

This is a floral degree to be put on for Friendship Night, --or when any Visitors are present. Have enough tiny nosegays of pansies made with tiny ruffles of lace around the edge, that each Guest may have one at the close of ceremony. Of these, seven are used in the ceremony, and the others placed in three baskets, by or on the Secretary's desk. It is very effective if these nosegays are identical, and they may be in the particular colors that the Worthy Matron has chosen for her year. (If used at the time of the Official visit, it compliments the Grand Matron if her colors are used.) If it is at the time of year when pansies are unavailable ... and this is a very short time ... artificial pansies may be made, or bought.

Have made of heavy cardboard a panel about 48 inches wide, straight across the bottom, with a graceful semi-circle curve across the top. Upon this, the letters F-R-I-E-N-D-S, are drawn in tall graceful letters, with a large pansy at the base, as if each letter sprung from the heart of the flower. The letters should be gilded, either gold or silver, and Thayer & Chandler, of Chicago, carry a full line of these bronze paints in colors, also. The pansies are to be painted in proper color, but just at the base of each letter, the heart of each pansy is cut out in the shape of a tiny star. Into this opening one nosegay of real flowers is placed. Behind the whole panel is a bright light. (Electric light, gasoline lantern, or lamp, as available.) When the seven Sisters say their lines, they take, in turn, a nosegay from the star-shaped opening in the flower, to let the light shine through.

Of the seven Sisters, choose one who can be Soloist for the ceremony.

During the Good of the Order, the Worthy Patron causes Bible to be closed, and declares the Chapter at ease. Raps are heard at the door, and Warder reports.

Warder: Sisters await without, who would do honor to the Guests of our Chapter.

Worthy Matron: None could be more welcome. You will admit them.

Seven Sisters in formals enter, forming a line in the West, where leader speaks.

Sister: Friends are with us, old and new ...
Friends we treasure, tried and true;
We would pay our tribute here
With pansies for sweet thoughts sincere.

Worthy Matron: You are most welcome, at this time,
For we have Guests, and it would be our pleasure
To have you honor them, and share
The sweet thoughts that are pansy treasure.

The seven Sisters, to soft music, move East along the South side of the hall; and, as they pass the Secretary's desk, the first, third, and fifth each take one of the baskets, waiting. They step close to the panel bearing the letters.

First Sister: "F" is for the Fellowship that Friendship means. (She takes the tiny nosegay from the base of the letter.) The pansies bearing the sweet thoughts of friendly fellowship have a meaning for all. My friends, I will let a little light shine through the heart of friendship.
She places the nosegay in one of the baskets, and the second Sister moves closer to panel.

Second Sister: "R" is the Reward of friendship, when the Rules are followed. The Rules are: "Be loyal," "Be true," "Be constant," "Be fair," "Be faithful," and "Be willing." There are many others, if you search in your heart. (She takes nosegay from heart of flower.) The light from the heart of the flower will shine through the sweet thoughts of friendliness.

She places nosegay in basket, and third Sister moves closer to the panel.

Third Sister: "I" is for the Ideals that give Inspiration to every friendship. It can be for Ideas, too . . . Ideas on how to be a better friend,--and a tried and true friend. (She takes nosegay from base of letter.) The light of Idealism should be the inspiration for every heart.

She places nosegay in second basket, and fourth Sister moves closer to the panel.

Fourth Sister: "E" is for the Enthusiasm of friends. The Eager spiritual need to be of service. (She takes nosegay from base of letter.) The light from the heart of the flower adds excellence to the quality of our sweet thoughts.

She places nosegay in second basket, and fifth Sister moves closer to the panel.

Fifth Sister: "N" is for the Name of friendship, and for its Need. (She takes nosegay from base of letter.) The light shining from the heart of the flower tells us that the need for sweet thoughts is Now.

She places nosegay in third basket, and sixth Sister moves closer to the panel.

Sixth Sister: "D" is for the Devotion that makes all friendship worthwhile. (She takes nosegay from the base of letter.) The light that shines from the heart of the flower, is the Dreams and sweet thoughts of friendliness that pansies mean.

She places nosegay in third basket, and seventh Sister moves closer to the panel.

Seventh Sister: "S" is for the Satisfactions of friendship. (She takes nosegay from base of letter.) The light that shines through the heart of the flower is made up of the Sympathy of friend for friend. The Sentiments of friendship are sweet thoughts and Steady Service.

She places nosegay in third basket, and they remain, while Worthy Matron speaks.

✓ **Worthy Matron:** Visitors,--Friends--no pretty ceremonies nor sweet words could make you more welcome than you are in every heart. The twinkling lights of friendship will burn steadily, and with increasing brightness. Will our Guests please rise?

They do so.

The three pairs of Sisters move among them . . . one pair in the East, one pair along the South, and one pair along the North. While one Sister holds basket of nosegays, the other securely pins one upon the shoulder of each Guest. As they do this, the seventh Sister sings to this tune: "Old Fashioned Garden," the words:

Guests, you are very welcome,
And our hearts overflow,--
We are happy and gay
When you travel our way,
As the lights of friendship glow.
The sweet thoughts of these nosegays,
Bring our love to light your ways,
As we share bright and clear days,
While down Friendship Lane we go.

All are seated.

This concludes ceremony.

A friend is a gift from fraternity,
A gift that will last till eternity;
And there is no way you this gift can measure--
You only can call it Life's dearest treasure.

When friends meet friends down through the years,--
Friends who have shared the joys and tears,
There is a warmth that lights the face,
And friendly handclasp shows more grace.
Even a murmured "How-do-you-do?"
Has a meaning, sincere and true;
There's joy in a greeting from friend to friend ...
A joy that is growing, and has no end.