

# Baby Dedication

## Instructions

*This little ceremony should be given during a recess, or before opening, and requires three officers; the Dedicating officer, Chaplain and the one who ties the ribbons.*

*If the Worthy Matron is acting as the Dedicating officer, or one of the active officers, then, the Worthy Patron will preside and call up and seat the Chapter.*

*There should be provided a cluster of baby ribbons of the five colors, half a yard of each is enough, just so they are long enough to tie around the wrist of the baby.*

When everything is in readiness, the Worthy Matron gives one blow of the gavel and says:

### **Worthy Matron:**

“The Chapter will now be at ease while we dedicate a dear baby to the ideals of the Order. Sister Conductress, you will present Sister \_\_\_\_\_ and her baby at the Alter.”

*If more than one baby, make it plural. The Conductress opens the ante-room door and escorts the mother and child to the west side of the Alter, and steps back two paces. The officers who are to take part approach the east side of the Alter; the Dedicating officer in the center, Chaplain on the north and ribbon-bearer on the south side of the Dedicating officer.*

### **Dedicating Officer:**

“My Sister, we welcome you and your dear little one into our Chapter room and to our Alter. The Master, when He was here on earth said: “Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” This child is the symbol of innocence and purity, and we trust that as she (he) grows older, she (he) will be imbued with the same spirit of Truth and Loving Kindness that is taught in our Order. We would admonish you to keep before this little one the ideals of the Eastern Star, so that when she (he) becomes of proper age she (he) will know and understand our teachings. We pledge you our assistance in the obligation you have assumed in the care and teaching of this little one, and trust that example set by your Sisters and Brothers will be as a light upon your pathway. That the blessings of God may attend this mother and child, let us unite in prayer.”

The presiding officer calls up the Chapter and the Chaplain offers prayer.

### **Chaplain:**

“Our dear Heavenly Father, we bow before Thee in humble submission, asking Thy special blessing upon this mother and this dear little one. Keep ever before her the ideals of our beautiful Order and strengthen her for the duties she is called upon to perform. Help her to bring up this child only that which is good and true, so that when she (he) reaches the age of maturity she (he) will as pure and undefiled as she (he) is at this time. Help us as members to set an example of loyalty and uprightness that we may not prove a stumbling block in her (his)

pathway. Bless the members of Order wherever dispersed and give them strength and courage to do Thy will.”

The Chapter is seated, and the officer who is to tie the ribbons steps forward and loops the ribbons around the child’s wrist.

**Dedicating Officer:**

“And now, baby dear, we invest you with the colors of our beautiful Order, and pledge you our Love and Loyalty. And to your mother we commend you for that tender care known only to a devoted mother. May God bless you and make you indeed; Fairest Among Thousands Altogether Lovely.”

The certificate is given at this time.

The officers return to their seats and the mother and child are seated or leave the room if necessary, under escort of the Conductress.

*Note: When more than one baby is presented, the words of the ceremony should be changed to suit the number of children, also if a boy, use the words; he, his or him.*