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OUR GIFT FROM ROBERT MORRIS
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PREPARATION:

Bible or altar is closed. Seven sisters take part. One is the Reader, one carries the large lighted taper and the others carry smaller unlighted candles. When these are lit at indicated times, each sister takes her place beside the star point station which she represents. They remain standing to the end of the ceremony. The bearer of the large taper then takes her light, goes to the East where she is joined by the Reader. Together they march thru the labyrinth, the other sisters falling in line two by two and all leave the Chapter room entrance.

The ceremony will be very effective if all those taking part wear white robes. The Reader may have her part written on a large white scroll and standing the the East read from it slowly and distinctly. Or she may memorize the part if she prefers.

MUSIC: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

The seven sisters enter single file thru the preparation room door. The Reader, with scroll leads, goes thru the labyrinth and takes her place in the East. The sister with the lighted taper takes a place before the Altar, facing the East. She remains there throughout the ceremony. The five sisters form a straight line behind Esther's chair where they remain until their turn comes to take light from the central taper. All performance should be deliberate and dignified.

READER:

In the measureless realms of time how brief is our existence, yet what momentous opportunities we have to leave behind us the marks of those eternal virtues which will be lasting and sublime as long as the world shall stand.

Among the annals of those whose service to mankind will live forever we find written in letters of gold the name Robert Morris. What matter it when he was born, how long his earthly existence or the details of his everyday life. To us he has left a heritage of untold wealth--wealth which can never be taken from us nor be forgotten for in acquiring it we find that its source comes from within ourselves and is ours as long as we desire to have it.

When in the by gone days Robert Morris saw His Star in the East, his greatest desire was to show this light to others that, they too, might come to worship Him. So in due time he lit the light of brotherly love and set it in a sacred place that those who had been led to the pathway of the Star might be guided aright and gain inspiration from its rays. This light of brotherly love shone bright and clear at all times, exemplifying to the world the principles of Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness. (Here the light is placed upon the Altar).

In a vision, Robert Morris saw Pilgrims from the days of old come from afar to light their candles from this central ray and by so doing pass on through the labyrinth of life inspired and blest.

One of these pilgrims who came was called by the name of Adah. In lighting her small taper from the central glow (Here Adah approaches the Altar, lights her candle and takes a position at the station of Adah) she was given courage to stand by her convictions to right and duty and thus she spread abroad on the earth the lessons of loyalty and fidelity.

Following her came a lowly widow called Ruth. Humbly she lifted her small taper to the larger one, (Here Ruth lights her candle) and thereby gained for herself strength to work in the lowly places of life, should it be demanded. Her light of Constancy still shines out as bright and clear today as when the light was first received.

The inspirational light of Robert Morris pointed out that not only those of lowly places needed its guidance but lo--the highest in the land should also come for help. So even a queen might come in all her regal garments. (Here Esther lights her candle) But the light from which she gathers her strength was the same glow of brotherly love that the others had found. From this radiant sheen, Esther, the queen, secured joy and peace and from her small light emanated the rays of devotion to kindred and friends and a deep sense of loyalty to others.

As time went on the light became a source of comfort to the sorrowing. To it came Martha, in deepest distress. (Here Martha lights her candle) Before her departure she carried away a renewed faith and a hope and assurance of eternal life. How many have seen this ray since that day and have also been unspeakably blessed and comforted.

Still there followed another. One who believed in the crucified Christ and must needs suffer sorely for this devotion. Electa the generous and kind lit her taper at the great light (Here Electa lights her candle) and from it shed abroad the courage to live a true and sacrificial life in the face of adversity.

Through the years these virtues gathered together in one great light and placed in a sacred shrine by Robert Morris, have been scattered to the far corners of the earth. Where ever those who have seen His Star in the East dwell, there these sublime virtues are taught and exemplified in the lives of its followers.

Our thanks are due to Robert Morris for the organization of this great Order with its high principles but were he with us here, would be the first to lift high (Here the sister lifts the large taper high) this Holy central light, and say to us all:

"This light which I have used comes not from this world but from Him who dwells with the Most High, and is to be the inspiration and milestone to us all--so let us keep our eyes upon His Star forever and evermore."

SO MAY IT EVER BE.