

CHARGE OF THE LADY PRECEPTRESS.

Associate, it is with feelings of gratification that I, as Lady Preceptress of this Chapter, do now welcome you to the exercise of the rights, duties and responsibilities of the Order. The Ladies' Order is founded on the historic circumstance that the Order of St. John in its palmy days included in its ranks, as it does to-day, not only the manly but the gentle sex. In the olden time this Branch was indeed highly esteemed, the society being of the conventual order, and restricted to Ladies of the noblest families of England, Portugal and Spain. In the modern Rite, the conventual features have been removed, the veil guarding against the intrusion of knighthood has been drawn aside, nobility of character has taken the place of nobility of blood, and the Order has been constituted upon the enduring basis of the Three Christian Graces. May you, as an Associate, ever contribute to the manifestation of those virtues, which like a coronet encircle and adorn the character both of the Lady and the Knight.

I will now instruct you in the secret mysteries and customs of the Order.

The Annual password is this
It is changed on the day of