

1978 Martha Ceremony
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In honoring the station of Martha we deal with Faith, Belief in Eternal Life, and Hope in the immortality of the soul.

The vibrant deep green color of the springtime foliage is dedicated to Martha. A symbol of renewed life and growth. It is also a symbol of the new life which is eternal for all men through Christ. It is the garb of nature and thus represents life, because it is associated with springtime. It means immortality of the soul and is symbolic of youth.

In our Order the broken column expressively symbolizes the uncertainty of human life, but more than this it is an emblem of the promise of eternal life and brings to mind the words of our Lord, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Martha's faith in God's promise of Eternal life through faith in Christ remains constant even when her brother's life like a broken column was broken off by mortal death.

The Holy Bible is the basis of all star point heroines. Martha is associated with the 2nd Beatitude that states, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." The story of Martha is found in John II Chapter which brings to mind the words of our Lord, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

The lamb is the symbol of the deeper meaning of the story of Martha. It represents a meekness which should be characteristic of all who profess to know the gentleness of a little lamb. The lamb appeals to us for assistance in helping mankind who seem to be struggling to find a way out, the tactfulness and kindness needed to make the appear to those who need our assistance even as the meek and the lowly, Jesus assisted those about him.

The fern is dedicated to Martha and is symbolic of the endlessness of eternal life. Its constant greenness represents the continuity of life. A token of sincerity and a symbol of faith and immortality. Along mossy banks, across deep marshes, along streams, up on rocky crags and along ledges of strong cliffs and mountains drop the beautiful waving fronds of the fern. Every place or any place where nature has prepared a footing may be found the beautiful fern – emblem of Martha. It is not a cultivated plant, but grows naturally where it finds a lodging place.

So grows Faith in a soil that is ready to receive it. So grows Hope and Belief in the immortality of the soul, planted by God in the hearts of everyone.

Martha represents the ideal sister and means fortitude, abiding and instructed by Christ. She had the fortitude to maintain her faith, even when her brother Lazarus died, by abiding in the word of God as she had been instructed by Christ. Her faith was firm in

the hour of trial. Sisterly love and devotion to her brother were the contributing factors that lead to the circumstances in the resurrection of Lazarus by Christ.

It is a special privilege to have you as our honored guests this evening. We welcome you as you spread the light, knowledge and beauty of the green Ray of our Star.