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No. 656

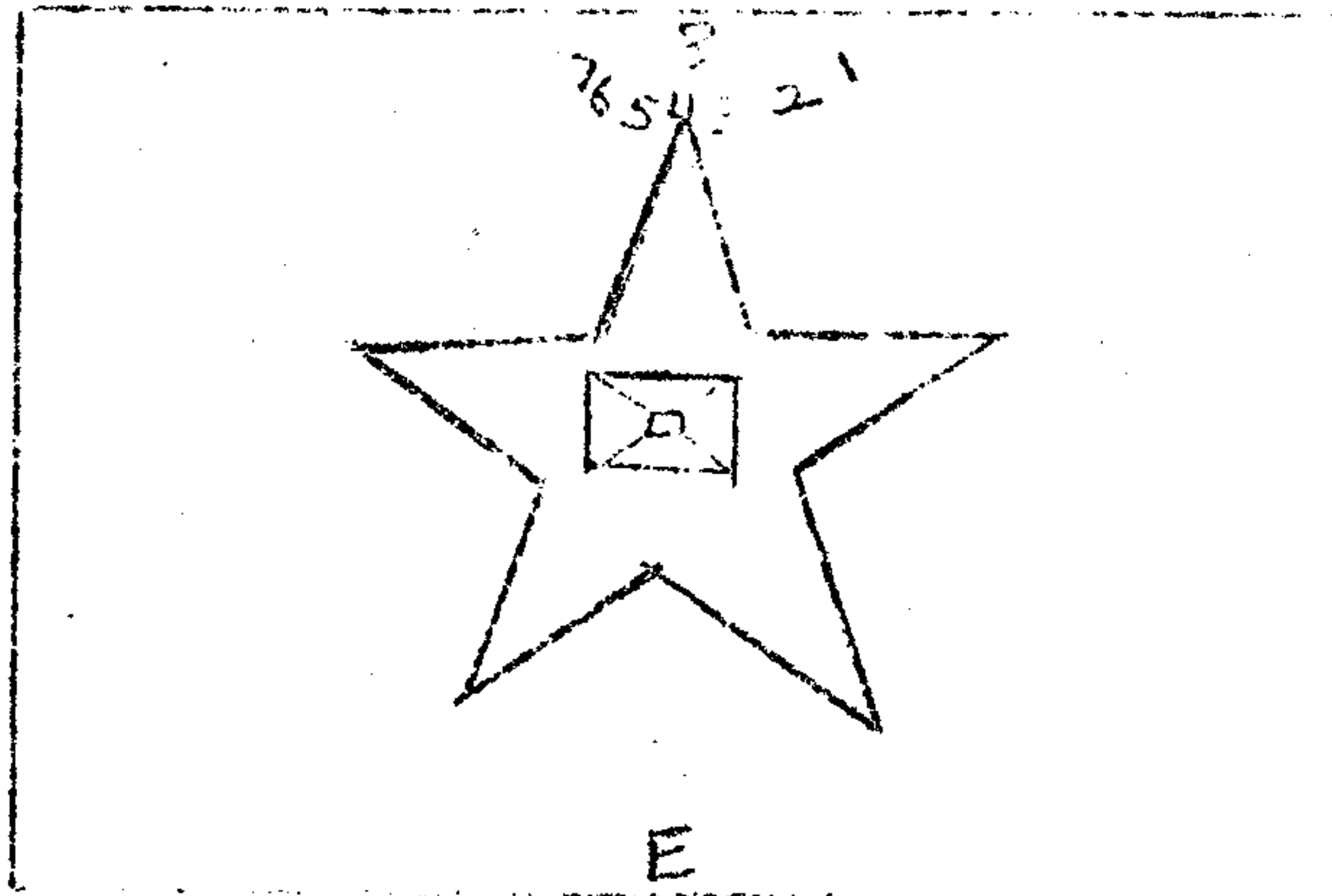
MARTHA

Price .60

Music: "Faith of our Fathers." This number should be played or sung during all marching and while sisters are approaching and leaving Altar.

Triangles carried by floral team may be made of wire and covered with greenery. They should be large enough to slip over the Broken Column easily and lie on top of each other firmly as they are built up around the column.

Eight sisters dressed in white and carrying green triangles enter from preparation room door single file and form a triangle between Esther's station and the West as shown in the following diagram.



The Worthy Matron then explains that the Chapter is honoring all Marthas and instructs the Marshall to introduce them. The Marthas are left in the position of introduction while sisters forming the triangle march to the East, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 led by No. 1 on the North side and 7, 8, 6, and 5 on the South led by No. 7.

They form an arch between the labyrinth and the East, by lifting high their triangles. When this position is reached the Worthy Matron instructs the Marshall to escort the honor guests to the East. While they are coming through the arch the following is sung as a solo or duet.

Tune--America the Beautiful
Our Martha showed great faith and love,
And trust in future life,
She loved her Lord and trusted Him,
In sorrow and in strife,
Oh faith in God, Oh faith in God,
May this our watchword be,
And when our days on earth are o'er,
Let's meet in Eternity.

When guests have been presented and seated the floral team marches to the West, four on each side of the Chapter room and form a semi-circle behind Esther's chair.

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Martha steps from her station and places the Broken Column upon the Altar saying:

The Broken Column is an emblem of the uncertainty of human life. Placed thus on the Altar alone it gives us for the moment a feeling of sadness and insecurity. But when it stands within the triangle, as it will, this uncertainty vanishes and we are given renewed faith in the hope of immortality and the assurance of the resurrection.

When Martha has resumed her station the first sister in the floral team steps before Altar and holding up her triangle for a moment points to each side and says:

Faith, hope and love,
Sent to us from God above.

She places the triangle over the Broken Column, then bows and gives Martha's sign as she says:

And in this sign of faith I see
A sign of trust for you and me.

She leaves the labyrinth between Esther and Ruth's stations, and walking behind the line resumes her former station.

Second sister, standing before Altar, holds up her triangle and says:

Charity, truth and loving kindness,
This triangle now has its place,
These teachings of our Martha,
Should indeed our lives embrace.

Places triangle over Column and giving sign she continues:

And in this sign of faith we see,
A sign of trust for you and me.

The sister leaves between Ruth and Esther and going behind the lines resumes her station as the third sister approaches Altar, and holding up her triangle says:

Faith in God, in myself and my fellowman,
For all of these doth my triangle stand.

Places triangle over Column and giving sign says:

And in this sign of faith we see
A sign of trust for you and me.

As the third sister resumes her station the fourth takes a position before the Altar and holding up her triangle says:

"Life, Death and Resurrection,
Believest thou this?" our Master said
"Yea, Lord," did Martha reply
And into greater faith was led,
By the Father from on high.

She places triangle on Column and giving sign of Martha says:

And in this sign of faith we see
A sign of trust for you and me.

Fifth sister stepping before Altar holding triangle says:

New life, new joy, new hope,
Never more in darkness to grope.

She places triangle over Column and giving sign says:

And in this sign of faith we see
A sign of trust for you and me.

She leaves between Ruth and Esther's stations and sixth sister takes her position.

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MARTHA

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Sixth sister, holding up triangle says:

The grass, the flowers, and the trees
A lesson of the resurrection teach,
They wither and die and live again,
And always toward heaven they reach.

Placing triangle on Column and giving sign of Martha she continues:

And in this sign of faith we see,
A sign of trust for you and me.

Seventh sister takes position before Altar and speaks:

Martha's service, devotion and trust,
Should be emulated by all of us.

Placing triangle on Column and giving sign she continues:

And in this sign of faith we see
A sign of trust for you and me.

The eighth sister takes position before Altar as seventh sister resumes her place,
raising her triangle she says:

The Past, the Present and the Future,
If we love our Lord will be secure,
And the resurrection too is ours,
If we believe and in faith endure.

Placing triangle over Column she continues:

And in this sign of faith we see
A sign of trust for you and me.

The floral team marches around Chapter room once as the last verse of "Faith of our Fathers" is sung, then retire.

Worthy Matron then says:

Sister Marthas, we hope you have enjoyed seeing renewed some of the beautiful lessons taught be the heroine you represent. We know that you must possess many of the virtues of Martha by the fact that you have been chosen to represent her. And we also know you who wear the green in it can see, A pledge of immortality, A hope that never dies, And you can feel a sisters love, for many who have gone above, to Homes beyond the skies--And you shall gain eternal bliss, On this design (sign) and this (sign) and this.