



CEREMONY OF LIGHT

an open ceremony
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DeMolay International

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This Ceremony is recommended as a public relations tool to be used on occasions where a brief ceremony that summarizes the basic teachings of DeMolay is required.

Required Part: The Speaker: Spk.; it is most effectively given by an Active DeMolay with a pleasing and mature voice and style of delivery.

Required Paraphernalia: Holy Bible open on Altar; school books on Northeast corner of Altar; seven candlesticks with candles already lighted; arranged as shown on Diagram One. All other lights should be dimmed or extinguished during the ceremony. National flag in a standard as indicated on Diagram One. See Appendix for the pronunciation and definition of the word "agape" in the second paragraph.

Speaker moves to point O, faces West.

Spk. I stand before you at this sacred DeMolay Altar, upon which we have placed the mighty bulwarks of our faith, the Holy Bible and the school books. Not far away rests the banner of our beloved country. Standing as sentries are these seven burning candles, beacons in the darkness, lights to illuminate our pathway as we journey ever onward down the road of life. They are the symbols of all that is good and right with the world. They are the standards upon which we as DeMolays have pledged to base our lives.

Speaker moves and stands before candle 1 on North side of the Altar and moves to each candle 2-7 as each is mentioned in the speech.

The first candle symbolizes the love between parent and child, that love which existed before we were born, has remained with us all our life through, and will follow us even beyond the grave. The sages named this love "agape", love for no other reason than the sake of being.

The second candle is emblematic of reverence for all that is sacred. A young man crossing the threshold of DeMolay for the first time professes a deep and abiding faith in one living and true God. Without this steadfast faith and the grace of our heavenly Father, our toil would be for nothing.

This third candle stands for courtesy, a courtesy that transcends friendships, a courtesy which reaches to the stranger, to the aged, to all men. It is this courtesy that brings a warm feeling and a smile and makes this life more pleasant for others as it lights the pathway before us.

The fourth candle, the candle in the center of our seven, stands symbolically for comradeship. Millions of young men such as ourselves have knelt at this symbolic Altar and dedicated themselves to the same high principles of good sonship and good citizenship. As long as we remain faithful to these pledges, as long as there is an Order of DeMolay - we are one.

The fifth candle stands simply for fidelity. A DeMolay can never justly be false to his vows, his promises, his friends, his God. He is called upon daily to defend the bulwarks and precepts of the Order that he might never fail as a leader or as a man.

The sixth candle is symbolic of cleanness, not only the bodily cleanness which we all practice, but the cleanness of every thought, word, and deed. Only in cleanness can a DeMolay rightly be representative of the pureness of our teachings.

The last candle is emblematic of patriotism. Perhaps we shall never be called upon to defend our country on the field of battle, but each day affords new opportunities to stand as good and upright citizens in behalf of that beloved banner and our hallowed land.

Speaker moves counterclockwise from candle 7 to candle 1, extinguishing them and timing this action to finish at the end of the second paragraph following.

Yet we live in troubled times when the bulwarks of the Bible, flag and school books are in danger of sinking into the waste of doubt and uncertainty, when these seven glorious precepts may not be the most coveted standards upon which to base one's life; when trust and justice and brotherhood may not be considered the most virtuous of qualities.

And if we as DeMolays do not stand unswervingly in defense of the teachings of our Order, if we do not seek to perpetuate them in our daily lives, then perhaps these flames will be extinguished, muted in the shadows and darkness shall inherit the land.

Speaker moves to center candle (number 4) and lights it as he proceeds through the last paragraph.

Yet each of you, as a DeMolay, holds within your heart a flame, a beacon to guide you through the darkness. If you can make this light shine upon another, if you can reach into the innermost depths of his soul and set his flame afire, then therein lies the purpose of the Order of DeMolay, and therein lies your purpose for living.

Speaker returns to his seat. Lights raised to full.

APPENDIX

Pronouncing Glossary

agape	ä-gä'pā. Love that is spiritual in its nature.
bulwark	bŭl'wærk. Something serving as a defense or safeguard.
coveted	kŭv'īt-ĕd. Strongly desired.
hallowed	hăl'ōd. Highly respected or beloved.
perpetuate	pər-pĕch'ū-āt'. To cause to be remembered for all time.
transcend	trăn-sĕnd'. To reach beyond the limits of.
unswervingly	ŭn-swŭr'vĭng-lĕ. Constant or steady.
virtuous	vŭr'chŭ-əs. Having or showing moral excellence.