

WITHIN THE ROSE GARDEN.
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To welcome affiliates. Guests should be introduced and escorted to position in semi-circle within the labyrinth.

Welcome speech for Worthy Matron:

Sisters and Brothers, we are very happy to welcome you as members of our Chapter. We have enjoyed your visits and have longed for the time when you would be numbered with us. We feel sure that since the time when you first assumed the Obligation of our Order, you have taken a personal pride in upholding it's principles. We want you to feel at home with us for it is only by entering into our activities that you will enjoy to the fullest the many things which our Chapter holds for you. We want you to feel very much at home as we walk side by side through the years which are to come. It is with much pride and joy that we throw open the doors of our Chapter to you.

We welcome you into our garden, Friends,
To see how our flowers grow,
In beauty you'll find them blooming there,
Where the gentle breezes blow.

We hope you'll enjoy our garden, Friends,
We have planned it just for you,
The violets, the jessamine, and lilies white,
With the fern and the roses too.

We have gathered some roses for you, dear Friends,
For they speak of our love so true,
In memory they'll stay just as fresh as they are,
For we gathered them just for you.

You will find each petal so perfect in form,
And tinted with colors rare,
For the message they carry will come from friends,
Who are willing your burdens to share.

Our gates are opened for you, dear Friends,
We are happy to share with you,
The roses that grow, and the joys that they bring,
And our love, fraternal and true.

Adah takes position west of Altar, facing guests. Star points carry roses.

Adah: The roses that grew in our garden we know,
Are the sweetest that ever grew,
So we gathered them from our garden today,
So we could give them to you;
The blue sky above and the green earth below,
Have added their beauty to these,
For they nodded their heads in response to our call,
As they waved in the soft gentle breeze.

Ruth takes position west of Altar, facing guests. As each Star point takes position west of Altar, other Star points step to position at right to form semicircle facing guests.

Ruth: The roses I gathered were kissed by the dew,
And were given a fragrance sweet,
So we gathered them just to give them to you,
That your joys may be made complete;
Their memory will always be fresh in your mind,
And as calm as the sunset glow,
And the welcome we bring to you will be,
So constant and true we know.

Esther takes position west of Altar.

Esther: The drops of dew to my roses cling
Like beads that are crystal clear,
And we want them to stay just as fresh as they are,
For you, our friends so dear;
They will bring to you-our words of love,
And our welcome which is so true,
And we want them to be at their very best,
When we give them to friends like you.

Martha takes position west of Altar.

Martha: The roses that grow in our garden today,
Look lovely among the ferns,
And their beauty as they are blooming there,
Are the things for which life yearns;
So perfect in form, they give us faith,
In God's great earthly plan,
For His hand alone can make this earth,
A garden of love for man.

Electa takes position west of Altar.

Electa: Each rose that we give you will speak words of truth,
And will carry our message of love,
They will bring you a message of peace and of joy,
That will come from the Father above;
We hope you will listen to each word of cheer,
That will come from their bright crimson hue,
For the welcome we bring is the greatest of all,
Because it is meant just for you.

Star points complete the semicircle west of Altar in front of guests. Associate Matron or Marshal passes in front of Star points and gathers the roses from each Star point. She then presents them to guests as follows:

The gates of our garden are opened so wide,
Just to let all our friends come on through;
And of course there will always be plenty of room,
For all our good friends just like you;
So here are the roses we've gathered today,
And we hope they will bring you much cheer,
For each one is filled with our friendship and love,
That will last through each coming year.

The number of roses each Star point carries is determined by the number of guests.

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