Living By
The Golden Rule

On a quiet mountainside in Galilee, Jesus called his disciples to him and spoke words that we know as the Sermon on the Mount. As he talked to all who would listen, he gave teaching after teaching by which they were to guide their lives as followers of Christ.

The standards he set for them that day were so high and so perfect that they have become the ideals for the whole Christian world. One of these teachings that we have come to call the Golden Rule, is quoted in our beautiful installation ceremony, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets". In support of this wonderful precept we are taught to be charitable and forgiving toward the faults of others, and to be helpful and loyal at all times. In our sacred Obligation, we pledge ourselves to be fair and just in all our dealings with each other and to make kindness the rule of our lives, just as we would have others do for us.

Sometimes we are tempted to think that it is impossible to carry out these teachings in a society that is so imperfect with hate and jealousy, with selfishness and unfair competition. But the fact remains that when the Golden Rule has been applied and given a chance to work, even under unfavorable circumstances, the results have been amazing! For instance, in the field of labor and management it has helped to settle many bitter disputes. It has led employers to adopt a more considerate view of the needs of the workers, and has guided workers in making their demands more reasonable.

Where it has been used in the business and political worlds, we do not find the unethical practices of price-fixing, unfair monopolies, bribery, false promises, and misuse of authority. Instead, we find a sincere effort to do what is right for all concerned.

How badly we need the Golden Rule in our international relationships, to promote the harmony and goodwill that are so necessary for peace! If all nations would have the welfare of each other at heart, confidence and trust would soon replace suspicion and illwill.

In every area of our modern and complex lives the Golden Rule challenges us to live at our best, to be honest, sincere, and above reproach in all our attitudes. As we allow it to operate in our hearts, we become better citizens, we bring more happiness to those around us; and, in turn, we have more happiness in our own lives. Let us rededicate ourselves, as members of the Order of the Eastern Star, to a more complete obedience to the divine admonition, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets".

When the world seems cold and thoughtless,
When you need a helping hand,
When you feel let-down and weary
And your friends don't understand,

That's the time to do for others
What you wish they'd do for you;
And almost before you know it
You'll be happy through and through.

For, although I can't explain it,
Yet it always seems to be
That when I do right by others -
Others do the same for me!

I thank each and every one of you who have given of your time, your talents, and your efforts to make this, my installation, such a memorable occasion for me. I shall never be able to thank you adequately for all your goodness and kindness. I appreciate all and thank you gratefully and sincerely for all you've done.

Thank you!

THE END