



# Mother's Watch

This revision has been prepared under the authority and direction of DeMolay Canada by the Ritual Committee.

**FIRST EDITION**

**2022, DEMOLAY CANADA**



# THE MOTHER'S WATCH

*This short optional ceremony was adapted from the poem "The Mother Watch," by Edgar Guest, which is in the public domain.*

*Chapters may choose to add this poem into the Flower Talk, just before the line "If your mother is living, you will choose a red flower." With permission of the Executive Officer, Chapters may also choose to utilize this as a standalone ceremony.*

*Many of our members no longer live in a traditional family situation. The Mother's Watch presents a societal ideal that, for some, may never be a reality. Chapter Advisors should consider the life situation of each member before encouraging them to participate in it. Chapter Advisors are responsible to see that all members are instructed in its purpose and given the option to choose whether or not to participate.*

*Adaptation, under special circumstances, may be authorized by permission of the Executive Officer.*

*It is well to also consider the audience for which it will be performed. If the Mother's Watch is being presented as a standalone ceremony, prior to the start, the Chapter Advisor, or another Advisor, MAY use the following text to explain the purpose of the Mother's Watch to the recipients and audience members who may not have seen the ceremony previously.*

**Adv.** The Mother's Watch is an open ceremony that has been traditionally used following induction into the Order of DeMolay, at Installations, and other appropriate public functions to highlight the Virtue of Filial Love: love of parents and family. Through this virtue, we seek to emphasize that abiding devotion we bear to those who raised us from infancy, or who cared for us in our youth, whether they be a mother, father, relative, or other primary caregiver. This ceremony is not part of the required induction process, and participation is optional.

*Required Part: The Speaker: Spk. It is most effectively given by an Active DeMolay with a pleasing and mature voice and style of delivery.*

**Spk.** She never closed her eyes to sleep 'till we were all in bed,  
And on party nights 'till we come home she often sat and read.

We little thought about it then, for we were young they say,  
Just how much mama worried when we children were away.

We only knew she never slept, and when we were out at night,  
That she waited just to know we'd all come home all right.

For sometimes when we'd stay away till one or two or three,  
It seemed to us that mama heard the turning of the key.

For always when we'd step inside she'd call and we'd reply;  
But we were all too young back then to understand the reason why.

Until the last one had returned she'd always keep a light,  
For mama couldn't sleep until she kissed us all good night.

She had to know that we were safe before she went to rest,  
She seemed to fear that the world might harm the ones that she loved the best;

And once she said "when you are grown to women and to men,  
Perhaps I'll sleep the whole night through, I may be different then."

And so it seemed that night and day we knew a mother's care,  
That always when we got back home we'd find her waiting there.

Then came the night when we were called to gather 'round her bed  
"The children are all with you now," the kindly doctor said.

And in her eyes there gleamed again that old time tender light  
That told that she'd just been waiting to know we were all right.

She smiled that old familiar smile and prayed to God to keep  
Her children safe from harm throughout the years, and then she went to sleep.