

One of the most impressive meetings yet to be held by Winifred Dollinger, Worthy Matron of Bethlehem Chapter No. 169, was the one in honor of the mothers and fathers of the chapter.

All the stations were filled by either mothers or fathers. Villa Fisher, the mother of the chapter, served as Worthy Matron. Emily E. Jefferies, Gedmother, and Max A.H. Fitz "daddy" of the Chapter, served as Associate Matron and Worthy Patron respectively.

Sister Francis Carter, P.G. Martha and Ruth and a mother of seven sons was seated in the East. Corsages were presented to the guests.

A special feature of the meeting was the introduction of three generations, all members of Bethlehem Chapter; Jeanette Spaulding, the daughter who has the station of Adah; Aida Browne, the mother and Anna Pike, the grandmother. Mrs. Edith Showerman, mother of the Worthy Patron, was also welcomed and seated in the East.

The Conductress escorted into the room the five representative mothers selected to fill the star point stations for the evening. After being introduced by the conductress they were escorted around the room to the East while the following song was sung:

FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS
(Tune-"Faith of Our Fathers")

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Faith of our Mothers living still
In all that's beautiful and brave
How nobly will we work God's will
And seek from sin our soul to save
Faith of our Mothers living still
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our Mothers living still
In hearts of hope and songs of praise
We gladly join with one accord
To sing to God our sweetest lays.
Faith of our Mothers constant faith
We will be true to thee till death.

After being welcomed by the Worthy Matron the Conductress leads line and all march to a position in front of Adah. As they march the following song is sung.
(Tune "Faith of Our Fathers")

Faith of our Mothers living still
In love and life and ne'er shall die
And childrens children ever dear
Shall hold the faith that brings to God
Faith of our Mothers holy faith
We will be true to thee till death.

(The conductress with the five representative mothers wound the labyrinth as with candidates and at each point the regular sister with appropriate words and flowers relinquished her station to a mother-Adah to own mother.)
Conductress to Adah:

Sister Adah, I present these Mothers, who will hear from you words of love and honor to all Mothers.

Adah;

Mothers of our Order, when we think of the lessons taught by Adah we are reminded of a daughters convictions, but daughters have no stronger convictions of right and duty than Mothers. The courage and bravery of Mothers is unsurpassed. Duty holds first place in their lives and to them right is stronger than might. Mothers stand by their convictions and conquer by their patience and love. Tonight in representing the daughters of this Chapter I relinquish my station to, a Mother.

(Presents last Mother in with a blue flower and exchanges places with her.)

(Conductress then winds the labyrinth to Ruth's station, as they march the following song is sung by Chapter members.

(Tune-"America the Beautiful")

Oh beautiful your service sweet
So freely given to me
Your loving care and earnest prayer
That I might worthy be
O Mother dear, O Mother dear
What joy to you I give
And crown with good your Motherhood
If I would nobly live.

Conductress:

Sister Ruth, I present these Mothers who will hear from you words of love and honor to all Mothers.

Ruth:

Mothers of our Order, when we think of the lessons taught by Ruth we are reminded of the constancy and industry of appropriate to widows than to Mothers. Who but our Mothers have shown more courage in carrying the family through difficult places? Who have more patient industry than our dear Mothers? And must watch more carefully the garnering of the minute particles? Patience, industry, constancy, humility- these are the attributes of Mothers. Tonight in representing the widows of this Chapter I relinquish my station to you a Mother.

(Presents next to last in line with a yellow flower and exchanges places with her

As conductress leads line of march to Esther's station the following song is sung:

Tune -"America the Beautiful"

Oh beautiful your golden dreams
That sees beyond the day
That person you would have me be
Cherish that dream I pray
O Mother dear, O Mother dear,
Help me to clearly see
That your success and nobleness
Wrought out in life by me.

Conductress:

Sister Esther, I present these Mothers also will hear from you words of love and honor to all Mothers.

Esther:

Mothers of our Order when we think of the lesson taught by Esther, we are reminded of a wife's self-sacrifice and her noble courage and bravery. These virtues of the wife and queen are also the virtues of a Mother. No one on earth makes a more supreme sacrifice than a Mother. She risked life itself for her child. She walks close to the valley and shadow of death. She gives all of herself, her time, her energy and love to her children. She courageously tries to shield them from all harm. Tonight in representing the wives of this Chapter, I relinquish my station to you, a Mother.

Presents third Mother with white flower and exchanges places with her.

As line of march goes to Martha's station the following song is sung.

(Tune-"America the Beautiful")

Oh beautiful the goal you've set
Uplifted high for me,
It's shining gleam marks out a path
Toward true nobility
O Mother dear, O Mother dear
God grant this boon to you
That I repay your yearning care
With love profound and true.

Conductress:

Sister Martha, I present these Mothers, who will hear from you words of love and honor to all Mothers.

Martha

Mothers of our Order, when we think of the lessons taught by Martha we are

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reminded of a sister's faith in God. But where do the sisters first hear the precious words of faith? At the Mother's knee. It's the Mother who teaches the little child it's first prayer, who teaches the first lessons of the holy book and instills in the heart the faith we carry thru life. Faith in God, trustful and strong, hope for eternal life. Helping others with words of life and comfort in times of sadness Mothers these attributes belong to you. Tonight in representing the sisters of our Order I relinquish my station to you, a Mother.

Presents next to last Mother with spray of green and exchanges places with her.

As Conductress winds labyrinth to Electa's station the following song is sung by members.

(Tune-"America the Beautiful")

Oh Beautiful the faith instilled
To children at your knee,
The holy book you taught to me
And trust your earnest plea,
O Mother dear, O Mother dear,
God grant that I may be
A child of faithful loyalty
To lessons taught by thee.

Conductress:

Sister Electa, I present these Mothers who will hear from you words of love and honor to all Mothers.

Electa:

Mothers of our Order we both represent the same person. The Mother. We are kindred spirits. We have just heard words of love and praise to Motherhood, God grant that we may be worthy of all the beautiful attributes and that we may strive to possess all the loving virtues that were attributed to us. Let us not forget the lessons taught by Electa, The Mother. Her supreme faith in Jesus, her generous hospitality to others and her wonderful courage in standing for the right in the face of great danger. Tonight in representing the Mothers of this Chapter I relinquish my station to you, may we always be true Mothers and may we always bring honor to our home and our fellow man.

Presents last Mother with red flower and exchanges places with her.

Conductress leads star points out of labyrinth to a position back of Esther's station where they stand.

Worthy Patron rises and says:

My sisters you have spoken kindly and truthfully to our Mothers but the evening would not be complete without an expression of reverence from the sons of their Mothers. So in behalf of the sons of this Chapter I offer this tribute to the Mothers
The noblest thought my soul can claim the h
The holiest words my tongue can frame
Unworthy are to praise the name
More sacred than all other
An infant when her love first came
A man-I found it just the same
Reverently I breathe her name
The blessed name of Mother.

As they leave the following song is sung as a solo or duet and this closes the ceremony.

(Tune-"My Hope is Built On Nothing Less")

On Motherhood God's light has smiled
His love surrounded each little child
The beauty of maternal grace,
Shall shine forever in thy face
God's gift on earth is wise and good,
The precious gift of Motherhood.
The precious gift of Motherhood

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