



MAJORITY SERVICE

an open ceremony
issued by

DeMolay International

This revision has been prepared under the authority and direction of the DeMolay International Committee on Ritual, Regalia, Honors and Awards..

Corrected Fifth Edition

© 2006

Issued by the Grand Secretary's Office

MAJORITY SERVICE

This service is intended as a recognition for those who have attained their majority and have ceased to be active members of the Order of DeMolay.

Required Parts: Master Councilor: M.C., Senior Councilor: S.C., Junior Councilor: J.C., Marshal: Mar., and Chaplain: Ch.

Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on M.C.'s pedestal; Holy Bible open on Altar; school books on Northeast corner of the Altar; National flag in standard as indicated on Diagram One.

Optional Paraphernalia: Chapter banner in a standard; seven candlesticks with candles all arranged as on Diagram One; Altar cloth; Altar flowers; pedestal covers; baton for Mar.

M.C. Brethren, some of our number have reached the years of manhood and now cease to be active members of our Order. It is fitting and proper that we give due consideration to this fact and bid them a formal and fraternal farewell as Active DeMolays. Will all who are qualified please rise?

M.C. Brother Marshal, you will conduct the brothers to the East.

Suggested music cue:

Mar. moves X Z T, thence to place where recipients are seated and conducts them to point U; all face East.

M.C. My brothers, as you have attained the age of 21 years, it becomes our solemn duty to bid you farewell as active members of the Order of DeMolay and it is our privilege to congratulate you on having crossed the threshold which ushers you into the broader life of manhood.

The years have set up a boundary line between you and active membership in our Order. They may widen that line into a gap, the gap into a chasm and the chasm into a great gulf. But across them all, your zeal for DeMolay, the memory of your active membership and your continuing interest in its behalf will build a bridge which will span the broadest and deepest abyss the years can carve. Only you yourself can destroy that sacred means of communication and we believe and pray that you will maintain your enthusiasm for our Order throughout the broader life upon which you have now entered.

The ancient world held no higher civic honor than Roman citizenship. When the Roman youth attained his majority, he laid aside the tunic for the toga virilis, the emblem of life's new dignities, duties and responsibilities.

To you has come our country's noblest honor, that of being a citizen. You have symbolically laid aside the garb of youth for the toga of citizenship. Across the threshold of manhood you have passed as it were in one brief but tremendous moment.

It is to bid you farewell at the door of this larger life, to wish you Godspeed in the new journey you have begun, to urge you to maintain your affection for our Order and to welcome you on frequent visits to the Chapter around which so many happy associations cling that we have summoned you again to the East, symbolic of the youth you have left behind. It is no longer proper for us to admonish, instruct or direct. We can only remind and request. I therefore ask you to permit yourselves to be conducted to the South, symbolic of the noon of life and the manhood years you have attained.

Suggested music cue:

Mar. and recipients move U T L, face South.

- J.C.** My brothers, on the symbolic journey of our ceremonies you have often heard inculcated the cardinal teachings of our Order. To this station your eyes have been directed as toward a goal worth all your striving. That goal you have now reached.

It is not for me, as the incumbent of the office that is emblematic of the meridian years of life, to urge you to continued loyalty to the teachings and the practices which are designed to fit youth for useful and honorable citizenship. I may, however, with propriety suggest that there is no invisible line at which you are justified in disregarding the lessons taught you in your Chapter. The virtues which adorn youth honor manhood even more. The true spirit of a DeMolay will make a man or boy loyal and loving to his parents while they live, and loyal and loving to their memory when they have passed away. He will revere sacred things and weave into the fabric of his manhood the essentials of his religious faith. He will love the flag of his country and hold it high above all other banners of the earth, fighting for it if need be, defending its honor in battle or on the fields of good citizenship, where the victories of peace are won. He will be loyal to the widened circle of his friendship. He will be faithful to all the broadened responsibilities and the new pledges he has assumed. He will be courteous and kindly and considerate because the Crown of Manhood holds no jewel that can replace true refinement. The step of greeting, the sign of welcome, the token of brotherhood will be the instinctive gestures of his life and always in his heart will abide reverence for the heroic fidelity of the great exemplar of our Order.

You know best of all whether as a DeMolay your achievements have measured up to your promise. You know best where and why you fell short of accomplishment as fallible humanity must fail at times. But I take pleasure in testifying that in the eyes of your brethren you have been loyal DeMolays, worthy wearers of the Crown of Youth, which you have now exchanged for the Crown of Manhood. We rejoice if we have helped to prepare you for the solemn tasks upon which you now enter. We glory in the hope that the companionship of the Order has strengthened you in hours of weakness, cheered you in times of loneliness, perhaps saved you in moments of temptation.

As the Master Councilor has suggested, it would be presumptuous for us now to remind you of the pledges you have made in the past. We ask none of you now. Your future is in your own hands. We can only accompany you to the threshold which we ourselves shall soon reach in turn. We can only remind you that what you promised yesterday is the task of today; that pledges have become duties and obligations opportunities. The hand of welcome will be extended more eagerly than the hand of farewell whenever you revisit the scenes in which you have borne so pleasant a part in the past. Brother Marshal, you will escort our brothers to the West.

Suggested music cue:

Mar. and recipients move L C D, face West.

- S.C.** My Brothers, at this station, emblematic of the eve of life, you have heard inculcated many times the great truth that the wisest young man is he who looks well to the ending of the journey as well as to its beginning. You have reached the zenith years which point backward to what you have done and forward to what remains to be achieved. Half your years are behind you and half before. We can only repeat the hope that when you reach the evening of your lives you may be able to look back upon a long and happy journey, filled with memories of duties well performed, the western sky glowing with the promise of the everlasting morning. We ask you to turn your eyes again to the wonderful opportunities and the golden tasks of the afternoon that are now before you. Among those opportunities is the happy privilege of knowing that the doors have not closed upon you and that you will always be a welcome visitor. Brother Marshal, you will cause our brothers to face the Altar.

Mar. and recipients face Altar.

M.C. * * * (3 raps)

All stand.

M.C. Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

All lights except the candles and Altar spot are dimmed.

Ch., unescorted goes to Altar, moves X Z I J. Ch. halts at point J, faces East, takes one step toward Altar. As Ch. leaves station all Active DeMolays in East and S.C. and J.C. descend to floor level.

M.C. Active DeMolays will kneel on left knee. All others will remain standing.

All Active DeMolays kneel in unison as Ch. kneels.

Ch. Our Father, we pray Thy watchful and loving care over these brothers who have reached the manhood years of life. Sanctify the ties that have been formed in their Chapter and in this Order. Help these brothers to be true and faithful men as they have been true and faithful DeMolays. Help them to realize that the teachings of this Order are fundamental truths that know no dividing line of years and that the true spirit of a good DeMolay will make each one a better man. Wilt Thou help us to reconsecrate ourselves to the great purposes of our Order that when we, like our brothers, reach the noon of life, we may be better fitted for all its tasks. We ask it all in Thy holy name. Amen.

ALL Amen.

Ch. and all Active DeMolays rise. Ch. takes one step backward away from Altar and faces North. Ch. unescorted, moves J K V Z X, faces West. As Ch. leaves Altar all Active DeMolays who were in the East, the S.C. and J.C. return to daises. Lights raised to full.

M.C. * (rap)

All except M.C., Mar. and recipients sit down.

M.C. Brother Marshal, you will conduct our brothers to the East.

Suggested music cue:

Mar. and recipients move D E V U; all face East.

M.C. And now, my brothers, this ceremony nears its close. Henceforth, we may not greet you as Active DeMolays though the ties which have been formed can be severed only by death. We extend again the warm invitation to visit your Chapter as often as possible. Brother Marshal, you will afford our brothers seats within the Chapter room.

Mar. and recipients move U T thence to seats, and Mar. moves Z X, faces West.

M.C. * (rap)

All sit down.

APPENDIX

Pronouncing Glossary

abyss	ə-bīs'. A bottomless pit or depth.
admonish	ăd-mŏn'īsh. To remind of an obligation.
borne	bŏrn. Carried, assigned, or taken, as in a responsibility.
cardinal	kărd'nəl. Of high importance.
chasm	kăz'əm. A deep opening in the earth's surface.
courteous	kûr'tē-əs. Marked by respect toward others.
exemplar	ĭg-zĕm'plăr'. A model; one worthy of imitation.
fallible	făl'ə-bəl. Capable of making an error.
fidelity	fī-dĕl'ĭ-tĕ , fī-dĕl'ĭ-tĕ. The quality or state of being faithful.
garb	gărb. A distinctive form of clothing.
Godspeed	gŏd'spĕd'. Success or good fortune; literally, God's blessings.
henceforth	hĕns'fŏrth'. From now on.
inculcate	ĭn'kŭl- kăt' , ĭn-kŭl'kăt'. To impress upon the mind of another; to instill.
incumbent	ĭn-kŭm'bĕnt. A person who holds an office.
presumptuous	prĭ-zŭmp'chŭ-əs. Going beyond what is right or proper; excessively forward.
propriety	prə-prĭ'ĭ-tĕ. Appropriateness; quality of being proper.
reconsecrate	rĕ-kŏn'sĭ-krăt'. To rededicate solemnly to a service or goal.
reverence	rĕv'ər-əns. To consider or treat with respect.
sanctify	săngk'tə-fĭ'. To bless; to purify.
severed	sĕv'ərd. Broken apart or separated.

threshold	thrěsh'ōld'. A point at which a change occurs in a person.
toga virilis	tō'gə və-rīl'īs. A white toga symbolizing manhood that boys in ancient Rome wore starting at age 15.
tunic	tū'nīk. A loose-fitting garment worn in ancient Rome.
zenith	zē'nīth. The highest point reached by a celestial body, as in the sun; the peak.