



**Your Son...  
and DeMolay**

## YOUR SON AND DEMOLAY

This booklet is produced for both parents of DeMolays and non-DeMolays. Its purpose is to inform the general public what a young man will derive from DeMolay membership. This booklet will also clear up many misconceptions regarding qualifications for membership and the purposes of the Order. The booklet was prepared by compiling some of the most frequently asked questions. If you have any further questions or comments, we would be most happy to entertain those.

### WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF DEMOLAY?

The purposes are many. For one thing, the Order does far more than just keep a young man busy. DeMolay has carefully planned activities, planned by the members themselves—things they really enjoy doing. Great emphasis is placed on serving other people. We have no special charity; rather, we strive to help all in need. Whether it's cleaning up a park or taking a food basket to people less fortunate, the privilege of serving is our reward. . . and what could be more rewarding than to help make a child's Christmas happy. . . or visit a nursing home and see a forgotten face light up because they know someone cares. And DeMolays do these things because they want to. . . because it's just their way of life.



### WHY DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER BROTHER?

DeMolay teaches brotherhood. We feel that we must treat each other as brothers in everything we say and do.

All DeMolays make a promise; a promise that he will lay down his life for another member, if need be, like a brother. . . like a DeMolay.

It's a magic bond that develops among DeMolays; a feeling that they can tell each other anything; can rely on each other; can help with the other brothers' problems. As with so many young men of this age, being able to just "get it off their chest" is half the battle. And what better person is there to discuss them with than your brother?

## **WILL IT INTERFERE WITH HIS SCHOOL WORK?**

On the contrary, in DeMolay we teach that our country's greatness depends on our public schools. A DeMolay meeting is never opened until the school books are on our altar. We stress the importance of high scholastic goals.

## **AT YOUR ALTAR, TO WHOM DO YOU PRAY?**

We pray to God. We ask His blessings on the meetings. We ask for His guidance, His understanding. We thank Him for what we have: our schools, our great country, the freedom we enjoy and, of course, our loving parents.

## **I'VE HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT RITUAL. . . WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

Our ritual is the basis of our Order. It's what sets DeMolay apart from every other organization.

This ritual remains virtually unchanged after nearly sixty years.

The ritual is the source of our initiations. The first section imparts in a young man's mind the importance of clean and manly living. It explains the necessity of honesty, loyalty and love of the world around him.

The second part of the initiation is like a thrilling drama. This production is presented by the members for the candidate. This play depicts the final days of our namesake, Jacques DeMolay, who chose to give up his life rather than betray his followers. From this example, we learn the importance of loyalty, courage and brotherly love.

The initiation is a ceremony of great dignity; care is taken to make a lasting impression on the new member.

Our initiations, unlike those of some organizations, are serious, hard-hitting, designed to inform and enlighten the candidate rather than embarrass him.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE SYMBOLISM?**

We use certain symbols to remind us of various things. Flowers are used during some ceremonies to remind us of our mother's love. Candles stand for the seven cardinal virtues. None of our symbols have any mystical meaning—none are even secret. These things serve as reminders of what we stand for. They tend to add dignity and impact to our ceremonies. Who can observe the purity of a candle flame, or see a flower, or watch a young man kneel in prayer and not feel closer to his God?

## **WHAT ABOUT RELIGION?**

We feel a DeMolay's religious beliefs are his personal business. We do not discuss religion in meetings, nor do we try to influence a young man toward any particular religion. We do, however, encourage regular church attendance. All DeMolays must profess a belief in one living God prior to their admission.



Young men of every faith are members, whether they be Catholic, Jewish or Protestant, for we feel each religion has its strong points and a young man's decision must be his own toward a particular religion.

### WHO WILL MY SON ASSOCIATE WITH AS A MEMBER?

Your son will be involved with other young men from all walks of life—from every financial background. These young men have one thing in common—the magic spirit of brotherhood and this spirit knows no barriers. The young men are dedicated to living lives based on pride, brotherly love and service to others.



### WHAT IS THE STATE ORGANIZATION?

The Order of DeMolay is a non-profit organization that administers DeMolay in the state.

The state is under the direction of the Executive Officer. This man is an Active Member of the International Supreme Council, the international governing body.

His local representatives are District Deputies who help keep him in touch with chapter affairs. His staff also includes several directors who administer the organization. Each of these men is chosen for his particular talent. They come from all walks of life and donate their time to help your son get the very most from his DeMolay career. Remember:

**DEMOLAY HAS NO PAID STAFF . . .**  
rather, hard-working, dedicated individuals who deem it a privilege to serve the Order.

### WHO ARE THE LOCAL LEADERS?

Every DeMolay chapter is sponsored by a group of dedicated members of the Masonic fraternity. These men form an Advisory Council or Board. The Board selects a Chairman to preside over their meetings. One man is named to be Chapter Advisor or Dad. His job is to work directly with the chapter members. The Chapter Dad is carefully selected because of his ability to work with young men and true desire to serve.

The importance of the Chapter Dad's role cannot be emphasized enough. This man is totally dedicated to young people. He realizes that the future of the world will soon be in these young men's hands.

### **WHY IS HE CALLED "DAD"?**

When DeMolay was founded in 1919 its founder, Frank Sherman Land, wanted its adult leaders to have a title that both conveyed respect and encouraged a close personal relationship. He chose the title "Dad" because it was less formal than Mr., yet more formal than a first-name basis.

The Chapter Dad does not attempt to take the place of the young man's real father but rather to be someone outside the family that the member can trust and relate to in complete confidence.

### **IS THE ORGANIZATION A JUNIOR MASONIC ORDER?**

No. While the organization is sponsored and administered by Masons, the organization is not used as a Masonic recruiting station. True, many ideals of the organizations parallel each other; i.e., morals, honesty, brotherly love, but these are things every good man should live by—be he a Mason or a non-Mason.

### **WHAT ABOUT MORALS?**

When a young man takes his vows as a DeMolay, he promises to conduct his life with a dedication to the highest moral principles.

He is pledged to live a clean and moral life. We encourage service and good deeds. Foul language or unclean acts have no place in a DeMolay's life. We stress a love of God—a sense of pride.

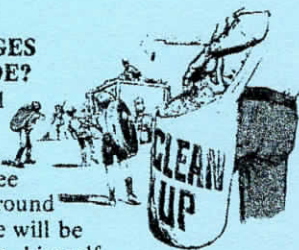
### **CAN I EXPECT CHANGES IN MY SON'S ATTITUDE?**

Yes, if your son will let DeMolay enter his life, you will notice his confidence increase, see him be more at ease around people. In DeMolay, he will be encouraged to express himself, to speak before groups. He will learn toleration, respect for others.

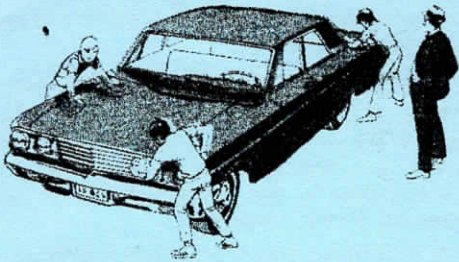
He will be taught that brotherly love, self-respect, and unquestioned honesty are important ingredients in the development of his character.

He will learn to be proud of his actions and to do things to make the Order and society proud of him.

He will be taught the importance of enthusiasm; how tasks are easier when faced as challenges.



Best of all, he will be encouraged to be excited and enthused about life and to treat each day as a gift from God.



### WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A PARENT

1. Encourage your son to attend all DeMolay events, whether it be a stated meeting or a car wash.
2. Show real interest in his membership. Express your enthusiasm, ask him questions. Encourage him to take an active part in the chapter.
3. Make DeMolay a family affair. Most chapters have a Mothers' Club. Get involved! You'll meet some great gals and make lasting friendships.
4. Don't be afraid to call your son's Chapter Dad and discuss any problems your son may be having. He'll be glad to help in any way he can.

### THE SEARCH

Young people today are searching more than ever before; searching for a real meaning in life; a sense of direction. Doesn't life seem so much more complicated now than when we were growing up?

Young men **find** themselves in DeMolay. You can expect your son to stand a little taller, walk a little prouder, as a DeMolay.