



MAJORITY SERVICE

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SEVENTH EDITION

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This service is intended to recognize 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; patents.

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, then 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, 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. 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. Brother Marshal, you will present the patents to our brothers.

Mar. presents the Senior DeMolay patents to the recipients.

M.C. And now, my brothers, we may no longer greet you as Active DeMolays, though the ties which have been formed can be severed only by death. We bid you farewell to the journey of youth, and we look forward to joining you soon, when we in turn cross the threshold of manhood. Brother Marshal, you will afford our brothers seats within the Chapter room.

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

M.C. * (rap)

All sit down. The recipients should be given a chance to address the Chapter.