

OBLIGATION CEREMONY

The Obligation Ceremony may be given at a regular Bethel meeting or for an exemplification. If given for an exemplification, a Special Dispensation to exemplify the ritualistic work for adult bodies must be requested (see SI No. 6, 4 [b]). Only those entitled to attend a Bethel meeting may be present.

If the ceremony is given at a regular Bethel meeting it would follow the Report on Ballot of Petitions in place of the Ceremony of Initiation (see Ritual p. 61). The Inner and Outer Guard do not take part in the ceremony.

If the Ceremony is given for an exemplification it would follow the Opening Ceremony (see Ritual p. 48). All business, Escort, Introductions and Honors may be omitted at the discretion of the Executive members of the BGC and only the Opening, Obligation Ceremony and Closing Ceremonies exemplified (see C-BETHEL Art XII Sect 3 [a] [1]-[2]). The Outer Guard remains outside the closed Ante room door.

The Bethel shall be set-up in regular manner as per Ritual

If Obligation Ceremony
Is given for Exemplification:
**HONORED QUEEN: Recorder (rises), you will
read the Special Dispensation.**
Recorder reads the Special Dispensation,
then is seated.
HQ sounds **ONE RAP of the gavel** [*].

HONORED QUEEN: Obligation Ceremony.

The Outer Guard takes her station outside the Ante room door.

HONORED QUEEN: Job's Daughters International provides an Obligation which is a precept for guidance as we journey through life ... and a goal with which to measure our attainments. Our Organization is judged by the manner in which its members exemplify their sacred promise. If we live it with sincerity and truth, ever striving to attain perfection in its ideal 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 Order.

HONORED QUEEN: The Bethel Officers, Bethel Choir and members taking part in the Obligation Ceremony will please rise. The Bethel Choir and members will please step to the sidelines. Guide (rises) and Marshal (rises), you will cause the members on the sidelines and Bethel Choir to form a circle around the Messengers' semicircle and Altar.

See Diagram #76: Honored Queen, Princesses, Recorder, Custodians, and Librarian form east half of circle. NOTE: Chaplain does not take a position in the circle, and the Inner and Outer Guard do not take part in ceremony. Treasurer, First, Second, Third and Fourth Messengers turn and march two steps out from their stations while Fifth Messenger marches around the north side of station and stands behind chair. Guide, Marshal, members on sidelines and Bethel Choir form west half of circle. Guide and Marshal step down to West Line. Marshal marches on West Line to North Marching Line, turns

right, marches on North Marching Line to Altar Line, turn towards Altar and retraces steps forming northwest portion of circle. Bethel Choir and members on the North Marching Line follow Marshal (choir members follow first) and complete northwest portion of circle falling in between Chaplain, Second, Fourth and Fifth Messengers. Guide marches on West Line to South Marching Line, (followed by the Inner Guard), turns left, marches on South Marching Line to Altar Line, turns towards Altar and retraces steps forming southwest portion of circle. Members on South Marching Line follow Guide and complete northwest portion of circle by falling in Between Treasurer, First, Second and Fifth Messengers. Guide and Marshal position themselves either side of Fifth Messenger on West Line.

When all are in circle formation, Chaplin attends at Altar as per Ritual.

Altar music: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (may be sung),

When Chaplain is at Altar and music has stopped, ALL kneel with Chaplain and assume attitude of prayer, but do NOT bow heads.

HONORED QUEEN: Daughters, you will repeat the Obligation.

(Proficiency Lessons No. 1)

ALL Daughters repeat the Obligation.

ALL Daughters Sing: "Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this vow. Amen," while Chaplain and Daughters are still kneeling.

Musician plays chord for all to rise. Altar music: "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Chaplain returns to station and remains standing.

March Music.

All Officers whose stations are in the East, turn inward and return to their respective stations and remain standing. Treasurer and Messengers turn and take two steps back to position in front of stations and remain standing. Guide and Marshal (on West Line) turn towards each other. Marshal turns north and marches (behind Bethel Choir and members) to North Marching Line. Bethel Choir and members follow. Guide turns south and marches (behind members) to South Marching Line. Members follow. Guide and Marshal march to Altar Line and remain at Waiting Stations until Bethel Choir and members have returned to seats (remain standing) after which Guide and Marshal return to stations.

HQ sounds **ONE RAP of gavel [*]** when all are at stations or seats.

Honored Queen is seated.

FIRST MESSENGER: (rises and stands in front of station)

As I knelt before the Altar and renewed my sacred vow,

I love the Lord, my God, with all my heart,

Seemingly more impressive than ever, somehow

Giving me true faith that naught can dismay

And giving me God's love, to lead the way.

First Messenger is seated.

SECOND MESSENGER: (rises and stands in front of station)

I vow to be true and justly do

All in my power and with all my might,

To uphold the laws of my country and be ever mindful of its flag.

That I will never falter in pledging Allegiance to the greatest Emblem in all the land.

The Red, White and Blue, waving to bid us, be brave, pure and true.

Second Messenger is seated.

THIRD MESSENGER: (rises and stands in front of station)

To honor my parents and guardians in thought, word and deed,

For God says “Honor Thy Father and Mother” and these words I heed,

For if I accept His way, His commandments I must always obey.

Third Messenger is seated.

FOURTH MESSENGER: (rises and stands in front of station)

In observing the rules of Job’s Daughters, I vowed I would never stray

From the laws so binding to our Bethel in every little way.

For the stern law which bids us know

We must progress, not backwards go.

Fourth Messenger is seated.

FIFTH MESSENGER: (rises and stands in front of station)

Commend me to the friend that protects my name

And does not permit another by impure act, to cast a stain;

Commend me to that generous heart, whose friendship does not fade away.

But reflects virtue, majestic, like the sun at the close of a beautiful day.

Fifth Messenger is seated.

MARSHAL: (rises)

We are building, day by day;

The deeds we do will reflect on our character,

So let us build strong, for we are Job’s Daughters true.

Marshal is seated.

GUIDE: (rises)

We are beginning our journey of life,

Guided by the lessons here taught

To hold high our aim and name,

That we will be a credit to ourselves and to our beautiful order.

Guide is seated.

JUNIOR PRINCESS: (rises)

Nothing is gained without effort, so whatever we do,

Let us do it with earnestness of purpose and fixing our eyes on the mountain top.

With patience and steadfast perseverance, we will attain success.

Junior Princess is seated.

SENIOR PRINCESS: (rises)

**Each one must stand in the court of life and pass through the hour of trial.
We shall be tested by the rules of strife and tried for our self-denial.
So let us keep our faith in God above, meet trouble and swiftly rout it,
For faith is the strength of the soul inside and you must never doubt it.**

Senior Princess is seated.

HONORED QUEEN: (rises)

Let us hold fast these lessons of life, beautiful, impressive and true. Being gracious, upright, remaining steadfast always and your reward will come to you. Value friendship, keep the faith, act with honor-and we will be known throughout the land as “True Daughters of Job.”

ALL daughters sing: *“Behold We Are The Daughters of Job.”*

HONORED QUEEN: Let us unite in prayer. Chaplain (rises), you will attend at the Altar.

HQ sounds **THREE RAPS** of gavel [***].

Chaplain attends at Altar as per Ritual.

Altar music: “Holy, Holy, Holy” (may be sung)

CHAPLAIN: Our Father, which art in heaven, renew in our hearts this Obligations to each other and to Thee. Help us to practice it in our lives and to teach it in the true spirit. Help us each day to do something for the good of mankind and for Thine Honor and glory. For Thy name’s sake. Amen

Chaplain returns to station as per Ritual.

Altar music.

HQ Sounds **ONE RAP** of gavel [*].

HONORED QUEEN: This completes the Obligation Ceremony.

HQ Sounds **ONE RAP** of gavel [*].

HONORED QUEEN: Inner Guard, you will inform the Outer Guard that the Obligation Ceremony is over. Direct her to secure the outer door, place a chair in the Anteroom doorway and take part in the Bethel meeting.

If ceremony is given at a regular meeting, Reading of Minutes would be the next order of business (see Ritual 61).

If the Obligation Ceremony is given for an exemplification, the Closing Ceremony would follow as per Ritual (see p 68).