



First District Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Lecture – The OES White Veil: Its Significance Connected to Christmas and the Birth of Jesus

When we consider the white veil within the Order of the Eastern Star we most often identify with its symbolism of purity, humility, innocence, and sacred purpose. It is most clearly connected to the heroine Adah, the first Star Point. But as we enter the Christmas season—celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ—this symbolism as we know it takes on an even deeper and more beautiful meaning.

1. The White Veil and the Purity of Christ’s Birth

The white veil first symbolizes purity, and at Christmas we are reminded of the pure, divine nature of the birth of Jesus. Mary, a young woman of humble spirit and an obedient heart, was chosen to bring forth the Savior because of her purity of purpose and willingness to submit to God’s will.

In OES when a Sister dons the white veil, she mirrors that same spirit of readiness and purity. The veil becomes a reminder of Mary’s faithful “yes” to God—and our own call to live with clean motives, pure intentions, and loving hearts open to divine guidance.

2. The White Veil as a Symbol of Sacred Covering

Throughout the Bible the Scripture tells of veils being worn during sacred moments as a sign of innocence. At Christmas, we reflect on how Christ—God in the flesh—came into the world covered in humility, wrapped in swaddling clothes, born in a manger.

Just as the white veil in OES symbolizes purity and innocence, Christ Himself came as a sacred gift wrapped in innocence. The white veil reminds us that some things are holy, and require us to approach them with quietness, humility, and the same posture we take as we reflect on the miracle of Christmas.

3. The White Veil and the Light of the Star of Bethlehem

The white veil also symbolizes illumination, spiritual clarity, and truth. At the Nativity, God used a star, the Star of Bethlehem to be precise to guide the wise men from Jerusalem to come worship the newborn King, Jesus.

In OES, the white veil represents the preparation of our heart to receive spiritual light. During Christmas, that light is Christ Himself—the Light of the World. As the white veil rests upon us, it becomes a reminder to seek the Light, to follow the Light, and to reflect the Light of Jesus in everything you do.

4. A Sign of Humility and Service

Jesus was born not into luxury, but into simplicity. His birth teaches us humility and the importance of serving others with love and kindness. Likewise, the white veil represents a Sister’s willingness to:

- ✦ Serve without seeking recognition
- ✦ Love without limits
- ✦ Give without expecting anything in return

This spirit of service is at the heart of Christmas and at the heart of this Order.

5. Unity and Sisterhood—A Christmas Message

Christmas invites families and communities to come together in unity, peace, and love. When Sisters wear the white veil collectively, it becomes a powerful symbol of spiritual unity and shared devotion—just as the angels proclaimed, “peace on earth and goodwill toward all.”

The white veil reminds us that during this season, and throughout the year, we are called to build unity, extend grace, and embrace one another in love.

Closing Reflection

As we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the white veil in OES shines with a deeper meaning. It symbolizes:

- ✦ Purity like that of Mary’s heart
- ✦ Sacred covering like the swaddling clothes that wrapped the newborn King Jesus
- ✦ Light like the Star of Bethlehem
- ✦ Humility like the manger where Jesus laid
- ✦ Unity like the angels’ message of peace

Each time we cover our face with the white veil, we are reminded not only of our duties within the Order, the purity of its purpose, our fidelity to sacred obligations, the honor of our womanhood, and the moral courage demonstrated in the life of the heroine Adah.

It also represents each member’s commitment to truth, virtue, and steadfast devotion. But most importantly, it reminds us of the greatest gift ever given—the birth of our Savior, King Jesus.

Season’s Greetings!

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season filled with peace, rest, and celebration. Thank you for your attention to my lecture today, and may the New Year bring growth, success, and abundant blessings to you all.

Fraternally,

Sister Monica Michelle Smith

Grand Assistant Lecturer

Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A.