

OBLIGATION CEREMONY **“Whenever you Make a Promise”**

Worthy Matron:

Let us ever be faithful to the trust that is placed in us when given the secrets, and the inspiring lessons of the Order of the Eastern Star. It was at this, our sacred Altar that we pledged ourselves to our solemn, sacred obligation. Let us examine our hearts and ask ourselves whether we are living the upright principles of this obligation, and, as a Divine awareness moves through us, let us renew our obligation.

[Gives gavel to WP. Lights are dimmed and soft music is played. The Conductress and Associate Conductress leave their stations and go to the East following lines of march similar to that used during introductions. When they reach the East line, the WP gavels 3 times to call up the entire Chapter. The WM and WP descend from the dais and are escorted East of the Altar by the conductresses. The other officers form the prayer circle by using the lines of march for the prayer circle as per ritual. The Chaplain remains in the circle at the spot he/she would normally enter the circle for the prayer. When all officers are in place they assume the attitude of prayer.]

Worthy Patron gives obligation with entire Chapter repeating it after him.

[After Obligation the Chaplain assumes his/her place west of the Altar and offers prayer]

Chaplain:

Most gracious and loving Father, we come before Thee tonight, realizing we have fallen far short in the observation of the virtues we have been taught here to emulate. Forgive our shortcomings and may we leave here resolved to live more closely to Thee and to exemplify in our lives the true spirit of the Obligation renewed here tonight. Be with us and guide us in all our deliberations that we may do only that which is pleasing in Thy sight. This we ask in Thy Name. Amen.

[Response given by Chapter. Sing: Bless be the Tie that Binds. Then officers return to their stations by lines of march for prayer circle. Conductress and Associate Conductress return to their stations after escorting the WM and WP to the East. Lights remain dim as each star point gives her part. Star points rise in usual manner, go behind their chairs, light candle on their table, say part, remain

standing behind table until all star points are standing and then are seated in unison.

Adah: May we be ever mindful of Adah, who gave her life as a sacrifice to fulfill her father Jephthah's promise to God. It teaches us that an obligation taken in God's name is sacred.

Ruth: Ruth, who left her native Moab for an unknown land, without means, but with a strong faith and a deep sense of obedience and loyalty, is an inspiring example of the fulfillment of an obligation.

Esther: Esther's life is a splendid illustration of true heroism in the accomplishment of her obligation to her people. We admire her and remember her for her integrity, courage, wisdom and devotion.

Martha: Our heroine Martha is our symbol of faith. With a strong conviction that He would give life back to Lazarus, she was moved to go to Jesus and ask him to perform the miracle we all know about. We learn from Martha, that although the road may seem to end, the Hand of God is ever reaching out to guide us along new paths toward the performance of our obligations.

Electa: electa, known for her charitable goodness, is a glorious example of courage in the execution of her obligations. When asked to renounce her Christian Faith, she refused and chose death on the cross. Electa's lesson is fearlessness in living up to our convictions.

[all blow out candles in unison after organist plays a verse of a song and then are seated together]

Worthy Patron: May we also be steadfastly loyal to our obligations as were these wonderful women of ancient times. Let us reaffirm our pledge, and let us ever be faithful to the trust placed in us as members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

[Gavels to end ceremony and returns gavel to WM]