

BABY DEDICATION ADAPTED FROM GRAND ASSEMBLY OF MAINE FOR R.I.

Music during ceremony: "Tradition" from Fiddler on The Roof or some other appropriate selection.

GWA: Sister of Grand Faith, you will please invite our Rainbow Majority Sisters to enter with their baby daughters for dedication.

(Sister of Grand Faith leaves her station, marches West and then South to the Outer Door where she will receive the mothers and their babies. She will lead them single file inside the door and along the West marching lane, toward the north, until they are in a straight line across the West with Faith on the North end. Faith will then cause the mothers to turn and face the East.)

GWA: WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, BABY DEAR?

GF: Out of the everywhere, into the here.

WA: WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE EYES OF BLUE?

GF: Out of the sky as I came through.

GWA: WHAT MAKES THE LIGHT IN THEM SPARKLE AND SPIN?

GF: Some of the starry spikes left in.

GWA: WHERE DID YOU GET THAT LITTLE TEAR?

GF: I found it waiting when I got here.

GWA: WHAT MAKES YOUR FOREHEAD SO SMOOTH AND HIGH?

GF: A soft hand stroked it as I went by.

GWA: WHAT MAKES YOUR CHEEK LIKE A WARM WHITE ROSE?

GF: I saw something better than anyone knows.

GWA: WHENCE THAT THREE CORNERED SMILE OF BLISS?

GF: Three angels gave me, at once, a kiss!

GWA: WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE PEARLY EARS?

GF: God spoke and they came out to hear.

GWA: WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE ARMS AND HANDS?

GF: Love made itself into bonds and bands.

GWA: FEET, WHENCE DID YOU COME, YOU DARLING THINGS?

GF: From the same box as the cherubs' wings.

GWA: HOW DID THEY ALL JUST COME TO BE YOU?

GF: God thought about me, and so I grew.

GWA: BUT HOW DID YOU COME TO RAINBOW, YOU DEAR?

GF: God thought about you and so I am here.

(Grand Faith will then conduct the mothers and their babies to the station of Grand Hope by marching down the North, across the East, and up the South until they are in front of Grand Hope's station. Grand Faith will be at the West end of the line and will cause them to face Grand Hope's station.)

GR. HOPE: When God wants a great work done in the world, or a great wrong righted,

He goes about it in a very unusual way.

He doesn't stir up His earthquakes or send forth His thunderbolts:

Instead, He has a simple baby born;

Perhaps in a simple home and of some obscure mother.

And then God puts the idea into the mother's heart

And she puts it into the baby's mind.

And then God waits.

The greatest forces in the world are not the earthquakes and the thunderbolts.

The greatest forces in the world are babies.

(Grand Faith conducts the mothers and babies to the station of the Grand Worthy Associate Advisor. They form a straight line back of Bow, facing West, with Grand Faith on the North end of the line.)

GWAA: You may give them your love, but not your thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls.

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them,

But seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children,
as living arrows, are sent forth.

(Grand Faith conducts the mothers and babies to the station of Grand Charity. They stand in a straight line, facing Grand Charity, with Grand Faith on the East end of the line.)

GR. Char: God borrows from many creatures to make a little girl.

He uses the song of the birds,

The squeal of a pig,

The stubbornness of a mule,

The antics of a monkey,

The spryness of a grasshopper,

The curiosity of a cat,

The speed of a gazelle,

The slyness of a fox,

The softness of a kitten,

And, to top it all off,

He adds the mysterious mind of a woman.

(Grand Faith conducts the mothers and babies from Grand Charity's station, across the East, up the South to Grand Hope's station. At Grand Hope's station, she turns into the bow area and stops the line in front of Grand Love. After each color station speaks, they pass the mother a ribbon of the color of the

station and Grand Faith steps along to the next station.)

GR. LOVE: Every home should have a daughter
For there's nothing like a girl
To keep the world around her
In one continuous whirl

GR. REL From the moment she arrives on earth,
And on through womanhood,
A daughter is a female
Who is seldom understood.....

GR. NAT: One minute she is laughing,
The next she starts to cry,
Man just can't understand her
And there's just no use to try.....

GR. IMM: She is soft and sweet and cuddly,
But she's also wise and smart.
She's a wondrous combination
Of a mind and brain and heart.....

GR. FID: And even in her baby days,
She's just a born coquette;
And anything she really wants,
She manages to get.....

GR. PAT: For even at a tender age
She uses all her wiles
And she can melt the hardest heart
With the sunshine of her smiles.....

GR. SER: She starts out as a rosebud,
With her beauty unrevealed,
And then through happy childhood
Her petals are unsealed.....

(After Grand Service speaks, Grand Faith conducts the mothers and babies down the North and across the East with a hairpin turn so that Grand Faith is at the North end of the line in front of the Grand Worthy Advisor.)

GWA: I wish these wishes, if I may,
To our Rainbow babies on their dedication day.
May you grow up strong and true,
As our own Rhode Island oceans blue.
With a face that lights and shines
Like the west wind in white pines,
May your disposition be
Like the sun glints on the sea.
Chickadees in rain or snow,
Or the beautiful violets that grow,
And, especially, do take care,
To grow up into the legend that you share,

Grow up, Rainbows, with the sun,
Grow up, our Rainbow Babies,
As Rhode Island Rainbow Girls you become.

GWA My Rainbow Majority Sisters and friends, as the Grand Worthy Advisor of Rhode Island, I thank you for bringing your baby daughters that we might dedicate them into the Rainbow tradition. I would like to present to you, at this time, their Rainbow Bibles with the hope that you will keep it for them until they reach the age of eleven and are initiated as active members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and will begin to carry on the organization which you have preserved for them. On the night that they are initiated, it is our desire that you present this Bible to them and tell them about the day they were dedicated to Rainbow.

(The Grand Worthy Advisor steps in front of the podium, followed by our Supremes. They present each baby with her Bible with the marker at Genesis 9, so that the mother may put the ribbons in. She then closes the book and passes it to the mother.)

(The GWA steps back to the podium and raps up the Assembly. The Grand Chaplain goes and kneels at the Altar.)

GR. CHAP: Lord, Bless all earth's "Little Things":

Fledglings with their untried wings,
Wooly lambs that frisk and play,
Timid squirrels that hide away,
Spotted fawns so smooth and swift,
Ducklings a soft yellow drift:
Owlets huddling all forlorn,
Feeble calves but newly born,
Tiny chipmunks running free,
Bear cubs romping merrily,
Rough young colts of gangling grace.
Bless them all, but turn Your face,
With special love and mercy's pearls,
To bless these precious baby girls. AMEN.

(GWA seats the Assembly and causes the mothers and babies to face the Assembly.)

GWA: We are happy to present little _____ and her mother, _____,
of _____ Assembly No. _____.

(GWA repeats this for each baby and her mother.)

GWA: Please join me in greeting these Rainbow Majority Sisters and their baby daughters with a hearty welcome.

GWA: Sister of Grand Faith, you will conduct these mothers and daughters from the Grand Assembly Room.

GWA: All present without credentials will please retire.