

Obligation ceremony  
Adapted from the 1979 Adah program

From the history of Adah, Jephthah's daughter we learn the lesson of keeping our promise.

The Blue Ray represents the sky when all clouds have vanished and symbolizes fidelity. The violet is associated with this Ray because it is associated with loyalty and meekness. The ideals exemplified here are self-sacrifice, integrity and obedience. In our obligation we acknowledge that we are in the presence of God and making our promises to him.

Song: The Lord is my Light

Adah's father, Jephthah, knew that one should not attempt to bargain with God. He knew this before he made his vow. According to the Levitical law, some sacrifices could be redeemed by the payment of money or animals, but Jephthah's case was different; no sacrifice had been required or requested, he had offered this promise of sacrifice freely of his own accord. The story of Adah points out the necessity for individuals to take time out periodically to pray and consider carefully the course of actions and obligations that they are contemplating. The lesson of Adah also emphasizes the thought of sacrificing for others.

In our obligation, we promise much to our sisters and our brothers. We did not know, before the night of our initiation and obligation, what we would be promising; however, each year when we take our re-obligation we should consider seriously these words and pray for strength that we may be true to our promises.

The Bible signifies that only the Word of God may direct the individual in the right way in which to go. The Bible is known as the symbol of direction. Let us take time to pray to God and seek his help in our decisions in life. So, we should learn from the history of Jephthah's daughter not to make or renew a promise that we cannot keep. Also, that an obligation in the name of God is especially sacred. Sisters and Brothers, let us be true to the solemn obligation taken at our Altar, and always pray for God's Blessing on our Sisters and Brothers and our beautiful Order.

Song: Hold Thou My Hand

Sweet and fragrant violets  
Portray Adah's color of blue  
Their pure, unshadowed beauty  
Reflects Heaven's azure hue.  
They speak of Faith and courage,  
Fidelity, steadfast and true.  
This theme of unswerving duty  
Now rests in the heart of you.

