

#9
Feder 10

OUR SIGNET
Ceremony For Dedicating Signet

O. E. S. GRAND
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Lights are lowered for service. Associate Matron advances from her station, and approaches Altar with lighted white candle, places it on the Altar, and returns to her station.

The Signet should be placed in front of dais between the Altar and the East. As each Star point dedicates her colored ray, she takes her position west of Altar to form semicircle with Star points. Each Star point carries candle of appropriate color. The verses may be given at stations or in semicircle as desired. At close of verse, each Star point approaches Altar, lights her candle and gives the lines of dedication, then steps back into semicircle. If Signet is electric, each part should be lighted as it is mentioned in verse.

Worthy Matron:

Sisters and brothers, this is a very important occasion, for it is our duty at this time to dedicate our beautiful Signet to the service of our Chapter. It is very necessary that we have a Signet in our Chapter room, for with it we portray the teachings of the heroines of our Order, the significance of our Colors, the emblematic flowers, and the emblems which allude to our distinguished heroines, portrayed in the degrees of our Order. The light which shines from each point of the Star in our Signet, carries with it a message telling to all the Eastern Star world the sacred duty of each ray. It is very fitting that those who represent these characters, explain the significance of the different rays.

Adah: Oh lovely Signet!
Throw out thy light upon our way,
And teach us how to live each day,
And give us courage to renew
Our faith, and be to vows so true;
For in this lovely ray of blue
We see the violets peeping through;
And there the open Book of Truth
Tells us we must obey in youth.
The sword and veil a message give
That we through faith must ever live,
And be like Adah, free from shame,
And have no blot upon our name.

(Steps to Altar and lights candle)

In the name of the daughters of this Chapter, I dedicate the blue ray to the service of fidelity and moral courage.

Ruth: Oh lovely Signet!
Now may the yellow ray of truth
Tell us the story of our Ruth,
Who was a gleaner in the field
That she her friends from want might shield.
And with the jessamine of gold
The teachings of her life unfold.
The lily of the valley, too,
Tell us she was to station true.

The sheaf reminds us we must care
Enough to gather here and there
Provisions, as we do our part,
Each with a meek and humble heart.

(Steps to Altar and lights candle)

In the name of the widows of this Chapter, I dedicate the yellow ray to constant service, teaching faithful obedience to the demands of honor and justice.

Esther: Oh lovely Signet!
Send out thy ray so pure and white,
That scatters gloom from darkest night,
For life was dark to Esther's race
As they their doom was soon to face.
But she was willing just to give
Her crown and life, that they might live,
The lily, with it's petals white
Is just a symbol of that light
That teaches us that deeds well done
Shine with the radiance of the sun.
The crown and scepter that unite
Give us the power to shield the right.

(Steps to Altar and lights candle)

In the name of the wives of this Chapter, I dedicate the white ray to the service of royalty and power.

Martha: Oh lovely Signet!
Let now thy ray of emerald green
Upon our path be ever seen,
Telling to us that beyond strife
There is a more abundant life.
The dainty fern of nature's lace
To us will always give a trace
Of that assurance Jesus gave
Of life and love beyond the grave.
The little lamb always portrays
The innocence of humble ways,
The broken column stands to say
That life may be but for a day.

(Steps to Altar and lights candle)

In the name of the sisters of this Chapter, I dedicate the green ray to trustful faith in the hour of trial, and the hope of immortal life.

Electa: Oh lovely Signet!
Now may thy ray of crimson red
Forever on our pathway shed
Such fervent truth and courage too,
That we may dare the right to do.
And may the petals of the rose
Give us the courage to enclose
Within our hearts the lion's power
To be so truthful every hour.
And may the cup teach us to be
So free in love and charity.
Oh give to us Electa's love
To shield the cross and look above.

(Steps to Altar and lights candle)

In the name of the mothers of this Chapter, I dedicate the red ray to the service of charity and hospitality.

Star points remain in semicircle while soloist sings:

Tune: Take Time To Be Holy.

Oh beautiful Signet
We now turn to thee,
Our help and our guidance
In thee we now see.
Keep us ever loyal,
So loving and true;
May we never falter
Our duty to do.

Give us Adah's courage
That ever we'll be
So patient and humble
As in Ruth we see,
Like Esther, so loyal,
And Martha to be,
With love of Electa,
We dedicate thee.

Oh beautiful Signet,
Let each ray now shine,
To brighten our pathway
With thy light divine,
Guide us ever onward,
Shine out from afar,
And keep us so loyal
To our Eastern Star.

As soft music continues, Chaplain approaches Altar for prayer. Other officers, with exception of Worthy Patron and Warder, gather around Altar forming semicircle outside of the one formed by Star points, facing Altar and Signet.

Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we bow in submission to Thy Holy will. We acknowledge Thy tender mercies and Thy watchful care over us. We thank Thee for all material blessings, realizing that every good and precious gift comes from Thee. We thank Thee for this beautiful Signet, dedicated to the service of this Chapter. May we never fail to follow it's teachings, and may the light that shines from it's rays, as they mingle together, teach us to exemplify more fully the lessons portrayed by the lives of our heroines. May it's silent benediction rest upon us, and may it linger through the years to give us strength, and to guide us in the work we strive to do. May it help us to enter upon our tasks bravely, sharing one another's burdens, and may the light that shines from it's rays give us everlasting peace in the work of our beloved Order as we dedicate it in Thy name, to this Chapter, in the service of Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness. We ask it for the sake of the Christ whose Star we follow.

Amen.

After prayer, officers return to stations.

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