

CEREMONY

FOR

A

COUNCIL

OF

SORROW



**PROPERTY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL  
OF CRYPTIC MASONS  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

**REVISED JUNE 2003**

## COUNCIL OF SORROW

*{This Ceremony is to be used in each Constituent Council upon the death of a Companion or once a year to remember all who have died during the year.}*

### DEPUTY MASTER:

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER, OUR BAND OF WORKERS HAS BEEN LESSENERED AND A GAP HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE LOSS OF OUR FRIEND(S) AND COMPANION(S) (Name(s) Stated).

### ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER:

COMPANIONS! OUR NUMBERS HAVE AGAIN BEEN DECREASED BY THE LOSS OF THIS (THESE) FAITHFUL WORKER(S). COMPANION(S) (Name(s) Stated) HAS (HAVE) LAID DOWN HIS (THEIR) TOOLS FOR THE LAST TIME, AND HAS (HAVE) BEEN SUMMONED BEFORE THE SUPREME ARCHITECT, WHERE HIS (THEIR) WORKS SHALL BE JUDGED AND HIS (THEIR) ENTRANCE INTO ETERNITY COMPLETED. COMPANION PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK, WHAT EVIDENCE CAN YOU PROVIDE AS TO THE CHARACTER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIM (THEM)?

### PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK:

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER, COMPANION(S) (Name(s) Stated) WAS (WERE) GREETED IN THIS COUNCIL ON (Date(s) Given). HE (THEY) WAS (WERE) SUMMONED BY THE SUPREME ARCHITECT, THAT HE (THEY) MIGHT PRESENT HIS (THEIR) WORK FOR INSPECTION AND APPROVAL ON (Date(s) Given). HE (THEY) HAS (HAVE) LABORED MANY YEARS AND HAS (HAVE) WROUGHT GOOD WORK FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE WELFARE OF HUMANKIND.

### ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER:

COMPANION CHAPLAIN, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL, AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, DRAPE THE ALTAR IN MEMORY OF THIS (THESE) FAITHFUL WORKER(S).

*( Illustrious Master raises the Companions \*\*\* )*

*{ The Chaplain will proceed to the Center of the Altar on the West side. The Captain of the Guard will proceed to the left side of the Chaplain with the Black Altar Drape and the Conductor of the Council will proceed to the Chaplain's right side. The Conductor of the Council will remove the Bible and Great Lights of Masonry from the Altar. The Captain of the Guard will place the Black Altar Drape on the Altar. The Conductor of the Council will then replace Bible and Great Lights in Masonry on the Altar. The Chaplain will then kneel at the Altar for prayer, one of the Prayers that follow may be used. The Companions at this time are at the Sign of Fidelity! }*

## COUNCIL OF SORROW

### PRAYERS

#### COMPANION CHAPLAIN:

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE DO NOT KNOW NOR CAN WE TELL THE WORKINGS OF THY WILL AND WAY AS THEY AFFLICT AND AFFECT OUR LIVES. WE DO KNOW THAT IN THINE INFINITE WISDOM, IT HAS PLEASSED THEE TO SUMMON FROM OUR MIDST COMPANION(S) (Name(s) Stated) . WE PRAY THAT THOU WOULDST DEIGN TO BE WITH THOSE WHO MOURN HIS (THEIR) PASSING. GRANT UNTO THEM THE COMFORT OF THY WORD AND HOLY SPIRIT THAT THEY MIGHT BE ENABLED TO LOOK BEYOND THE DARKNESS OF THE LOSS WHICH THEY HAVE ENDURED AND BEHOLD THE BRIGHTNESS AND BEAUTY OF OUR HOPE IN IMMORTALITY. BE PRESENT IN OUR MIDST AS A COUNCIL, THAT THE WORK BEGUN BY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO LAY DOWN THE WORKING TOOLS OF LIFE, MAY BE CONTINUED BY EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. BLESS OUR FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AS COMPANIONS OF THE CRYPTIC RITE AND GUIDE US IN OUR SERVICE TO THE GLORY OF THY NAME AND THE BENEFIT OF HUMANKIND. AMEN.

OR

SUPREME ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, THOU KNOWEST WE ARE WEAK AND UNABLE TO STAND ALONE. OUR NUMBER HAS BEEN DIMINISHED WITH THE LOSS OF OUR FRIEND(S) AND COMPANION(S) (Names Stated) . THE WORK UPON WHICH HE (THEY) WAS (WERE) ENGAGED HAS BEEN LEFT FOR US TO COMPLETE. BE WITH US, WE BESEECH THEE, AND GUIDE US DAY-BY-DAY. GRANT US STRENGTH AND FAITHFULNESS, THAT THE WORK BEGUN MAY BE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED AND EACH OF US MAY DO THE BEST THAT LIES WITHIN US TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER AND BRIGHTER PLACE FOR ALL OF HUMANITY. SUSTAIN US BY THY LOVE, ENRICH US BY THY POWER, AND DIRECT US BY THY WORD. COMFORT THOSE WHO MOURN, PROVIDE HOPE FOR ALL WHO FEAR, AND DRAW US EVER CLOSER TO THEE AND TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND BROTHERLY LOVE. AMEN.

#### ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER:

COMPANION RECORDER, SET ASIDE A PAGE IN OUR MINUTES IN REMEMBRANCE OF THIS (THESE) FAITHFUL COMPANION(S).

*( The Illustrious Master will seat the Companions now. \* )*