

LET THERE BE LIGHT

THE CUE for the ceremony is as follows: The presiding officer rises, and WITH NO PRELIMINARY REMARKS, says - Soroptimists pledge themselves to Tolerance, Sincerity, Wisdom, Friendship, and Service". Those taking part should, before the cue is given, have received the signal, risen unobtrusively, and be ready in line, at the side of the hall, proceeding together to the candles IMMEDIATELY when the cue is given. Where possible, use a 5 branched, floor length candelabra.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the line of 5 is ranged on one side of the candelabra. As her time comes, each steps forward, does her part, moves on a few steps so the next can have the "center of the stage". When the ceremony concludes, all 5 are still in line before the candles, a bit farther over than at the beginning. They then turn and march back to their seats.

1st Speaker I light the Candle of Tolerance. (Light candle. Wait until it burns brightly before proceeding. Face audience, speak slowly.) In a world dark with war and rumors of war, rent and torn by hatred and distrust, there shines a light to guide the feet of all men into the paths of peace and harmony. That light is Tolerance; the acknowledgement that all men are sons of God, and that together they can build a house wherein shall dwell all kinds and conditions of men, free from fear, and joyful in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man. ---- I light the Candle of Tolerance. (Move on a step or two, as above.)

2nd Speaker I light the Candle of Sincerity, (See instructions for 1st Speaker) Our pledge to sincerity is a challenge to be ourselves at all times; to act simply, frankly, and honestly towards others; to lay aside artificiality and pretense, and to let heart speak to heart. ---- I light the Candle of Sincerity.

3rd Speaker I light the Candle of Wisdom (See instructions for 1st Speaker.) Deep in the hearts of all men, shines the eternal light of Wisdom. Happy is the man who finds the light, and is guided by it. It is more precious than rubies, and all things desired are not to be compared to it. Its ways are pleasantness, and its paths peace. It is a tree of life to those who lay hands upon it, and happy is every man who retains it. ---- I light the Candle of Wisdom.

4th Speaker

I light the Candle of Friendship. (See instructions for 1st Speaker.) The light of Friendship brings happiness to all upon whom falls its warm glow. The richest man is poor, if excluded from its magic circle. The poorest man is rich if included within it. Friendship is a lamp in the darkness of sorrow; a bright sun in the noon-day of happiness. ---- I light the candle of Friendship.

5th Speaker

I light the Candle of Service. (See instructions for 1st Speaker.) Service is the bright star wise men have always followed. It illuminates a path of joy and peace. It points the way to abiding happiness. At journey's end, it shines above the Place of Fulfillment, and welcomes the weakest into the House of Eternal Love. ---- I light the Candle of Service.

SPECIAL NOTES: The Candle Ceremony usually introduces the Installation of Officers, and just precedes the introduction of those who are to have charge of the actual installation.

Seats should be reserved together for the 5 Soroptimists who are to take part, preferably at a side table, near the head table, where the "Candle-lighters" can watch for the signal from the presiding officer. Carefully select those who are to take part; they **MUST** have clear, distinct voices, and be dignified and well-poised. Notify them a week or so in advance that they have been selected, and send each her part, asking her to memorize it; impress on each that you are relying on her and that, if she cannot come, you expect her to provide a substitute.

A very softly-played musical accompaniment ("Evening Star" for example) accompanying the ceremony enhances its dramatic value. It becomes inaudible as each speaks.

DON'T MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT to introduce the ceremony; it detracts from its dramatic value.

PROPS: Candles (tapers) in small holder, votive cups with colored or scented candles