EMBLEM CEREMONY

Chaplain:

It is with reverence and gratitude that I approach our sacred altar, placing upon it our Holy Bible, the white light of the universe. As this Holy Book rests upon our altar, may it stand sentinel over all our acts and may it cause us to meditate upon the teachings of our Order and reaffirm our faith in God and to remember to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Adah:

The sword and veil united is the emblem our heroine Adah, who is famous in Biblical history for her willingness to sacrifice her life to save her father's honor. Her story is found in our Holy Book and through the ages still she lives, for her loyalty to a spoken vow, is the message which her action gives.

Ruth:

The sheaf of wheat adorns the pedestal of Ruth and is a symbol of plenty. My wish tonight is that you will have:

- Plenty of strength and wisdom, too.
- Plenty of courage for work you will do,
- Plenty of friends to walk by your side,
- Plenty of faith as your daily guide,
- Plenty of loyalty day after day, as you work together in the Eastern Star way.

Esther:

Esther has been called a noble queen, but she was also a beautiful and beloved woman. The emblem of her station is the Crown and Scepter united, representing loyalty and power. Esther became the heroine of the Jewish people because of her loyalty and courageous deed as she begged the King to remember his promise and saved her people in their time of need.

Martha:

This broken column, the emblem of Martha, is the station of faith. In the building of a chapter, faith forms a solid foundation. We must have faith in our leaders, faith in each other, and faith in God's power and love. Her faith and hope in things not seen is symbolized by the color of green. Always keep faith and hope in your heart and from the teachings of Jesus never part.

Electa:

The emblem of Electa is the cup. The Elect Lady was a Biblical heroine famous for her hospitality to the poor. Her emblem is one of charity and hospitality and teaches us to extend generous aid to the needy. We are reminded of her love for others by the cross which she clasped to her breast.
The courtship and marriage of 19th century English poets, Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, is one of the most romantic stories of love triumphing over seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Elizabeth spent most of her life a secluded invalid, but began submitting her poetry to various publications. One of her admirers was Robert Browning. The two began to correspond. Browning gained permission to visit Elizabeth; their romance flourished. He convinced her to marry; they were married in secret, without her father's consent. One week later, she left her home forever, fleeing to Italy with her husband. Robert wrote these immortal lines to his wife:

Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life for which the first was made;  
Our times are in His hand  
Who saith, “A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God; see all, nor be afraid!”