

TALKS FOR FESTIVAL DAYS

EASTER:

With the dawn of another Easter-tide, comes the thought of awakening and the resurrection of new hope.

As nature unfolds her buds and blossoms for our earthly pleasure and needs, so God unfolds our thoughts for spiritual light and development. May we find within our hearts, at this beautiful Easter time, the spirit of good-will and encouragement which makes the future seem very beautiful and full of promise.

Our Order is founded upon the Holy Scriptures and upon a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. Its lessons are Scriptural; its teachings Moral; and its purpose Beneficent. May we all walk through the labyrinth of human life with a dignity becoming a true follower of Christ.

May the loving benediction of the Star in the East linger through the year and strengthen and guide us in the great work we strive to do. Let us go bravely to our daily tasks and in His wisdom share one another's burdens, so that those around us shall be encouraged and strengthened to likewise do God's Holy will.

Sisters and Brother, may God give to each of you His peace and joy this blessed Easter-tide.

THANKSGIVING:

Nearly 350 years ago the Pilgrims proclaimed a day of thanks, following their first harvest in the new world to which they had but recently come.

Today we have much for which to be thankful. Chief among these blessings is the freedoms we enjoy--the freedom to come and go, to congregate, to express our opinions, to vote, to carry on the day's work as we please--mindful only that we do not offend or harm others.

Now is the time to reflect that we are possessors of this freedom, as well as of our many other benefactions, ONLY BY THE GRACE OF ALMIGHTY GOD. It would be well if we, as a nation, acted more often as though we remembered Him. On this twenty-fourth day of November, 1960, let us bow our heads and thank Him for His priceless gifts. Also, let us ask for guidance and wisdom in these day when there is so much of strife and hatred throughout the world. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain."