ADDENDA--'MARTHA NIGHT
by
Katharine C. Lowman, P.M.
To be given after closing of the Chapter

Chairs are placed in the East for the Guest of Honor, the Marthas of your chapter and other Marthas from neighboring or outlying chapter whom you wish to honor.

When ready to begin ceremony, the Worthy Matron arises and says:

Sisters, brothers, and visitors, during the period of stress and unrest through which we are and have been passing, we have had need of the trustful Faith of Martha.

So tonight, let us open wide the doors of our hearts and the windows of our minds to let in the sunshine of Faith and rays of Hope.

Let us absorb all that we can of these life preserving agents.

Let us turn our thoughts and attention to the honor of those who throughout the year bring to us messages of Hope and Faith in the story of Martha.

We need the faithful Marthas of olden times; we need the faith of the hopeful Marthas of today, and in honor of them I now proclaim this place, for a short time, to be the home of Martha.

Sister __________, Martha of __________ chapter, I welcome you and call you to your home in the East.

(The Martha of your chapter arises and is escorted to the East.) The W.M. welcomes her and is seated.

The Guest of Honor, or the 'Hostess Martha', turns toward the west and says:

Welcome to the home of Martha. You have been invited to a feast of heavenly inspiration. May all who have come be refreshed by the spiritual food of Truth.

I have invited other Marthas to assist me in serving you this food. These sisters will now be escorted to the abode of Faith in the East.

(The assistant hostesses will then be escorted to the East, and Martha welcomes them and introduces them with the following words:)

My sisters, welcome to the home of Martha.

Sisters and brothers. It gives me great pleasure to introduce:
Sister __________, Martha of __________ Chapter.
Sister __________, Martha of __________ Chapter.
until all the sisters have been properly presented.

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Soft music while the Marshal presents the Hostess and her assistants with flowers. While the flowers are being presented, the Associate Conductress goes to the altar and places letters forming the name MARTHA across the center of the altar.

(since this is being given after the closing of the chapter, the Bible will have been removed.)

As the flowers are presented, the Associate Conductress places the letters, she says:

To Hostess Martha:
'M' stands for Marthas, trusting and fair,
Makers of real homes, where Truth enters there.

To First Assistant:
'A' stands for aroma, fragrant and sweet,
So was the food that Jesus did eat.

To Second Assistant:
'R' for reality, which she did feel;
Proven by Jesus—that life is real.

To Third Assistant:
'T'—Trustful faith, which Martha possessed;
May you all have it and ever be blest.

To Fourth Assistant:
'H' stands for home,—a sacred abode
Where dear ones all help us, to carry our load.

To Fifth Assistant:
'A' stands for all—each, ev'ry one,
Into your hearts may the Christ Spirit come.

Marshal and Conductresses return to their seats while the Hostesses (the Marthas) remain standing while one verse of (Martha) 'Ah So Fair', is sung by a soloist. At its completion the Marthas are seated except your Martha who remains standing and says:

'Directors to the Home of Martha, (addressing the Conductresses) you will present all the Marthas, who are present, on the west side of the altar and conduct them to the East.'

Any other Marthas, who are present, are conducted to the East, introduced, and presented with flowers. (May be carnations dyed a pretty green with a sprig of fern behind it and both wired together with a pin inserted in stem.)

The Hostess Martha or the Marshal may present flowers saying as she does so:
Flowers are called the smile of God!
And to all passersby they nod
Their lovely heads, in friendly breeze,
And say, 'Give us to such as these'—
May they to you bring joy and hope,
Which you have brought to these who mope.'

(The Marthas accept the flowers with a bow and a smile.)

After being conducted to the East, the Marthas may be seated there if you have room enough for all; if not they may return to seats on the side of the room.

Lights are turned out and a voice says in the darkness:

The ASSOCIATE MATRON speaks:

'So dark, to Martha, seemed the days after her brother's death until the return of Jesus to her home in Bethany. With His coming came The Light of Truth.'

(A big Green candle is lighted. You may use green candles for this part of the ceremony, or you may use flashlights, over the ends of which you have fasten-
ed thin green tissue paper so they will throw a green light!

If you use the flashlights, the light from them, as they are turned on, one by one, should be directed towards the altar and thrown the letters MARTHA,

If you use green candles, they should be lighted, one by one, as each speaker is heard, and should be carried to the altar and placed on it so they surround the word 'Martha'.

Each speaker lights his candle, if candles are used, or turns on his flashlight when he has finished speaking. If you use candles each speaker, after having finished speaking carries his candle to the altar, places it there, and then returns to original seat.

Note: If flashlights are used, the speakers remain in their places, turning the lights upon the altar and letting them burn until the lights are turned on in the room.

The WORTHY PATRON says:

And brighter grew the hope of Martha; and she said, 'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' (Do as directed above.)

RUTH speaks:

'Now still grew the Light of Faith and whispered to her until she continued, 'But I knew that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.' (Follow directions in note.)

The ASSOCIATE PATRON says:

And still brighter grew her hope and faith when Jesus said to her, 'Thy brother shall rise again.' (Follow directions for light.)
ESTHER says:

With shining eyes Martha answered Him, 'I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' (See note.)

The ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS then says:

Then the Light of Faith obtained great brilliance when Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?' (Follow directions.)

ADAH speaks:

Lighter and brighter grew the day—chasing sorrow's gloom away, when Martha replied, 'Yea, Lord: I believe thou art the Christ, the son of God, which should come into the world.'

And she went away, knowing all would be well. (See note above)

ELECTA speaks:

'And the light of truth which Jesus brought, which he lived, preached, and taught, dispelled the darkness, and restored Lazarus to his sisters.' (See note about light.)

Then before the electric lights are turned on, a duet or a quartette sings the hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers'. Where the song says, 'Faith of our Fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee til death!' change the wording to 'Faith of Our Marthas!

Lights are turned on when song is ended, and a knock is heard at the door in the west.

WARDER answers door and inquires:

'Who pauses to knock at the abode of Martha?'

(The Treasurer and the Chaplain are standing outside the door.)

The CHAPLAIN answers so answer can be heard inside the room.

'Two weary travelers who are in need of Rest, Refreshment, and Encouragement.'

WARDER answers:

Enter with an open mind and a humble spirit, and you shall, find all three of your needs will be met.'

(The Treasurer and Chaplain enter and advance to the middle of the room in the west. If you have not removed the chairs from their places as in chapter meeting, they stand behind Esther's chair. If you have removed the chairs and have seated the Points on the sides of the room, the Treasurer and Chaplain go to the west side of the altar where they step and bow to the Hostess Martha.)
The TREASURER speaks as follows:

‘Fair Ladies, long have we traveled in search of a light that is able to guide us not only through the natural darkness of the night, but also through the dark shadow of sorrow, doubt, and fear which seem to cross our pathway in the daytime and cause us not to be able to see clearly which is the right way to go.’

‘From far down the road we saw a peculiar, unusual light shining through your windows. Pressing on, we hoped that this might be the Light which has been promised to us—the light which would lead us through the encircling gloom out into the light where there is no darkness at all.’

‘Do you know of such a light or where it may be found?’

The Hostess MARTHA arises and answers:

‘Yes, dear travelers, there is such a light. It is found here in the bright green rays of Faith and Hope of Immortality.’

‘As one who speaks from experience, I know that in this light you shall see Light.’

(She turns to the Martha seated next to her and addresses her as follows:

‘What encouragement can you give these foot-weary travelers, Sisters Marthas?’ (All arise.)

First Assistant Hostess answers:

Travelers from out the darkness, because of the Hope in your hearts you have been led into the green light of Faith. In this light you will be able to remove mountains.

Second Assistant Hostess says:

By Faith, the Hebrew children were delivered from the fiery furnace; Daniel was delivered from the lions' den; and the children of Israel were fed in the wilderness.

Third Assistant Hostess speaks:

By Faith, the weak are made strong; the rough places are made plain; the sick are healed, and the sorrowing are comforted.

Fourth Assistant Martha says:

By Faith, Paul was saved from shipwreck and felt no harm from the bite of the poisonous viper which he shook off into the fire.

By Faith, Lazarus was raised from the dead after he had laid already four days in the tomb.

Nothing has been impossible to Faith and nothing will be.

Fifth Assistant Martha speaks:

We are called 'Marthas' because we teach the lesson of Faith. This is the same Faith which was exemplified by Jesus of Nazareth who said, 'And the works I do shall ye do also; and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go to my father—and to your Father'.
Here you have found the green light of Faith. Abide in it and you cannot walk in darkness long, for this light will ever glow at thy side. (All are seated.)

The CHAPLAIN then says:

I have been a chaplain
Whose duty it is to pray;
Oft have I made petition
Through both night and day;
But my prayers unanswered
Very often were
'Til the Light of Martha,
Led us on to her.

Now that we have come here,
Here we'd like to stay—
Just to honor Martha
And her faith today!
May her faith never waver;
May her hopes shine bright;
May they e'er be honored—
As they are tonight.

(The Chaplain and Treasurer bow and return to seats near the door in the west.)

This may close the ceremony or you may have a reading about Faith and a musical number or two. (Follow with light refreshments if you wish.)

Suggestions:

Green napkins, cup cakes with green frosting, green salad, green ice, for refreshments after the meeting.

✓ For guests you may invite all the present Marthas from all surrounding chapters as well as your own Past Marthas.

The Marshal may present the flowers from a large flat flower basket with a lovely big green bow on the handle.

THE END