



Tips for Chaplains

At investiture the Chaplain's duty is described in some ceremonies as being, *'... to offer up prayers and invocations to the G A O T U, as both in the opening and closing of the Lodge in each degree as well as in each of the ceremonies, the blessing of Heaven is invoked ...'*. Here are some tips to enhance that role:

1. Reciting the prayers and invocations requires a definite skill. Carefully learn and rehearse each of the passages – the 'scan' of these words is often different to other Masonic text. Take the time to insert commas / pauses at points so that reciting of words is appropriately paced.
2. It is appropriate for ease of understanding for Bible readings from the VSL to be from more recent transcriptions. The 'New International' version is good while the 'New Revised Standard' version is considered by some to be preferable.
3. The chaplain has the opportunity to make a presentation at the end of the third degree ceremony. Ensure this is planned and prepare in advance a few words which convey the meaning of the presentation. Note Collective Ruling #9 "Presentation of the Volume of the Sacred Law – The presentation should be made with a few suitable words. Long addresses should be avoided.
4. While brethren in all roles are encouraged to memorise their words, the Chaplains role is one where a brother with difficulty in doing this can read the passages. If this is the situation use a hard covered folder (as a choir might use) or alternatively a VSL – this appears more attractive than opening a 'blue' book.
5. If the Lodge has more than one VSL of different faiths open in the Lodge it is important that each VSL is treated with equal respect. The Chaplain should endeavour to ensure this is understood by the brethren, particularly by those who are involved in opening and closing of the VSL's.
6. Where more than one VSL is used they should always be placed side by side and one should never be placed on top of the other.

