

THE LIVING CROSS OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS
With Signing Narration Options

(The members form the Cross while the Musician plays "Onward Christian Soldiers". Members kneel on 3 chords; then Musician plays "Nearer My God to Thee" softly in background while narrator reads. Following the narration, the Daughters sing two verses.)

For Job's Daughters everywhere, the closing ceremony and formation of the Living Cross is a beautiful and moving experience. The years may pass, but the special feeling from taking part in the formation of this most important of Christian symbols never wanes.

Like all Masonic-related organizations, Job's Daughters International bases its foundation on a belief in God, with a special emphasis on the Book of Job, the 42nd Chapter, 15th verse... "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren."

The Holy Scriptures guide us in all that we do, whether it be religious, patriotic, community service, self-development or leadership building activities. For we know that we must maintain our faith in God, and through trust in Him we will achieve our final reward for living a virtuous life.

Some of you are seeing the formation of the Living Cross for the first time, and you may not be aware of the significance given to the location of each officer in the Cross.

The Honored Queen is at the base of the Cross as a sign of humility and service to those she serves as the leader of our Bethel. The base must be solid and strong to support the Cross. Through her strength, the Cross stands high as a testament to the message it proclaims to the world.

At the center of the Cross is the Chaplain – who represents our faith in God as the focal point of our Order and our lives. She is a constant reminder of the lessons we learn from the Holy Scriptures, and of our daily need to speak with God and give our lives to His care and keeping.

On the ends of the arms of the Cross are the Junior Princess and Senior Princess. They assure a balance is maintained in our Bethel, just as there needs to be a balance in our lives through an understanding and pursuit of those attributes God expects us to make a part of our lives.

At the top of the Cross is one of the five messengers who explain the story of Job's life. The five messengers comprise the fiber that holds this Cross together by relating the truth of Job's life that although the world seems to have forsaken us at times, we must turn to God and remain faithful to Him. As we live our life with faith and patience, so will we be rewarded.

Standing outside the Cross and behind it are the Junior Custodian and Senior Custodian. They are the keepers of the Cross, and represent the charge given us all by our Creator to preserve the Word and assure that it is taken to all corners of the earth so that others will know Him.

Although signing of the words is not a part of the prescribed ritual, many Bethels choose to do so for a very special reason. The philanthropic project of Job's Daughters International is HIKE, which is an acronym for Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund. Through fund raising efforts, Job's Daughters donate several thousand dollars each year for the purchase of hearing devices for kids who would otherwise be unable to hear normally. Because of this philanthropy, signing has a special significance in the performance of the Living Cross.

And when we call it a Living Cross we aren't just referring to the Job's Daughters who have formed it. Instead, we mean it as a living, active force in our lives.

As you look at our members in the Living Cross, let it serve us to ask ourselves if we are humble and yet strong in our service; if God is the center of our lives; if we maintain a balance by pursuing those things God expects of us; and if we are keepers of the message and proclaim that message in our every thought, word and act.

As the Daughters come out of the Cross, turning right and left, the diagram on the floor will be that of a large open Holy Bible. A reminder of our source of strength and understanding of God's will.

"And in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job."

(The Daughters sing two verses of "Nearer My God to Thee". Three chords for Daughters to rise; conclude the closing formation.)

NEBRASKA HIKE CEREMONY

Note: The Bethel room is to be set up as per Ritual. A Special Dispensation is required for this Open Meeting.

Entrance of Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian in usual manner as per Ritual.

BETHEL GUARDIAN: [*One rap**] Job's Daughters International Bethel No. _____ of _____ (*city*), Nebraska of is about to convene for a special ceremony for a HIKE Presentation. *The Bethel Guardian will nod to the Musician to signal to begin playing "Open the Gates of the Bethel". Refer to Music Ritual.*

Entrance of Bethel Officers as per Ritual to music of "Open the Gates of the Bethel."

BETHEL GUARDIAN: It is my pleasure to introduce Honored Queen, _____.

HONORED QUEEN: It is my pleasure to introduce our Bethel Guardian _____, and our Associate Bethel Guardian _____. *The Bethel Guardian presents the Honored Queen with the gavel.*

HONORED QUEEN: The Officers will take their stations. [*One rap**] Once the officers have taken their stations they remain standing. The Honored Queen begins when the Guide and Marshal return to their stations.

HONORED QUEEN: I will explain the use of the gavel:
One rap seats everyone,
Two raps calls up only the Bethel Officers,
Three raps calls up everyone.

HONORED QUEEN: **Marshal, (rises) you will display the flag of our nation west of the Altar.** "America The Beautiful" Refer to Music Ritual. Refer to the Ritual for the flag ceremony and escort of the National Emblem.

[Three raps*** when the flag is presented at the Preparation door.]

All sing the National Anthem. The Marshal does not sing.

HONORED QUEEN: This Flag is an emblem of the liberties we enjoy, the protection of our homes, and the freedom of our institutions. It is a symbol of the blood of our forefathers, who died that our country might endure. We love it and all for which it stands. Marshal, place it in the East at the right of the Senior Princess.

Marshal proceeds to the East according to the Ritual. "America The Beautiful"

HONORED QUEEN: All Citizens of the United States will join in pledging allegiance to the Flag.

[As the Marshal turns to return to her station the Honored Queen sounds one rap*]

HONORED QUEEN: Marshal, (rises) you will display the Bethel Flag.

Refer to the Ritual for the flag ceremony and escort of the Bethel Flag.

HONORED QUEEN: Daughters, you will rise and join in singing the Bethel Flag Song.

All Daughters face the flag. Daughters sing "Bethel Flag Song". The Marshal will sing the Bethel Flag Song.

HONORED QUEEN: Marshal, place the Bethel Flag in the East at the left of the Junior Princess.

Marshal proceeds to the East according to the Ritual. [As the Marshal turns to return to her station the Honored Queen sounds one rap*]

HONORED QUEEN: Recorder (*rises*), you will read the Special Dispensation.

See SI-6. Recorder reads the Special Dispensation, and then is seated.

HONORED QUEEN: Chaplain, you will lead us in the Lord's Prayer using the words debts or debtors. [*Three raps****]

HONORED QUEEN: All Bethel officers please stand and give your name and office, and any additional titles starting on my left.

Starting with Junior Princess and going around the room left to right. Each member rises one at a time gives their name and all titles, and then the member is seated. [One rap* after all officers have introduced themselves.]

Introductions: All are introduced from the sidelines. All are given a Hearty Welcome.

HONORED QUEEN: It is my pleasure to introduce _____ (name) _____ (title) of _____ (Bethel No. or Masonic Organization) of _____ (City).

(*If the Honored Queen does not know all the visitors:* HONORED QUEEN: **Please introduce yourself, giving your name, title and Bethel number** (or name of Masonic Organization), **beginning with my right.**)

HONORED QUEEN: Members and friends, you will join me in giving a hearty welcome to _____. *The Honored Queen leads in applause.*

ORDER OF INTRODUCTIONS:

Recipient and family

Daughter Coordinators and State HIKE Committee members

Past Honored Queens

Supreme Bethel Officers and Representatives

Grand Bethel Honored Queen

Grand Bethel Officers and Representatives

Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter & Miss Congeniality

Visiting Job's Daughters not previously introduced

Grand Guardian & Associate Grand Guardian

HONORED QUEEN: **Today, we are gathered together for a VERY EXCITING REASON!! We are here to make a HIKE Presentation.** _____ is the lucky recipient of some of our fundraising for the HIKE fund. The money will be used to provide hearing assistance devices. This we know is an exciting time for _____ and [his/her] family, and we are happy to be a little part of this happiness.

Before we make the Presentation, we would like to tell our guests a little bit about Job's Daughters and HIKE

SENIOR PRINCESS: (*Rises*) **Job's Daughters International is a group of young women between the ages of ten and twenty, who believe in God and the teachings of the Holy Bible and place a high emphasis on respect and obedience to God, our Country, its Flag, their parents and guardians. To belong, a girl must be related to a Master Mason.**

Our Order is founded on the Old Testament, the book of Job, with special emphasis on the 42nd Chapter, 15th verse "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job and their Father gave them inheritance among their Brethren."*(Daughter is seated.)*

JUNIOR PRINCESS: *(Rises)* **Ethel T. Wead Mick founded our Organization in Omaha, Nebraska on October 30, 1920. In August 1931, we became International when Bethel No. 1 in Vancouver, British Columbia was instituted. Today there are Bethels in Canada, Australia, Brazil, the Philippines and the United States.** *(Daughter is seated.)*

GUIDE: *(Rises)* **There are 3 Daughters in the triangle -- the Honored Queen and two Princesses – wearing their capes and crowns, and holding the emblems of their office. These Daughters represent the three daughters of Job and are the top three Officers in each Bethel.** *(Daughter is seated.)*

MARSHAL: *(Rises)* **Our Bethel Flag represents our Order. The Purple, which is the basic color of Job's Daughters, stands for the highest ideals of life. The white symbolizes purity. The triangle is the emblem of our Order. It reminds us of the three-fold influence upon our lives, our God, our Country and our home.** *(The Marshal and the Junior Princess rise together. When the Marshal says the words "Bethel Flag", the Junior Princess goes to the flag and holds it out. Both are seated together).*

JUNIOR CUSTODIAN: *(Rises)* *(Jr. Custodian picks up Dove with both hands and extends it toward recipient).* **The White Dove represents peace, purity, divine recognition and approval.** *(Daughter is seated.)*

SENIOR CUSTODIAN: *(Rises)* *(Sr. Custodian picks up Urn of Incense with both hands and extends it toward recipient).* **The Urn of Incense represents a pure heart filled with faith, love, and devotion to God.** *(Daughter is seated.)*

HONORED QUEEN: *(Rises)* *(Honored Queen extends her left hand toward the Horn of Plenty until sentence is completed.)* **The Horn of Plenty reminds us that God rewarded Job with great riches and a long life of happiness.** *(Honored Queen picks up the Lily of the Valley with her right hand and places it in the palm of her left hand, holding the stems.)* **The Lily of the Valley is the flower of our Order and is a symbol of humility, purity and a clean life.** *(Replaces the Lily of Valley on the pedestal.)* *(Daughter is seated.)*

FIRST MESSENGER: *(Rises)* **HIKE is a special endowment fund that was created in 1985 by Job's Daughters International to provide hearing aids or hearing devices to children from newborn through age 20 who are in need. HIKE stands for Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment.** *(Daughter is seated.)*

SECOND MESSENGER: *(Rises)* **Bethels have various fund raising activities within their Masonic organizations and throughout their communities to raise money for HIKE. Some of these activities include HIKE walks; bake sales; car washes; raffles; door-to-door collections; selling cookies; booths at carnivals; selling popcorn and pop, and many other activities. Recognition is given to the Bethels for their participation. Awards are also given to individuals for the amount they have collected.**

The money collected by each Bethel is forwarded to the HIKE Fund Incorporated. Less than 5% of all money collected is used for operating expenses. 95% of the money goes to the children who need our help. Unpaid volunteers from throughout the United States staff HIKE Fund Incorporated. (Daughter is seated.)

THIRD MESSENGER: (Rises) How do these children get the money? Bethels receive applications from parents or guardians of children in need of these hearing devices. Through a screening process of these applications, funds are provided to those in need.

Hearing devices that can be provided are: hearing aids, alerting systems, FM systems, tactile units, and specialized sports equipment. (Daughter is seated.)

FOURTH MESSENGER: (Rises) In Nebraska there are three adult committee people and four Daughter Coordinators to assist in the HIKE Program. They work with the Bethels and applicants in obtaining applications, assisting with the presentations and helping with fundraisers.

Last year Nebraska raised just over \$_____. This year Nebraska Job's Daughters would like to raise at least \$_____. (Daughter is seated.)

FIFTH MESSENGER: (Rises) It's the giving and doing for someone else....

On that, all life's splendor depends...

And the joys of this life, when you sum them all up....

Are found in the making of friends... (Daughter is seated.)

TREASURER: (Rises) To have joy, you must share it. Happiness was born with a twin. Happiness adds and multiples as we divide and share it with others. (Daughter is seated.)

RECORDER: (Rises) I am only one, but I am one. I can't do every thing, but I can do something. (Daughter is seated.)

HONORED QUEEN: (Rises) Chaplain, you will close the Bible. [Three raps*. When Chaplain returns to seat the Honored Queen sounds one rap*]**

HONORED QUEEN: Guide and Marshal, you will escort our honored recipient and [his/her] family to the East. Guide and Marshal escort as per Ritual. Presentation of Check and Gifts.

HONORED QUEEN: Guide and Marshal, you will escort our guests to the sidelines.

HONORED QUEEN: Remarks.

a. Bethel Guardian

b. Associate Bethel Guardian

c. Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter

d. HIKE Coordinator and/or HIKE Committee member

e. Others called upon by the Honored Queen

HONORED QUEEN: **Chaplain, you will attend at the Altar.** *[Three raps ***]*

CHAPLAIN: **Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing our Job's Daughters family together today to give _____ this special gift – the “fruits” of all the efforts by each and every Nebraska Job’s Daughter. It is always such a joy to be able to give something that has only been dreamed or hoped for. We thank you for the honor of being the ones making this presentation to _____ and [his/her] family. We are pleased to know that _____ will be able to hear the things that we all take for granted and [he/she] can enjoy [his/her] life so much more. We ask that you guide and protect each one of us as we go our separate ways. Let our faith and love continue to guide us and to help make the world a better place for all. We ask in Thy name sake. Amen.**

*Members respond by saying “Amen.” All Daughters sing "Now the Our Work is Over".
Chaplain will close the Bible and return to her station as per Ritual. [One rap*]*

HONORED QUEEN: **All Officers, Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian will please rise and take part in the Closing Ceremony.**

Closing Options:

- 1. Closing as per the Nebraska Ceremony "The Living Cross for Job's Daughters with Signing Narration Option"*
- 2. Closing as per Ritual.*

BETHEL GUARDIAN: **This concludes our ceremony.** *The Bethel Guardian bows. Officers respond with a bow. [One rap*]*

THE LIVING EMBLEM OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS

This Ceremony may be performed with only a Narrator, the Honored Queen, and Senior and Junior Princesses

The Dove and Urn of Incense are located on their pedestals, and the Cornucopia is placed in the East. Two chairs are placed side by side west of the East Dais. Two members, dressed in robes, carry in a banner, "IYOB FILIAE". They position the banner on the floor in front of the chairs with appropriate support so it stands upright.

March music as Daughters enter to form the triangle. Or, three Daughters enter from the west, individually as their names are called. They sit in the same positions as if in the East, and the Honored Queen stands between and behind the Princesses. Each is dressed in proper regalia for her station.

NARRATOR (located in the East and she also is dressed in regalia): The members of Bethel No. ___ are forming the triangle, which encloses the emblem of the International Order of Job's Daughters. Our purpose is to teach young women leadership, responsibility and moral upbringing. The Book of Job is a strong foundation upon which to build this training, for it tells the story of a fallible human being – Job. By studying the trials and triumphs of this man, we hope to discover how to direct our own lives to the end that we may receive our final reward. We, the members of Job's Daughters Bethel No. ____, are proud to present to you the living symbol of our Order.

The three sides and angles of the Job's Daughters triangle are equal, teaching us that all members are of equal importance to the Bethel. It also reminds us to the three-fold influence on our lives – our God, our country and our home.

The members march to seats reserved for them. The Junior and Senior Princesses stand in the East.)

NARRATOR: IYOB FILIAE (pronounced E-YUBE-FEE-LEE-A) means "daughters of Job' in the Greek and Latin languages which form the basis of many languages around the world.

The three daughters on the Job's Daughters symbol are the three Officers stationed in the east of the Bethel Room.

(Pause as the Junior Princess goes to east and is seated. She carries the Dove.)

Junior Princess, (name). The Junior Princess represents Job's first daughter Jemima, which means "dove". She is holding the white dove when symbolizes purity and truth. We learn from this daughter always to remain faithful to God in our every thought, word and act, no matter what earthly trials we may be called upon to endure. We are told to be steadfast, practice love, dispense light, shun falsehood and believe only in the truth.

(Pause as the Senior Princess goes to east and is seated. She carries the Urn of Incense.)

Senior Princess, _____. The Senior Princess represents Job's second daughter Kezia (pronounced "Ke-Zi'-uh") meaning cassia ("kash' ia") which is used in incense. She is holding the Urn of Incense, which symbolizes prayer. Kezia reminds us to give ourselves to faith that never faileth, and thoughts to others, inspiring confidence and hope of reward.

(Pause as the Honored Queen enters and wait until she stands between the two Princesses. She carries the Horn of Plenty.)

Honored Queen, _____. The Honored Queen represents Job's third daughter, Keren happuch (pronounced "Ker-en ha'-puk"), which means plenty. She is holding the

Horn of Plenty, which symbolizes the triumph of Job over the temptations of the evil one, and the reward for Job's piety and faith. It reminds us to advance with strength and power.

You'll notice that these three daughters, and all members, wear identical white robes. This is the style worn at the time of Job, and emphasizes that all members are equal in the eyes of a fellow member, just as we all stand in equal status before our Creator. We learn that through the participation and contributions of every member, we all share an equally important role in the success of our Bethel.

Our colors are purple and white. The purple stands for royalty and the highest ideals we may attain in life, and white represents purity and joy in life that we seek. Our flower, the Lily of the Valley, teaches us humility because of the retired place in which it grows. It instructs us that beauty beams from purity throughout the vale of humility. Our motto is "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman."

Job's Daughters' meeting place is called a Bethel, which means "holy place". Our Ritual is based on the Book of Job with a particular reference to the 42nd Chapter, 15th Verse: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren". Our members continue this tradition of inheritance. To become a Job's Daughter, a girl must be related to a Master Mason, or a daughter or granddaughter of a Majority Member of our Order

Our Order has roots to the traditional values of the Midwest. It was begun in 1920 in Omaha. Bethels are located across the United States, including Canada, Australia, the Philippines and Brazil.

The Job's Daughters symbol you see before you is a reminder of these lessons for Job's Daughters and all people, everywhere. Each time we see it, may we remember these important lessons for our lives: purity, truth, faithfulness, prayer, kindness and the rewards that await us for living according to the Creator's desire for us.

Our members will now sing the first verse of "Onward Christian Soldiers", and we invite you to join with us.

("Onward Christian Soldiers" is played, and members and the audience sing together the first verse only.)

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Living Job's Daughters Emblem and to explain its meaning to you.

HERITAGE CEREMONY

HONORED QUEEN: *(Stands)* As we look to our future, it is also appropriate that we look back to remind ourselves of those who established our freedoms, our rights and our heritage. Heritage – it's that which comprises all of us – our past, our present and our future. How is it that one concept, rooted in the past, possibly can have such an all-encompassing impact? We now will explore that with the help of the Bethel Officers. *(Steps back)*

SENIOR PRINCESS: *(Rises and steps to lectern)*. Our heritage is a quiet blending of many influences, experiences and beliefs. We all share a common heritage, and yet, we each revel in the particular events and persons having molded us, whether it be from centuries past or just a mere generation away. They make us who we are and what we will be. We are as inseparable from our heritage as the love of God is inseparable from us. From that we can take great comfort and give reason to rejoice and recall with fondness those who have preceded us. *(Is seated)*

JUNIOR PRINCESS: *(Rises and steps to lectern)*. As we begin our way along the path of our heritage, let it be a reminder of our individual heritage as well as the heritage that we share as a community...as an integral part of this world, this nation, our beautiful state and our cities and towns. For we know that the key to our success exists in a world that is governed with people by the peaceful. We hold our sense of community closely, and with great fervor. Its preservation is the solid base from which we grow in meaningful values surrounded by security and love. *(Is seated)*

HONORED QUEEN: *(Steps to lectern)*. We begin our journey at the center, where our heart can be found nurturing our devotion. In the center of the Bethel room is the Altar with the open Holy Bible. This hallowed place is the source of the answer to our every need. Chaplain, you will explain the heritage of our reverence.

CHAPLAIN: *(Stands)*. In the Masonic fraternity, we pray to the Supreme Being in many voices that arise from all corners of the earth. So it was more than 350 years ago that the great migration of religiously oppressed people made its way to this country. The voices had different accents, and yet, in time we all came together, each in our own way to worship as we chose. Our devotion to the teachings of our God have strengthened us during times of tribulation, and have been the source of our celebrations as well. Our prayers keep us ever mindful of the heritage given us by those who cleared the path that we might meet as one, although our voices and the way we worship may differ. *(Is seated)*

HONORED QUEEN: Treasurer, what heritage do you represent?

TREASURER: *(Stands)*. Societies have been successful since the earliest days because people worked together and one person relied on another for their special skills. The value of that reliance spawned our economic system, which is built on that basic one-to-one trust. Honesty and hard work are the well from which we draw our ethics. Those who have preceded us ingrained strong, honest ethics – values we cherish to this day. *(Is seated)*.

HONORED QUEEN: Senior Custodian and Junior Custodian, tell us of the heritage of our country and this state.

(Senior and Junior Custodian stand)

SENIOR CUSTODIAN: Our country was founded on the solid rocks of a commitment...a commitment forged by the individual's need to live free, the freedom to express oneself, the freedom to worship, the freedom to participate in one's own governance, and the freedom to excel without the encumbrance of prejudice. We guard these rights with tenacity. And, with the grace of God, we hope the benevolence of the greatest country on earth will be a beacon for others who desire to celebrate each person's greatest potential. Our country's heritage rests on the strong values and rights that many have sacrificed their lives to establish and preserve.

JUNIOR CUSTODIAN: Our devotion to our state is strong like the devotion to our country. Few who crossed the grassy plains nearly 200 years ago realized that the fortune they sought could be found at their feet. Nebraska is that – a fortune to those who choose to partake of its riches. Pioneers who believed in hard work, honesty, piety and justice realized those riches. Equality Before the Law was their legacy to today's citizens. Their labors have reached fruition. We now enjoy a bountiful land rich in opportunity that stretches from the treed Pine Ridge to the cascading limbs that frame the Missouri River. We live the heritage of those pioneers by the manner we conduct our daily lives.

(Senior and Junior Custodians are seated).

HONORED QUEEN: Musician, please explain the heritage of our music.

MUSICIAN: *(Stands).* From the dawn of time, when our ancestors uttered unintelligible sounds in a rhythmic pattern, we have used music to describe our experiences and release our emotions.

Music binds us together when we worship and when we honor our country. We celebrate passages in our lives through music, and during our times to mourn, too. The music we enjoy today will become tomorrow's found memories. Our musical heritage is composed of centuries of influences. As we raise our voices in song, we give tribute to the gifted who have provided enjoyment and meaning to our lives. *(Is seated)*

HONORED QUEEN: Guide, please relate our Masonic heritage.

GUIDE: *(Stands)* No other fraternal organization on earth embodies the involvement of more persons than the Masonic fraternity. From its beginning, Masonry has held the expectations of man to a higher level of living. Not content to rely on the potential corruptions of developing societies, Masonry places guideposts for men to follow throughout their lives. This influence stretches to all corners of the globe withstanding vile leaders and purveyors of hopelessness. From this background have come appendant bodies that expand the light of Masonry to more and more individuals hungry for lessons in achieving a righteous life. We honor our Masonic heritage and assist in its success by living each day according to the principles of our Order. *(Is seated)*

HONORED QUEEN: The heritage of our cherished Order will be explained by the Marshal.

MARSHAL: *(Stands)* We, indeed, are fortunate to live in the birthplace of the International Order of Job's Daughters. It was the uprightness of disciplined Midwesterners that encouraged the creation of an organization for girls preparing for womanhood.

The combination of Midwestern ethics, Masonic principles and the desire for instruction in a virtuous life led our founders to assure a brighter future through Job's Daughters. Our Order was molded of contributions from several Masonic-related bodies and their leaders across Nebraska.

Those early efforts now are represented in five different countries around the globe. Our Job's Daughters heritage is a Nebraska heritage. We are proud of the direct link between our heritage in Nebraska and the lessons taught through Job's Daughters. (*Is seated*)

HONORED QUEEN: Vital to our continued success is the protection of our heritage which the Inner Guard and Outer Guard will now express.

(Inner Guard and Outer Guard stand)

INNER GUARD: The attributes of heritage form the very soul not only of our being, but those who will follow us in the coming generations as well. We are what we were, and what we will be. Therefore, it is incumbent to guard our heritage and to pass on its teachings. This requires vigilance so that the values handed down over the centuries and fired through the heat of our forefathers' tribulations, are not lost but continue to guide those who will reach adulthood.

OUTER GUARD: The preservation of our heritage extends beyond the momentary interest of a year. For if we are to truly benefit from those who have preceded us, then we must protect the lessons, the symbols and the words that have stood the test of many trials. And, we must live them.

(Inner and Outer Guard are seated).

HONORED QUEEN: Recorder and Librarian, please explain how it is that we will remember these lessons.

(Recorder and Librarian stand)

RECORDER: The world has been blessed with many prolific writers. Through thousands of years, they have recorded the progress of our civilizations...civilizations that through their corruptness have risen only to fall, and civilizations that have reached the summit of greatness as a pure and loving citizen of the world. The lessons of history – our heritage – have been faithfully noted in our books, thanks to the never-dying pledge of historians to truth coupled with their analysis and insight. It is with their instruments that our heritage will live beyond your and my days.

LIBRARIAN: Our great societies and individuals are pieces of prior generations. Therefore, we must preserve our heritage whether it be the heritage passed on through our families or the written wisdom recorded through the ages. For those who lose their heritage, lose a bit of themselves. Every step away from the path makes the way darker. But armed with the light of our heritage, and combined with our own good judgment, we encounter and overcome. Being in full possession of our heritage makes us rich and fulfilled.

(Recorder and Librarian are seated)

HONORED QUEEN: Our journey is almost complete. Thus far, we have seen the rewards for living our heritage day-by-day through our religious beliefs, our mutual trust and reliance, our music, and pride in our country, state, fraternity and our Order. We also know the value of retaining a firm hold on our heritage. The Messengers now will further elaborate on what we have learned.

(All five Messengers stand)

FIRST MESSENGER:

T'was our forefathers who brought forth this land.
 Who built it and protected it with their strong hand.
 It is right that we now celebrate their gift,
 To use their judgment when life-burdens we lift;
 And apply their reasoning to our own lives,
 So that we are ready when our time arrives.

SECOND MESSENGER:

Let us remember the keys of their success,
 T'was God and courage that solved their duress.
 Faith in the Almighty is what made them strong,
 And a will for freedom for which all people long.
 They fought and served and made life free,
 So our religious beliefs can be observed individually.

THIRD MESSENGER

Pride in our country, our towns and our state,
 Built them with morals, which we dare not violate.
 So they rallied to Masonry for its values they yearn,
 And they were passed to Job's Daughters for us to learn.
 The strength of this love spawned their interest to serve,
 Now it's these values we strive to preserve.

FOURTH MESSENGER

It's reliance and trust with one another that counts,
 Not selfishness, pettiness and oneness we flounce.
 Just as those before us found to be true,
 Our existence relies on a cooperative view.
 For we are one, and together we progress,

FIFTH MESSENGER

Our heritage is that of which we speak,
 That through the centuries we seek.
 We pledge to look forward and back until,
 Our past and our future fulfill His will.
 Never to forget the past which comprises the now,
 To live our heritage is our solemn vow.

(All five Messengers are seated)

HONORED QUEEN: To live our heritage is our solemn vow. We bear in mind those who have molded the present through their efforts in the past. We will continue the strong values and ethics that have been given us, and not only will protect our heritage, but dig deep truly to understand it. In this State, which is so rich with the ethics of dedicated, loving and hard working pioneers, we recognize and attempt to understand their contributions to our lives and society. For to remember the past is to ensure an even better future.

This completes "The Heritage Ceremony".

LEADERSHIP CEREMONY

HONORED QUEEN: Leadership is one of the qualities Job's Daughters develops in young women. We now pause to examine leadership and all that it holds for Job's Daughters today and in the future. In Job's Daughters, we are taught that leadership is earned through our hard work, dedication to the Order, our ability to inspire others to achieve a common goal, and to take responsibility for projects and our fellow members.

We enter Job's Daughters being tossed by the events surrounding us – not entirely in control and not knowing how to gain control. But at such a tender age we also are alive with interest, enthusiasm and an eager mind waiting for the challenges of responsibility. We do not have sails, but we have a sturdy cloth to piece together; we have not rudder, but we know where we want to go; we are not sheltered from the torrents of the seas, but we have ingenuity. Each new venture into leadership equips us to add another piece of cloth to our sail, another idea to guide us on our way, and another learning experience to better prepare us for our journey. Job's Daughters provides these opportunities to its members. Senior Princess, you will explain the importance of learning how to lead.

SENIOR PRINCESS: For those just embarking on their trip of life, the challenges are many. At first, we are confronted with the lack of information. We are ready to investigate all things, conquer all adversities and assume any task. We exude confidence, though we may not yet possess knowledge. In that lies our change to success or our change to fail, but most certainly our opportunity to learn.

For our sail can be constructed as sturdily from our failures as our successes. We only need to be given the experience and we will be stronger, more adept and own a greater insight on the best way to accomplish the goals of the whole.

As we grown, we ask for the change to set our own course, billow our experimental sails and maintain our hand at the rudder. And when we face the throes of the seas, we ask for the strong hand of our leaders to rest gently upon ours to steady the course; not to control, but to guide. With this guidance, we will learn to lead, and through our own efforts we will lead.

To be able to lead and learn to lead, we need our adult leaders to open the doors – whether it be planning of our activities or the ability to determine the destiny of our Order. Limitations on our ability to address the challenges confronting our Order are limitations on our leadership, and thus our growth. But the opportunity for us to discuss, plan, organize and implement solutions at all levels of Job's Daughters gives us the knowledge to turn our sail to capture the full thrust of the wind and speed us ahead better prepared for life. With authority, we can then truly experience the full benefit from our experience in this Order.

HONORED QUEEN: Junior Princess, you will give us the perspective of the past.

JUNIOR PRINCESS: Now that the need has been expressed, we also must look back to the past to see what was intended for us. Our founder, Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick, was an ambitious innovative woman. At the time when women were under-educated and had societal mandates to remain in the home to handle domestic duties, Mother Mick pursued an education to become a doctor. She embarked on trails that few women had trodden at that time. Her commitment to her personal growth and service to mankind was strong.

During her formation of Job's Daughters, she maintained that firm commitment; first for the growth of young women in the attributes of Masonic principles, and second for personal growth so they could advance themselves in life. A woman of strong vision, Mother Mick foresaw a time when women would pursue education with a zeal, which would lead to a more fulfilled life. From the time she stepped down as Supreme Guardian of Job's Daughters in 1922, until her death in 1957, Mother Mick was the chairman of the Order's Education Committee. Scholarship funds were started to assist members seeking higher education, and her encouragement to the members set the tone for one of the major trusts of our Order.

Mother Mick built into our Order the characteristics of good leadership that she desired young women to possess – planning, organizing, implementing, conducting the meeting of a democratic organization speaking before groups, and the power to decide the course of their organization – all are facets that we, the members, deserve to learn to better prepare ourselves for life, just as Mother Mick intended.

Women have made much progress since that time. And yet, because all things change, it is necessary for us constantly to re-examine if we are providing the members with leadership experiences to prepare them for the challenges of a changing and demanding world. The past tells from whence we came. Our actions today affect where our members will go tomorrow.

HONORED QUEEN: Chaplain, you will relate the leadership of Job's Daughters in spiritual areas.

CHAPLAIN: As members of Job's Daughters, we attest to our faith in God. He is our refuge and our celebration; our daily partner and our eternal Father; a safe harbor for our days on earth, and the promise of an everlasting life within His loving arms.

It is with His grace that we are able to enjoy life. And we know that all we must do is recognize His presence, His desire for us to have a fulfilling life, and His love for us. Our Creator wants us to realize our greatest potential in life, and we learn from Job's Daughters that with His guidance and our unwavering trust in Him, it is possible. Job's Daughters gives us many of the skills we will need later in life to realize our hopes and dreams. And the key to that realization is a trust and faith in God.

HONORED QUEEN: Messengers, you will tell us about the qualities of leadership.

FIRST MESSENGER: Leadership is courage. A leader is sometimes out of step when everyone else is marching to a different tune. It is the vision to question what is, to seek an answer to "Why not", and then to follow through and pursue change even though others may object. Leadership is the courage to fight for what you believe, no matter the challenge. It is the courage to be constantly exploring for new answers, and to not be content with things the way they are because the always have been that way. Without courage, there can be no leadership.

SECOND MESSENGER: Leadership is caring. We pride ourselves on our heart. We extend it to those in need. Our purpose is to bind all elements together so that everyone benefits. By reaching out to others as loving and responsive leaders, we are able to meet the needs of those who have entrusted themselves to us. We protect each person's rights because we care; we seek solutions to our challenges because we care; we do our best because we care.

THIRD MESSENGER: Leadership is innovation. We see changes and we seek ways to capitalize on them for the benefit of everyone. We plan ahead and devote ourselves to making the whole better by taking a fresh look at what we do. We innovate and expect to win, and yet we are not afraid to fail. It is through failure that we come closer to the truth. Innovation is a sign of health, of a hopeful future, of a vision.

FOURTH MESSENGER: Leadership is commitment. We pledge ourselves to each other, to the organization, to our God, and to our country. We lead because we want to make things better. We are committed to doing our part to improve our experience, and to make a difference.

But our commitment extends beyond self. It is a devotion to a cause that bears a sweet fruit for many. Through our pledge of commitment, we lead others to realize the joy of a life well spent in the labor of service.

FIFTH MESSENGER: Leadership is communication. Our organization is strengthened when we communicate. We all must understand why we do what we do. We must know what is expected of us, and how well we perform. Our vision must be shared so that we all know where we are headed. Communication brings us together, unites us and makes each of us feel ownership of our mission. It is the very source of our success.

HONORED QUEEN: Time changes all things. As each year passes, new developments and new challenges constantly change the situations that impact our lives. We are pressed to discover new approaches that will respond to new situations and better prepare us for the future. Just a society inevitably changes with the passage of time, so too do our members. For their futures will be filled with more and difficult challenges as they assume increasing responsibilities. Our ability to answer those challenges will rest on how well we are prepared. And, as a result, how well we will be able to fulfill our dreams and the fulfillment of a rewarding life as God expects of us.

The burden on our leaders – we are leaders of our Bethel, and the adults by providing their guidance – is great. And as times change, so too must we be at the forefront so that we are relevant to life as it is and will be. Organizations that don't change lose ground and eventually die. Thriving organizations change and adapt to their ever-developing environment, and thus they grow. Our approach to providing leadership opportunities constantly must be scrutinized. If we are to provide leadership that will be meaningful to our future lives, then we must review it and be certain that it attempts to answer tomorrow's needs today. The more stable our foundation, the higher we can reach tomorrow.

But leadership experience is the key to unlocking the treasure chest that awaits us. Leadership qualities possess the power for us to advance ourselves. Therefore, the most leadership qualities we know, the greater are our opportunities. Then, we need not fall short because of a lack of experience. Instead, our experience will give us advantages in life. Armed with leadership experience, we will travel closer to our goal and be better prepared to achieve it. This all is possible when our adult advisors, indeed, "Teach us well, and let us lead".

This completes "The Leadership Ceremony".

THE ROBE CEREMONY

HONORED QUEEN: We commemorate the ideals of Job's Daughters International as represented in the robes that each member wears at our meetings. Our purpose is to recognize the significance of the robes we wear, which are rich in the teachings of our Order. Our new robes represent the many important lessons that Job's Daughters imparts, which places a special responsibility on us to care properly for them.

(A member wearing a new robe walks to a point on the East Marching Line, one step north of the center of the room. The cord is not tied.)

These robes are the style worn at the time of Job, and are of similar appearance, color and construction. This implies that all members – no matter what their social, educational or economic status – are equal in the eyes of a fellow member, just as we all stand in equal status before our Creator. Through the participation and contributions of every member, each of us plays an equally important role in the success of our Bethel.

Our link is strong with the Masonic-related organizations from whom we receive our heritage. Their support is essential to our success. The robes reflect the principles they stand for. (Member gestures with one hand the length of the robe.) The color of our robes is white which is the symbol for purity and joy. Our founder, Ethel T. Wead Mick, summarized this point in our motto, "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman." The color of a Master Mason's apron is white, which indicates his never-ceasing effort to keep himself "unspotted before the world". One of the rays of light of Eastern Star is white which is symbolic of light, purity and joy. These common lessons bind us inseparably together, and are the very reason for our existence. Our Senior Princess will now continue with an explanation of the significance of our robes.

SENIOR PRINCESS: *(Member follows line of yoke.)* The yoke is one continuous band, representing an unbroken circle, which alludes to our Creator. It is indicative of life everlasting, which is available to all of us if we maintain our faith in Him.

(Member gestures to length of the sleeve.) The sleeve forms a square, which teaches us to walk straight paths in life, and to face life squarely, just as we walk straight lines and turn square corners during our Ritual work. We also must not forget that the square is used by Master Masons to represent purity by squaring their actions in life.

(Member gestures around the body and sleeve to the gathers.) The gathers of the body and sleeves symbolize the many friends we make in Job's Daughters from among the members and Council members who support us and provide a positive direction in our lives. This teaches us to be true to them, and worthy of their friendship. The robe is three inches from the floor, repeating one of the perfect numbers are reflected in the Holy Family, the Trinity, the three major prayers of our Ritual, the three epochs, our emblems, signs and responses, Job's three friends from the East and our three Daughters in the East of the Bethel Room. It also reminds us of the Third Degree which is required of a man to earn the designation of a Master Mason, so that we can become members of this beautiful Order.

And when we wear our robes, our posture is erect, our feet flat on the floor, our conduct dignified, our appearance immaculate, and our conversation both delightful and improving, which impresses upon us to hold high the aim and name of Job's Daughters and express through our daily lives the principles of religion, virtue and honor.

The crowns of the Honored Queen and Junior and Senior Princesses impart beauty, splendor and honor as a reward for their diligent work in our Bethel. The crown points directly heavenward to God, Job's source of consolation in his time of trial. They remind us of the Lord's Prayer as a daily supplication to God. The purple of our robes represents royalty. The Junior Princess will now explain the meaning of the cord.

JUNIOR PRINCESS. (*Member gestures to the cord and follows it off the shoulder, to the knot and off the waist.*) The cord is comprised of intertwining threads, which tells us that there is strength in unity of purpose. It calls us to be ever mindful of our friends. Their character can make us weak or strong. If their hold on us is too tight, we are restricted by their limits. But tied just right, we are able to move within the freedom of those who truly care for us. Thus, as we continue down life's pathway, your friends will help you achieve your goals and fulfill your highest hopes, just as you help them.

As the cord falls from the yoke, it is secured by three twists (*member twists cord*) telling us that life everlasting is built on the virtues of Faith, Hope Charity. The twists are symbolic of our praying hands (*member assumes the attitude of prayer*), which reminds us of the first time we knelt at the Altar of Job's Daughters and accepted the Obligation of becoming one of the fairest in all the land. (*Member drops hands. The member wraps the cord around her.*) When we wrap the cord around us, think of it as though the arms of our friends, and others we come to know through Job's Daughters, holding us securely within their protective grasp through their friendship and love. The cord about our waist is secure, just like the protection of the Master Masons who give us our heritage. A square knot holds the cord in its proper place. This teaches us to face life squarely and honestly. (*Member follows the line of the triangle made by the cord.*) Thusly tied, the cord forms a triangle on the robe, which is the emblem of our Order.

(*Member gestures downward to the tassels with both hands.*) The tassels at the end of our cords are like those of the ancient High Priests who tied bells to the ends of their habit cords. They rang softly as the Priest walked through the villages announcing his arrival and calling the people to prayer. It calls to us, as we walk in our Bethel, to be mindful of the reasons why we took our Obligation to become a Job's Daughter, and that our every action is judged by others as representative of all Job's Daughters. The Honored Queen will not complete or recognition of the meaning of our robes.

HONORED QUEEN: Our headbands also hold significance. (*Member turns her head so the audience can see the headband.*) They are white and purple, symbolizing royalty within a field of purity. They are placed highest as those virtues, which encompass the teachings of our Order. True royalty is found in nobility of character, made of virtuous habits and thoughts. Kindness, patience, thoughtfulness, willingness and many other virtues are essential to noble character. White in all ages has been deemed an emblem of purity and a symbol of joy. We wish for all our members the joy of all good things and that of work well done and a life well spent in the service of our Heavy Father. (*Member is seated.*)

Through recognition of the importance of our robes and headbands, we remind ourselves of their deep meaning as we pledge to live by these lessons for the privilege to be called a Daughter of Job. But in so doing, we must also thank those who have worked diligently so that we can now enjoy these beautiful symbols of our Order.

Chaplain, you will attend at the Altar.

CHAPLAIN: Our Heavenly Father, may the lessons represented by these robes and headbands become the very fabric of our lives as we proceed with Your work in our Bethel and our daily lives. Each time we wear them, may we be reminded of our commitment to live life squarely, of the equality of all of us, of our mission to achieve life everlasting in observance of Your will, and the importance of prayer. Through the coming years, may Your guidance be ever present in our Bethel and in the lives of those who give us go generally to our Order and all who wear the robe of a Job's Daughter. We ask in Your name. Amen.

HONORED QUEEN: This concludes "The Robe Ceremony".

FLAG CEREMONY FOR MASTER MASONS AND EASTERN STAR MEMBERS

Honored Queen and Junior Princess march to the East from the Ante Room and the Senior Princess marches from the Preparation Room. The Honored Queen ascends the Dais, while the Princesses stand at the foot of the Dais facing west.

HONORED QUEEN: America celebrates the birth of our flag on June 14th. This day is set aside to reflect on our commitment to our Flag, our country and our forefathers who made this great nation possible. Therefore, it is appropriate that we pause to observe the importance of this symbol which we all adore.

It was June 14, 1777, that the Continental Congress adopted the official design of the U.S. Flag. Let us review its symbolism and importance to our country.

Senior Princess and Junior Princess, you will escort the Flag of our Country into the Lodge Room.

They march to the North Marching Line side by side and turn west. They march to the Preparation Room and the Senior Princess enters carrying the flag. As they enter, the Honored Queen gives three raps. After all are standing, the Princesses enter. The Senior Princess proceeds to the Altar where she holds the flag at a 60-degree angle. The Junior Princess proceeds on the North March Line to a point in line with the Senior Princess.

HONORED QUEEN: This flag is an emblem of the liberty we enjoy, the protection of our homes, and the freedom of our institutions. It is an emblem of the blood of our forefathers who died that our country might endure. We love it and all for which it stands. Senior Princess, you will place it in the East.

The Senior Princess turns north and proceeds around the north side of the Altar, and continues east and placed the flag in the flag stand.

HONORED QUEEN: All citizens of the United States will repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. *(Honored Queen leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.)*

SENIOR PRINCESS: (turns to the side of the flag, facing the audience.) The Stars and Stripes stand for the land, the people, the government and the ideals of the United States. Its red signifies the courage and sacrifices of the nearly 45 million men and women who have been defenders of our nation, and those who spilled their blood that we might be free. The white represents the purity of our country's high ideals and our desire for liberty. The 50 stars are not only symbols of our states but as that great Mason, George Washington stated, they represent a "new constellation" in the universe; a beautiful new addition that through the goodness outshines the glow of any other nation. Its blue field, which contains the stars, speaks to the strength and unity of our states, and the vigilance of our citizens to maintain our freedoms and justice. These colors belong to us all because we have ensured the preservation of these ideals for more than 200 years.

JUNIOR PRINCESS: Our flag is the very fiber that binds us with our past, and to those who have laid down their lives for us. It stands in this room for liberty, freedom, the rights we enjoy and as a guarantee of protection against those who would want to deny others these liberties. It represents free elections, free speech, religious freedom and our right to assembly, which enables us to be here now. It is a testimony to the fact that our country believes in the freedom of the individual with an impartial government whose aim it is to provide opportunities for everyone to reach their fullest potential. It is a guarantee, a promise and our protector.

HONORED QUEEN: We proudly display our flag in this Lodge Room because it is the basis of the very beliefs that are taught in Masonry, Eastern Star and Job's Daughters. Masonry's compassion is also the compassion of our country. Our faith in the Supreme Being is also the faith of our country. The lessons of Masonry are at one with this emblem of our great nation. The red in our nation's flag is made more brilliant by our commitment to preserving freedoms; the blue is every richer because of the steadfastness of our organizations to stand together for the United States; and the white is more stainlessly pure because of the actions of our Masons, Eastern Star members, and Job's Daughters who live the lessons they are taught.

As members of the Masonic fraternity, we are at one with each other, our country and its symbol. But we must always bear in mind the charge that our beloved flag calls us to follow. Are we courageous in the defense of our freedoms by addressing them publicly without fear of personal reprisal? Do we work together in strength to battle those who would infringe on our freedoms and those of others? Are our actions pure so each of us stands as an inspiration to suppressed people everywhere, thus giving them the courage to continue their fight for freedom?

These are hard questions that drive to the very reasons why our country came into existence. Our forefathers were courageous to answer, "Yes". That is why this flag has stood for more than 200 years as a symbol for our country. May it continue to stand not only for our nation, but also as a guiding light for the opposed the world over. May we pause to renew our commitment to the ideals for which it stands.

On behalf of all the members of Bethel No. ____, thank you for letting us share this patriotic message with you.

CEREMONY FOR MASONIC LODGE INSTALLATION

(This ceremony is for use at Masonic Installations. However, with minor changes, it can be presented anytime to Master Masons and their guests.)

(The Guardian and Associate Guardian, accompanied by the Guide and Marshal on their respective sides, enter the room and proceed on the South and North Marching Lines to the East. At the East Marching Line, they turn toward the middle. The Guide and Marshal stop in front of the Custodians' chairs and face each other. The Guardian and Associate Guardian meet at the foot of the Dais and ascend it. As they reach the top and turn west, the Guide and Marshal also turn west.)

GUARDIAN: Guide and Marshal, you will present the members of Job's Daughters Bethel No. ___ to the Master Masons of _____ Lodge No. ___ and their guests who have gathered for this special occasion.

ASSOCIATE GUARDIAN: Through the centuries one group of men has taught a higher meaning of life and promoted freethinking. They are Master Masons. We honor the members and new officers of _____ Lodge No. ___ at the Installation of their (year) Officers.

For the members of Job's Daughters Bethel No. ____, Master Masons represent the strong values of loving one another, teaching one another and helping one another – the tenets of Masonry that are shared by Job's Daughters International. The basis of our Order is found in the Book of Job, 42nd Chapter, 15th Verse: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." We emphasize the latter part of that verse, "...and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren," because a girl must be related to a Master Mason to become a member of Job's Daughters. That is the inheritance we receive from each of you. The kinship is a special one. No other youth group in the world demands this of its members. Therefore, we share not only a commitment to a common set of values, but also a common heritage. We are one, and we revel in that relationship.

The members have formed the Square and Compass – the symbol of Freemasonry. In honor of (Name), Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge, we form the Square – the emblem of his office – that calls Masons to square their actions by the square of virtue. Just as the Worshipful Master is charged to teach morality, the members of Job's Daughters are committed to live a virtuous life as stated in our motto, "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman". The Chaplain, Treasurer and the five Messengers comprise the Square and represent the virtues of piety, honesty and reverence for our Creator.

To the members of _____ Lodge, you have hewn a smooth cornerstone, free of imperfections, upon which is built a solid foundation for the protective walls that enclose the member of Bethel No. _____. You are our role models as we strive to live up to the Masonic principles you represent.

At each meeting, we recognize your influence in our lives by praying, "...bless and protect the Master Masons who give us heritage". _____ Lodge and Bethel No. ___ are united in purpose and philosophy, and on this special occasion we celebrate our togetherness.

Members proceed to the formation of the Living Cross. They sing, "Onward Christian Soldiers". After they are in the formation, the Guardian begins to read.

GUARDIAN: To complete our link with you, Bethel No. ____ has formed the Living Cross of Job's Daughters – the closing formation at each Job's Daughters meeting. Like all Masonic-related organizations, Job's Daughters International is based on a belief in the Creator. The Holy Scriptures guide us in all that we do, whether it is religious, patriotic, community service or self-development activities. We believe that as children of God, we must maintain a strong, unwavering faith in Him to receive our final reward for living a virtuous life. For our members – though their years number but a few – the teachings they receive now from Job's Daughters will strengthen their values for the rest of their lives...values that are based on the principles of Masonry and the Book of Job. The formation of the Living Cross teaches us much about these values.

The Honored Queen is at the base of the Cross as a sign of humility and service to those who elect her the leader of our Bethel. The base must be solid and strong to support the Cross, just as our Savior bore the burden of the Cross on His way to Calvary. It is through her strength that the Cross is able to stand high as a testament to the message it proclaims to the world.

At the center of the Cross is the Chaplain who represents the belief that our faith in God must be the focal point of our Order and our lives. She is a constant reminder of the lessons we learn from the Holy Scriptures, and our daily need to speak with God, to have faith in Him and give our lives to His care and keeping.

On the extremes of the arms of the Cross are the Junior Princess and Senior Princess. They assure a balance is maintained in our Bethel, just as our lives must be God-centered while pursuing an appropriate balance of those attributes God expects us to make an integral part of our lives.

At the highest point of the Cross is one of the five Messengers who reveals the story of Job's suffering, his eventual triumph over the Adversary, and why this ancient story is relevant to today's young women. The five Messengers comprise the fiber that holds this Cross together by relating the truth of Job's life – that although the world seems to have forsaken us at times, we must always turn to God and remain faithful to Him. As we live our life with faith and patience, we will receive the final reward.

Standing outside the Cross and behind it are the Junior and Senior Custodians. They are the keepers of the Cross, and represent the responsibility given all of us to take His light to all corners of the earth so that others will come to know Him.

Each office represents a trait God expects to portray in our lives...to follow God's way, pursue noble actions, respect our parents, strive always to do our best, seek to increase our knowledge, work toward harmony with others, and honesty.

As you view our members in the Living Cross, let it serve to ask important questions about our lives. Is God the center of your life? Are you humble and yet strong in your service to Him? Are you maintaining a balance by pursuing an appropriate measure of those beliefs that God expects you to include in your life? Are you a keeper of the message, and do you proclaim it in your every thought, word and act?

We will complete our final formation – the open Holy Bible – as the members leave the Living Cross. Because we are all relatives to Master Masons, and share with you the principles of Masonry, we congratulate you and reaffirm our commitment and tie to _____ Lodge, its members and the (*year*) officers. May we ever work in unity, harmony and in the light of Masonic principles. As it states in Psalm 133: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

(Members rise to chords and conclude the closing in the usual manner.)

CEREMONY OF EMBLEMS

The Ceremony of Emblems is an explanation of the principles of Job's Daughters and is directed at a broader audience than those who normally attend Bethel meetings, so it should be done with more expression and with gestures to emphasize the message. The Daughter is encouraged to move freely between the emblems, picking them up if she chooses or gesturing to them, while explaining their significance.

The Daughter is in a white robe with either color cord. The emblems – the Dove, Urn of Incense, Horn of Plenty and Lily of the Valley – will be set up in their usual locations. If the Ceremony is presented in a location other than a Bethel room, the three pedestals for the emblems will be set up in a triangular pattern.

Every one of us arrives at a point in life when we are presented two choices: either to take this path, or the other. In that defining moment in our lives, we begin a journey toward the path of a fulfilling, meaningful life, or down a misdirected path of unrealized dreams, and lost goals. Supporting our decision-making are experiences that have prepared us for this critical decision. Whatever direction we choose, it propels us steadily for the rest of our lives, and influences the direction of others around us. Such a moment confronted the founder of Job's Daughters International, Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick.

Desiring to impress strong values on young women, Mrs. Mick chose to develop an organization teaching principles based on the Masonic fraternity. She knew a life that adhered to Masonic principles was a life well spent. Once committed to this noble cause, Mrs. Mick weighed the messages necessary to give young women an enlightened, positive path to consider.

She recalled her mother's religious strength. Her mother often cited the Book of Job, Chapter 42, Verse 15, as the standard that she wanted her daughter to always portray in her life: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." Thus, we became known as Job's Daughters.

Mrs. Mick selected the White Dove as an emblem of our Order to represent key lessons that Job's Daughters should ever strive to emulate. Symbolizing purity and truth, the dove teaches us to guard our every thought, word and act. Conscious of our actions, Mrs. Mick knew young women could then practice love in the truest meaning of the word, and to pursue only truth.

In ancient times, incense was burned during prayers. The Urn of Incense was chosen to remind us of this important link with our Creator, and our faith in Him. Mrs. Mick recalled how Job's faith in God never waned, despite losing all his possessions, his health, and his sons and daughters. Girdered by such an immovable foundation of faith, young women, no matter their situation, can possess confidence, hope for tomorrow, and empathy for others.

Representing our final reward for living our lives according to these tenets, Mrs. Mick selected the Horn of Plenty. She felt young women can overcome any challenge if we make these teachings a living, viable commitment in our lives. Then we will earn our final reward in an abundance reflected in this Horn of Plenty.

If one symbol could contain the lessons critical to the righteous development of young women, it would be the emblematic flower of Job's Daughters: the Lily of the Valley. Its true beauty radiates from the purity of its white blossoms, and the humble place in which it grows. Donning this flower bespeaks the motto of our Order: "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman."

These emblems of our Order, which Mrs. Mick so deliberately pondered, by their very presence at our meetings pose to us, "What will you do? Which path will you take?" Daily, Job's Daughters witness the forces that tempt us; forces that try to obscure our vision as we look to our futures; and cause us to question the lessons taught by our Order. We abide by truth, love, kindness to others, self-confidence, unswerving faith in God, and belief in our final reward for living a virtuous life.

Young women who live the teachings of Job's Daughters International, stand ready to defend these benchmarks of a life well lived. Every Job's Daughter, firmly planted in these lessons, assures a path promising a fulfilled life for herself and those whose lives she touches. And, in doing so, we keep alive the standards that give our lives meaning. Two paths are before us. Which will you take?