OBLIGATION CEREMONY

All officers form a circle around the altar. Worthy Matron calls up the chapter, then Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron join the circle.

Worthy Matron repeats:

A great honor was paid us individually, when we were deemed worthy to be instructed with the secrets and the inspiring lessons of the Order of the Eastern Star. While kneeling at our sacred Altar, in the presence of the Almighty and witnessed by friends we love, we pledged ourselves to a solemn obligation. Now let us ask ourselves: have our kind acts towards one another been few or many? Has Electa's lesson of loving kindness and charity filled our hearts? The advice we have given, was it such that we ourselves would accept? Have we assumed this solemn pledge and with thoughtless chatter oftimes broken our vows.

Tonight may we cleanse our hearts from all unworthy thoughts towards one another, that our lives and our gifts may be acceptable to our Lord and Saviour. We will all unite in repeating our obligation after our Worthy Patron.

Worthy Matron returns to the East and seats the chapter members. The five Star points leave the circle and kneel at the altar, clasping small, open Bibles in their hands.

Adah repeats:

Within this blessed book from Heaven above,
Is found a stirring vision of fidelity and love.
Of Jephthah's daughter fair, who for love and honor high,
Believing in her God, was not afraid to die.
May all the daughters fair, who gather here tonight
Pledge their lives to do and die, in the bright heavenly light.

Ruth repeats:

Within this Holy Word from Heaven above,
Is found a blessed vision of constancy and love.
Of pure unselfish Ruth, striving from day to day,
To cheer and lighten the burdens of others along life's way
So may all the widow sisters, who gather with us here,
Pledge love and true devotion, to God and friends so dear.

Esther repeats:

Within this blessed book from Heaven above
Is found a shining vision of loyalty and love
Of fair and Queenly Esther, so true and unafraid,
By her purity and courage, a crown and scepter swayed.
May the many wives faithful, who gather here tonight,
Pledge lives of Christian service, showing triumph of the right.

Martha repeats:

Within this Holy Word from our Saviour above,
Is found a comforting vision of faith in eternal love.
Of pure and trustful Martha, whose deep faith sublime,
Beheld life's sure triumph, o'er death, for all time.
Sisters, pledge your lives to Jesus, and trust him every hour,
Knowing He will uphold you, by His great and wondrous power.

**Electa** repeats:

Within this Holy Word from Heaven above,
Is found a glorious vision, of charity and love.
Of patient Mother Electa, a life of Christian zeal.
Undying love for her Saviour, her willing blood did seal.
Mothers, pledge your lives to Jesus, whatever the cup may be,
Be a light to youth and all mankind, thru all eternity.

**Worthy Patron** repeats:

Arise my sisters, you have spoken well, "God is love, and he that dwelleth
in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him."

*Star Points step back into circle.*

**Worthy Patron** repeats:

My brothers, may we also be true to this sacred obligation, as true as
Jephthah was to his vow, and like Boaz, at all times, prove worthy of great
trust. May membership in this great order mean honor and integrity in
manhood, ever remembering the words of King Solomon: "The love of God is the
beginning of great wisdom." In passing through our floral labyrinth, we have
all received the true way and the light, and when we stand before the last
great tribunal, we will be called upon to show how much we have used this
knowledge.

Tonight, may we earnestly renew our pledge, and may our lives of Christian
faith and service be a beacon of light to all the world.

 *Soloist may sing "Faith of Our Fathers," or any other appropriate hymn,*
while all officers resume their stations.