LIGHTS OUT AND LET YOUR LIGHTS SO SHINE

(A combination Ceremony in Two Parts)

I-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: that is--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.)

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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 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 to whom it has been my wonderful privilege. 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 sorrow, and blessing 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. (Gavel 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, as 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 Star Point Officers and to the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patrons, newly installed Star Points. 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.