

# C A N D L E · L I G H T I N G R I T U A L

We see great scholars and teachers—men whose aspirations still shine brightly down through the long dim corridor of the Past.

We see the halls of Alma Mater thrice emptied that the ranks of our country's armies might be filled.

We behold her inspiring progress and see her take a place of leadership in every field of research and academic thought, with standards of character and of scholarship which never falter, but ever reflect the high ideals of those brave pioneers who founded our institution upon sincerity and truth.

OFFICIANT—So has it been! Still shines the light from the torch handed down by those who have gone before us. Its flame is undimmed, its glory undiminished; with the passing years it burns more brightly. Let us now listen to the voice of the Present.

*(A designated person here lights a taper at the candle of the Past and with it lights the second candle, saying:)*

THE PRESENT—I light the candle of the Present and in its beams we see the greater Northwestern of today, with its two beautiful campuses stretched along the lake front. We behold new structures rising; we see a great staff of teachers, men and women whose names are known in halls of culture throughout the world; we see a student body whose numbers are in the thousands, bright-eyed and eager—our leaders of tomorrow. We behold our Alma Mater moving forward upon every front of educational and social need, unveiling truth, developing citizenship, a creative force in the great commonwealth of mind and spirit. Inheritor of the dreams and sacrifices of those who labored in the past, she is ever faithful to her trust.

OFFICIANT—So it is now! The darkness of the future is pierced by the shining hopes and burning enthusiasms of Northwestern men and women, who know that when they are gone the light of Alma Mater will still be as a beacon upon a hill. Let us now listen to the voice of the Future.

*(A designated person here lights his taper at the candle of the present and lights the third candle, saying:)*

THE FUTURE—I light the candle of the future and in its beams we behold the Northwestern that is to be. We see rich harvests from the seed planted by the laborers in our illustrious past. We see their adventurous hopes fulfilled; their daring dreams becoming actualities; their prophecies accomplished.

We see even greater fields of service, new buildings enshrining the old ideals, new teachers carrying forward the torch of learning with the old and never dying spirit of unselfish purpose. We see new students pushing back still further the frontiers of learning, of research and invention.