Lights Out And Let Your Lights So Shine

(A Combination Ceremony in Two Parts)

1--X

Part I. LIGHTS OUT. A farewell to the Chapter from the Officers, before the ceremony of Installation of new Officers.

Part II. LET YOUR LIGHTS SO SHINE. Candle presentation, to be used after all officers have been installed.

You may use both parts on the night of installation; or you may use Part I on the last regular meeting night of the year, and then use Part II on the night of installation, after all officers have been installed.

PART I. LIGHTS OUT

The Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, and Star Point Officers each have a short lighted candle -- representing the end of the year. (These candles should be placed at these stations before this service begins.)

At the proper time, the Worthy Matron will begin this addendum by rising and saying:

WORTHY MATRON:

Sisters and Brothers, we have come to the end of a year which like this candle, when it was new, held the opportunity of being of service to those members of our Order who should need comfort and light in times of darkness -- in hours of uncertainty, worry, illness, sorrow, or loss.

As even a little flame of light can pierce the deepest gloom, so the principles of our Order have, through the year, brought comfort to the sorrowing, courage to the discouraged, cheer to the sick, friendship to the stranger, and companionship to the lonely.

I have tried to the best of my ability to hold aloft the light from the East. Now, like this candle, my year is ended, and my task is done.

(Blows out candle. Sits.)

WORTHY PATRON arises and speaks:

Sisters and Brothers, as two candles give more light than one, I have tried, through the year, to increase and support the good done by our Worthy Matron, by letting my light shine with hers in the East.

I, too, have tried to hold high the principles taught by our Order. I know their light has been the means by which some darkness has been dispelled for several of our members, during the year, and for this I am glad. Now the year is ending, my candle has burned low, and my task for the year is done.

(Blows out candle. Sits.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Let us look toward our Central Star.

ADAH arises and says:

The light of Fidelity has burned brightly through the year and has brought obedience and respect to parents who are members of this Order, because
their children have realized that the parents were trustworthy, honorable persons whose word could be depended upon.

The year is almost ended and my candle has burned low, but the fidelity found here has been sufficient to meet all the demands made upon it, throughout the year. I shall soon pass to another the duty of holding aloft the blue rays of Fidelity, through a new year. Like this candle, this year has reached its end, and my task is finished. (Blows out candle. Sits.)

RUTH arises and says:

The light from this point of our Central Star has shown Constant and clear through the year. Like golden sheaves of ripened grain, the yellow ray has shown in our order, fulfilling the purpose for which it was intended.

As night cannot exist in the brightness of the sunlight, so unfaithfulness cannot exist in the light of virtue, Constancy. I have been glad to have the part in sending the ray of Constancy into the world where it is sorely needed at this time.

Now my work for the year is done and I shall soon pass to another, the task of holding aloft the yellow ray. (Blows out candle. Sits.)

ESTHER arises and speaks:

Throughout the year, Loyalty to kindred and friends, has been a guiding light, and a divine influence in the lives of the members of this Order.

I have been happy in having the opportunity of teaching the lesson of Loyalty as given in our ritual.

In the "Merchant of Venice", Shakespeare has Portia say:

"How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

I know that the virtues taught by our Order are, at the present time, helping to dispel some of the darkness, or wickedness in our troubled world. Now my candle has burned low and my work for the year is at an end. (Blows out candle. Sits.)

MARTHA arises and says:

A landscape barren of all green vegetation presents an imaginary picture comparable to a life devoid of "faith in the hope of immortality" the green ray of which has shown from this point throughout the year now ending, as well as through previous years.

At this time when it is so much needed, I have been happy to bring a ray of hope to those whom it has been my wonderful privilege to serve. But the work of my year is ended, (blows out candle) and soon I shall pass to another the task of holding aloft the green ray from our Central Star, and of sending it out into the world from this chapter. (Sits.)

ELECTA arises and speaks:

Our red ray of love can never fail to bring courage
to the fearful, strength to the weak, comfort to the sorrowing, and blessings to all those who come within its radius. Its blessing falls upon all those who help to send its light out into the world, at home and abroad.

The greatest need of the world today is for more love; love for God and for one's fellow man. Love will aid in the solution of all problems, national and international, economical, social, civil, and political.

I pray that the red ray from this point shall gain new brightness in the new year beginning soon, and that its brightness will be felt not only in our great Order but also in the affairs of the world outside our Order.

This candle and the year are at their end, as this prayer ends my speech and my work for the year.
(Blows out candle. Sits.)

WORTHY MATRON:

We, the officers of 19-- and 19-- assumed our stations with hope in our thoughts and courage in our hearts. We have done our best for the chapter and for the good of the Order. I thank every one who has helped us in keeping our lights shining. We will close our year with a song by all officers.
(Cavel calls up officers.) The officers will sing the song found at their stations.

TUNE: "Farewell To Thee."

Now the year is ending -- and we know
That we have given our best,
We think, with swift the moments pass,
We are each now entitled to a rest.
Farewell to thee, we all agree
That it has been delightful, holding high
Bright rays of light, on ev'ry meeting night,
And now we'll say Goodbye.

WORTHY MATRON:

The officers will retire in form, to prepare for the ceremony of Installation of new officers. (If you use both parts on the same night. If used on different night, the Worthy Matron will say "The officers will retire in form.")

PART II. LET YOUR LIGHTS SO SHINE

Only one person, or six or seven may be used in presenting tall new candles to the newly installed Star Points, and to the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Then a Past Matron or the Junior Past Matron can present the candles to the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. This is to be given after all officers have been installed.

Candle is presented to Adah:

Sister Adah, this candle is a symbol of the new year now beginning. With the new year comes a new supply of Fidelity; to be exemplified in our lives; to be presented to the initiates who may enter in to membership in this order; and to prove to those who are not members that it means something to be
an Eastern Star; because Eastern Stars are courageous in facing danger; they keep their word, when it has been given. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
(Presents tall blue candle.)

Candle is presented to Ruth:

Sister Ruth, the color of this tall candle suggests golden hours spent in worthwhile labor for the good of the Order and for more satisfying experiences in life. The reward of patient industry comes to those who learn to labor and to wait.

To the Aged who, through the years, have learned to give up selfishness, self-love, self-will, and self-pity, the yellow ray brings love, loyalty, respect, and tender care from Youth.
(Presents yellow candle.)

Candle is presented to Esther:

Sister Esther, this candle symbolizes a new year, a clean page, a pure thought, a successful life which has been lived above the tongue of reproach.

During the year now beginning, may you exemplify in the white ray, that the lessons taught from the third point of our Central Star, and lived by our members, produces loyalty among relatives and friends, and purifies the lives of all who try to walk in its light.
(Presents white candle.)

Candle is presented to Martha:

Sister Martha, this tall green candle typifies fresh hope pinnacled by a brightly shining faith. Both Hope and Faith shine at this point of our Central Star.

Through this new year, you will have the opportunity of bringing to all initiates a lesson which teaches "hope in immortality."

Let your light, the ray of green, so shine in your life that its influence may be felt among your fellow men so that they, too, may be led to search for the hope that is taught here and is in you.
(Presents tall green candle.)

Candle is presented to Electa:

Sister Electa, how significant is the fact that the founder of our Order kept the virtue "Love" for the last point of our Central Star.

In the Bible we find it is named last of the three virtues: Faith, Hope, and Charity (Love), but it is called the greatest of these three.

No life has been, nor can be, truly great or successful without love; love for God, for home or country, and for one's fellow man.

The color of this candle symbolizes warmth, and represents the interest which divine Love has in us and which we should exemplify toward each other.

Throughout the year, you are to keep the red ray burning, so that all may see and know that there is
a principle in our Order which, governing the members, makes them more loving, considerate, and kind, not only to those who are members of this great Order but to those who are not.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see the good works which are accomplished when Love guides and controls, and they will glorify our Father which is in heaven.

( Presents tall red candle. )

Candle is presented to newly installed Worthy Matron:

Worthy Matron, hold high the light of Fidelity, brotherly love, relief and truth, so through the coming year your sisters and brothers can see clearly through the gloom and the mist of the present day atmosphere of the world. May the light you hold aloft, that is: may the example you set before them be a guide to their feet, a light to their eyes, giving them spiritual vision, and a refuge from the forces of evil which may clamor for admittance into their lives. But evil, being darkness, will be unable to enter, so long as the light shines.

May the love which is divine uphold your hands, and may you go safely through the year, bringing light, purity, joy, truth, and peace to all with whom they may come in contact. ( Presents candle. )

Candle is presented to the newly installed Worthy Patron:

Worthy Patron, without your light it would be like having a cluster of light bulbs one of which was not shining. The full amount of light that should come from the cluster would not be given out.

The light which you shall hold aloft this year will bring support, courage, and protection, to the Worthy Matron and to the officers of the chapter, as well as to the members. If it were not supported sufficiently, even a strong manly arm might become weary while holding aloft a torch or light. We know that you will not become weary, however, because the power of Love is upholding your hands as well as the hands of all who are to be lightbearers in this Order during the year. So hold aloft your light in the East, and do not let it down. ( Presents candle. )

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven, for He is the Father of all Mankind.

The person presenting the candles in the East turns to face the West, and says, "Let us sing", announcing the hymn you wish to use in closing. ( "God Will Take Care of You"; "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", or any other you wish.)

THE END