

Altar circle hears the Chaplain lead us all in accepting her/him as a new link in our fraternal chain and asking God's valued blessing as we add one more member to our fraternal family. It is truly a touching and memorable moment for the new member.

Our thoughts in times of sorrow are directed by our Chaplain to remember that God is our refuge and strength. as we reverently drape the Charter or the Altar, as we participate in a funeral service, or as we present a memorial tribute, we seek wisdom and comfort from our Chaplain's words.

When the Chapter is called up for the prayer circle, the Chaplain immediately heads West in the marching line and enters the Labyrinth between Esther and Martha. When the Chaplain reaches the West side of the Altar, the Worthy Matron uses that as her cue to step into the Labyrinth. The Chaplain stands but remains at the Altar during the singing of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

In a Memoriam when the Altar is being draped and the Chaplain

receives the Bible from the Conductress, care should be taken that the Bible is not outside the Labyrinth ... the Chaplain should be standing in the same place as after he has prayed at the Altar and returned between Esther and Martha.

Corley Anne Byras
Worthy Grand Matron



The Chaplain

Each officer in a chapter is important. All officers are charged with specific duties at the time of installation. Each officer should strive to perform these duties in a manner becoming the solemnity of our Order. To make our Ritualistic work as impressive as possible, all officers should memorize their work.

The Chaplain should hold her/his hands by her/his sides during the march to and from the Altar Ceremonies. She/he will walk at a reverent pace, enter the Labyrinth without pausing at the edge of the Labyrinth and proceed to the center of the Altar.

The Chaplain stands at the right of her/his chair. **Exception:** At the Installation of Officers where chairs are placed next to

the Marshal and Chaplain stations, the Installation Chaplain and Marshal sit on the outside chairs, and the Chaplain and Marshal stand directly in front of their chairs.

The Chaplain, when entering the Labyrinth for all ceremonies, marches to the Northwest corner, makes an acute angle, and using Adah as a guide, enters the Labyrinth between Esther and Martha. The Chaplain never carries anything except the flowers during the Memorial Ceremony. Upon reaching the Altar, the Chaplain stands until the music ceases, and then kneels to offer the prayer (if this is a hardship, then it is permissible to stand while giving the prayer). After completing the prayer, the Chaplain steps back into the circle of Officers, midway between Esther and Martha. Care should be taken to perfect the circular pattern with the Star Points Officers (Ritual page 42 and 46).

The Chaplain and Conductress remain in these positions in the Opening, until the Warder reports back to the Worthy Matron (*obeyed*), and in the Closing until the Warder informs the Sentinel

(*closed*). They return to their stations after the Warder has reported to the Worthy Matron in the Opening and after the Warder has reported to the Sentinel that the Chapter is closed.

The Chaplain is the station where our attention is drawn each meeting night to our Holy Bible, the source of our beliefs. The Chaplain, gently, yet reverently calls us to a quiet time to briefly reflect on why we are here and how we should open our hearts and minds to our Heavenly Father.

As our Chaplain approaches our Altar, we survey our many blessings as God's children. We are aware that the way we share life's journey with fellow travelers is in a great measure related to the principles in which we believe and the influence that our beliefs have on others. Many firm decisions in life are part of God's plan and directly related to two words, *I Believe*.

There is little doubt that a great measure of the success of our Chapter meetings depends on the

dedication of the Chaplain. We watch reverently as our Conductress opens the Holy Bible on our Altar. Then, as we bow our heads and listen, our Chaplain asks our Heavenly Father to guide us, to inspire us, to help us to work in harmony one with the other. In this solemn moment the tone of our whole evening is set.

The role of the Chaplain in leading the Chapter members in our devotions at the Altar gives her/him a very serious responsibility not only in having to invoke our God's blessing on our work, but also in conducting her/his own life in such a manner that she/he can truly be an example of upright living for all of us.

Our Ritualistic work centers around the Bible on the Altar, and its teachings, and it is a constant challenge for our Chaplain to keep us mindful of that relationship in all that we and say.

Each new member who joins hands with the officers in the