone of her choice. Most often her mother, Mother Advisor, or grandmother. Usually there are enough single carnations to give one to each female present. The Rainbow Girls will each give one to her own mother and then they will start through and give one to each female present.

(The officers retire with the usual closing march)