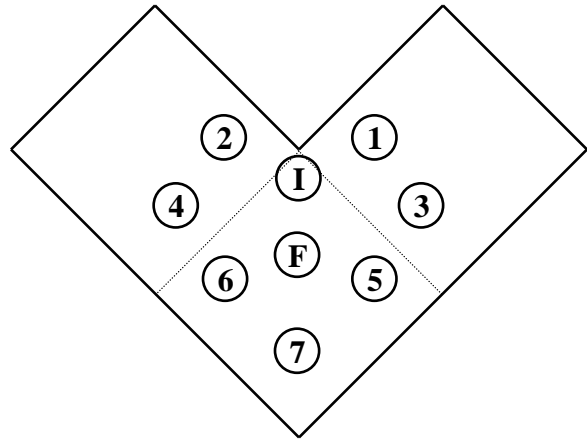


Valentine's Day Ceremony

Instructions & Diagram of Altar:

- Circles 1-7 reading order and the candle placement
- Circle I introduction by chaplain
- Circle F Friendship candle

Using three square tables, covered by white tablecloths, and a red heart made from red material, set up the altar as shown in the above diagram. Candles outline the heart. The friendship candle is placed in the middle of the heart. The reader lights her candle from the friendship candle as she approaches to read her part. The order of reading corresponds to the diagrams.



The heart on the altar is made of felt. Other types of material also may be used. The friendship candle is a large red candle with the Alpha Sigma Alpha crest on it, and four ribbons tied around the candle below the crest. Ribbons are: 1 red, 1 white, 1 gold, and 1 green.

THE SERVICE

Chaplain:

St. Valentine's Day originally was a Christmas festival commemorating the martyrdom of St. Valentine. It has been celebrated as early as the 7th century, but by the 14th century its religious significance was overshadowed by the nonreligious customs still associated today.

Actually, the acceptance of St. Valentine as the patron saint of lovers and friendship is accidental. In fact, in old medieval Europe, the belief was that birds began to mate on February 14th, and this suggested that lads and lassies should choose lovers and should exchange gifts. The word valentine applied to both persons and presents.

No matter how St. Valentine's Day originated, we today, still set this special occasion aside to remember our friends and loves ones.

And today (tonight) we would like to express the Alpha Sigma Alpha message of friendship.

Reader 1:

There must be someone, somewhere, who knows how to be a friend. Who knows life often is trying that even the strongest will bend. Who knows that passion is fleeting, that handclasp never dies, who knows that a mortal union must fade like the evening skies.

Reader 2:

There must be someone, somewhere, who knows how to be a friend. Who does not live for self alone but to the wish of another will bend. Who knows real living in loving, giving one's self for a cause. Who knows that the spirit of friendship is one of life's basic laws.

Reader 3:

And if there is such a someone, a someone who dare to so love. A someone who's purely unselfish, like the God in the heaven above. Let's give him a crown of glory, a message of Love to him send. For there's nothing as noble, as sweet, or as fine, as a man that you know is a friend.

Reader 4:

But where is such a one? Friendship is an art. It takes a very high degree of intelligence to be a friend. To understand another. To appreciate all of the emotions of another. To be able to analyze the cause of the emotions. To be tolerant of the causes, having discovered them.

Reader 5:

Truly, it is difficult to be a friend of another human being in this life. It is so difficult to quickly grasp the moods of another and put one's self in harmony with them.

Reader 6:

But friendship! Though it is an art, one of the very finest of human accomplishments, how many study the problem of how to be a friend?

Reader 7:

Indeed, friendship is an art; it deserves a high position in our consideration.

When you reach the very end of the road
And nothing seems worthwhile
Look high above, from the earth below
Friends are there to make you smile.

Just remember, one who gains a friend, gains a very precious thing.

The "Hymn to Alpha Sigma Alpha" may be sung at the end of the ceremony.