

Farewell Ceremony

Reason for change

Addition — This new ceremony is for closing a Bethel or when members are joining another Bethel.

Proposed Changes

Farewell Ceremony – Closing or Moving of a Bethel

This ceremony is intended for a special Closed or Open meeting (as approved) to honor a Bethel at its closing or as members move to another Bethel. It would be appropriate to invite Majority Members, Past Honored Queens or friends of the Bethel.

Preparation of Bethel room:

- *Bethel Room is set up as per Ritual.*
- *National Emblem and Bethel Flag in the East.*
- *Lights softened if possible.*
- *Appropriate music selected by the Director of Music (optional instrumental background).*
- *If needed, positions can be filled by MM or Daughters from other Bethels.*

The Bethel is assumed to be open prior to this ceremony according to the Ritual.

BETHEL GUARDIAN: We have assembled here to bring a close to Bethel No. _____ , _____ [location], _____ [State] of Job's Daughters International.

We pause not in sadness, but in gratitude for the memories created and the lasting impact this Bethel has had on each of us. A Bethel is more than a name or a number. It is a place where lessons are taught, friendships are formed, faith is strengthened, and young women are guided in the paths of patience, truth, and love.

Entrance

Officers may enter by following Guide and Marshal in marching pattern around the room – and dropping off as they would similar to regular meeting. Director of Music can play song of her choice and there is no need to stop in the East to introduce the Honored Queen.

BETHEL GUARDIAN:

Optional – Insert write up of Bethel History. Ideas of what to include:

- *When was Bethel instituted, where did Bethel meetings take place*
- *Changes in meeting locations, days of the week, commencement time*
- *Activities enjoyed over the years. Note popular activities through the decades.*
- *How did fundraising efforts change over the years?*
- *When was the peak membership of the Bethel?*

Following many years of declining membership, we come together to lovingly retire the emblems, capes and crowns and Charter that have served as a cornerstone of Job's Daughters International and Bethel No. _____, _____ [Location].

Before proceeding with our ceremony, we will ask for a blessing from above.

CHAPLAIN: Father, we humbly give thanks for the many blessings shared within this Bethel. We are grateful for the hands that served, the voices that sang, the hearts that learned, and the friendships that endured. May the light kindled here never be extinguished in the lives of its Daughters. Guide each one as she moves forward, strengthened by the lessons learned in this Holy Place and inspired to live with integrity, compassion, and purpose. Bless the parents, guardians, and all who so willingly gave of themselves in service and love. May we always remember the mission and ideals of Job's Daughters wherever these lessons are carried forward. Amen.

BETHEL GUARDIAN: It is now my pleasure to introduce the Honored Queen of Bethel No _____, _____ [location], _____ , [name] who will preside over the remainder of the ceremony. The Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian descend the dais, turn left on the East Line and proceed side by side to their stations on the South Sideline and are seated.

HONORED QUEEN: Job's Daughters International provides an obligation which is a precept for guidance as we journey through life. Our organization is reflected in how we live our promises each day. If we live it with sincerity and truth, ever striving to attain perfection in its ideals or fraternity, then the name of Job's Daughters is exalted and glorified. In taking our obligation, we make a solemn pledge, not only to God, but to our better selves. Let us always bear in mind that each Daughter is a living symbol of these exalted principles and should conduct herself in such a manner that will reflect credit to our beautiful organization.

Job's Daughters aims to provide a well-rounded experience for its members in all facets of life. This better prepares us for handling the situations and decisions that await all of us for the rest of our lives. Throughout our time in this Bethel, we have had a lot of fun and held many activities which gave us a chance to develop long-lasting friendships. Together, we have shared the excitement of growing up and many special moments. But most importantly, we share a special love for one another that is fostered by the close bond that Job's Daughters offers to each one of us. It's a distinctive opportunity and it's one that our members will cherish forever.

Our emblems and symbols hold special meaning for us. They show that we are inspired to love God, our country and all the world. We are an integral part of the Masonic family, and we thank everyone in attendance for the support that you have given to our Bethel.

JUNIOR CUSTODIAN: *Junior Custodian picks up Dove from the pedestal. I am holding the white Dove, which teaches us peace, thoughtfulness and love as reflected in the life of Job. He thought not of himself, but of giving to others a helping hand when needed. Junior Custodian takes Dove and using the East Line and South Marching Line, walks to her place one step south of the Treasurer's chair, facing the Altar.*

As Junior Custodian reaches the South Marching Line and turns in at the Treasurer's chair, FIRST MESSENGER and SECOND MESSENGER stand in front of their seats and turn toward the Altar.

SENIOR CUSTODIAN: *Senior Custodian picks up Urn of Incense. I am holding the Urn of Incense, which gives us the light of courage. The Urn reminds us to have faith in God, as Job did during his trials. Senior Custodian takes Urn and using the East Line and North Marching Line, walks to her place one step north of the Chaplain's chair, facing the Altar.*

As Senior Custodian reaches the marching line and turns in at the Chaplain's chair, CHAPLAIN moves to the side of the Altar, facing East; and THIRD MESSENGER and FOURTH MESSENGER stand in front of their seats and turn toward the Altar.

LIBRARIAN: *Librarian uses the East Line to approach the Honored Queen, she receives the Lily of the Valley from the Honored Queen; turns and faces West. The emblematic flower of our organization is the Lily of the Valley which teaches us that beauty beams from strength, persistence can lead to growth, and friendship can be found in unexpected places. This symbolic flower, the Lily of the Valley, is meant to be a reminder of our organization's motto, "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman."*

The Librarian turns right on the East Line, turns left on the North Marching Line, and turns at a point halfway between the Chaplain's chair and East Line, turns and faces West. As the Librarian turns on the North Marching Line, FIFTH MESSENGER stands in front of their seat, facing the Altar.

RECORDER: *Recorder uses the East Line to approach the Honored Queen, she receives the Horn of Plenty from the Honored Queen; turns and faces West. The emblem of the Third Epoch, the cornucopia, means plenty or abundance. After Job's tribulations, God rewarded him with great riches and a long life of happiness.*

The Recorder turns left on the East Line, turns right on the South Marching Line, and turns at a point halfway between the Treasurer's chair and East Line, turns and faces West.

GUIDE: *Guide uses the marching lines and retrieves the Bethel flag from its holder in the East. She stands on the East Line in front of the Junior Princess, facing West. (Holding out the Job's Daughters' flag.) Our flag shows the emblem of our organization. The three corners of the triangle remind us of the three main teachings of Job's Daughters -*

the love of God, love of country, and love of home. The Honored Queen, Senior Princess and Junior Princess remind us of the three Daughters of Job. Our colors are purple and white: purple representing the royalty of womanhood, and white symbolizing integrity, strength and grace.

The Guide turns left on the East Line and stops at the intersection/corner of the East Line and South Marching Line.

MARSHAL: *Marshal uses the marching lines and retrieves the [country] flag from its holder in the East. She stands on the East Line in front of the Senior Princess, facing West.*

(Holding out the [country] flag.) One of the primary lessons of Job's Daughters is respect for our country, its laws, those who have made possible the wonderful freedoms we enjoy today, and respect for our flag - the symbol of our great nation. Throughout our lives, this lesson becomes the binding thread that holds the very fabric of our values together.

The Marshal turns right on the East Line and stops at the intersection/corner of the East Line and North Marching Line.

JUNIOR PRINCESS: *Junior Princess rises at her station.* **My station is to remind you of the lessons of the First Epoch. Remember always to be patient and diligent in your work, and as Job endeavored to teach his children of the power of prayer, may you also continue being useful instruments in conveying God's love and peace.**

Junior Princess removes her cape and crown and descends dais to East Marching Line in front of her station in the East.

SENIOR PRINCESS: *Senior Princess rises at her station.* **My station symbolizes the important lessons of the Second Epoch, the story of Job's anguish and suffering, and the final triumph of his dedication to his Creator. If you ever begin to doubt that there is a Supreme Being, study the soft colors of the sunrise or the fragrant beauty of a rose, and your faith will be renewed.**

Senior Princess removes her cape and crown and descends dais to East Marching Line in front of her station in the East.

HONORED QUEEN: *Honored Queen rises at her station.* **Our time within these walls is drawing to a close, and the moments we have shared will rest in memory. To every Daughter who ever wore a white robe, to every parent, guardian, Mason, and supporter, we offer our deepest thanks. May the friendships formed here remain unbroken, may the lessons learned remain unwavering, and may the spirit of Job's Daughters continue to guide us all.**

As we go forward, remember the Book of Job, Chapter 42, Verse 15: "In all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren."

Honored Queen removes her cape and crown and descends dais to East Marching Line in front of her station in the East.

CHAPLAIN: Chaplain attends at the Altar and assumes the attitude of prayer. On our Altar is a precious possession, the open Book of Holy Scriptures. It is a symbol of our faith and courage and reminds us of the patience of Job. It is a rule and guide for our journey through life. Throughout history, people have looked to God for guidance. We find that guidance in this Book of Holy Scriptures.

HONORED QUEEN: As we close our farewell, let us ask the blessing of our Heavenly Father. All in attendance will please rise.

CHAPLAIN: Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for Job's Daughters International. Ever keep us mindful of the valuable lessons of our organization so that we may always be "The Fairest in the Land". We ask for Your blessing on those who are present here today. May the beauty of our beloved organization shine in their hearts. Instill in us the patience and faith of Job as we depart here to go our various ways. Guide us all in a life that better serves You. Amen.

Chaplain reverently picks up the Bible and remains at the Altar holding it, facing West.

Bethel Guardian and Grand/Jurisdictional Guardian rise from their seats. Bethel Guardian takes Charter from Guardian Secretary's desk and enters the semi-circle between the stations of the Treasurer and First Messenger. Grand/Jurisdictional Guardian enters the semi-circle between the stations of the Chaplain and Third Messenger. Once in place, the Bethel Guardian hands the Charter to the Grand Guardian.

GRAND/JURISDICTIONAL GUARDIAN: All will please join in the Mizpah Benediction: "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another."
The Bethel Guardian and Grand/Jurisdictional Guardian return to their seats.

HONORED QUEEN: Though this Bethel may close, its light continues in each of us. This concludes our Farewell Ceremony. (*) All present will be seated except those taking part in the Closing Ceremony.

Retiring March same as per Ritual using one of the Closing Formations.

Submitted by:

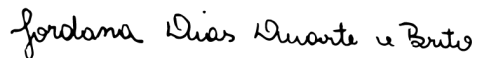
Amber Vipond, PHQ, PGG, Ritual Revision Co-Chair



Marcy Jaqua, GG, Ritual Revision Co-Chair



Jordana Brito, PHQ, PBG



Bonnie Conner, PHQ, PBG



Mariana Cota, PHQ



Sandra Dorr, PHQ, BG



Heather Havens, PHQ, GG



Kori Radloff, PGG, PBG, BG



Jackie Tomacmol, PHQ, PGG

