

OUTGOING ALTAR CEREMONY

The Alpha and Omega--The beginning and the end.

Just a year ago at this Altar you received your jewels so rare
And took a solemn Obligation to protect them with great care.
You are here now to return them, as your precious year is past
And recall with fondest memories, freindships that will always last.

(Officers lay their badges on the Alter one at a time, read slowly)

The crossed swords for protection,	(Sentinel)
The dove, an emblem of peace.	(Warder)
The cup, overflowing with blessings	(Electa)
The broken column means hope that will not cease.	(Martha)
The crown and scepter shows justice and loyalty.	(Esther)
The sheaf with plenty abounds.	(Ruth)
The sword and veil bring out our fidelity.	(Adah)
The lyre with music resounds	(Organist)
Crossed batons are with courtesy tended	(Marshall)
The open Bible, God's blessing imparts	(Chaplain)
The baton means preparing for leadership	(Assoc.Cond.)
The scroll and baton is where plans must start	(Cond.)
The crossed keys hold fast our security	(Treasurer)
The crossed pens are the faithful recorded	(Secretary)
The star within the star means divine guidance.	(Assoc. Patron)
The effulgent sun sheds light on our Order	(Assoc. Matron)
The square and compasses links us with our Brothers	(Patron)
And is always with Masonry bounded.	
The gavel--an emblem of authority	(Matron)
Is with caution and prayer surrounded.	

These are the embles loaned for just a year, and are now returned with this prayer,
May our father in Heaven hold secure with his might
Your new leaders who will receive these after tonight
We ask Him to love and keep them from harm
And may they always find comfort in His loving arms,
These officers say Farewell, as they should, with this wish
"May God Bless each one of you real good. "