

ROSE CEREMONY

- Who may witness** : Open or closed meeting; however this is generally given immediately following the Initiation of a new Sister(s), at a closed meeting.
- Purpose** : To honor new members of Rainbow
- Participants** : One (active) Rainbow Girl, plus the Sister of Faith, Newly initiated Sister(s)
- Paraphernalia** : A red rose for each girl receiving the lecture plus additional roses to place on the Altar.
- Other** : This ceremony must always be given by memory. The member presenting the lecture should wear a formal.
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(Immediately following the Initiation Ceremony and after Sister of Faith has seated the new Sisters in the Northeast near the station of Charity, she returns to her station.)

Worthy Advisor: Sister of Faith, please conduct Sister (the Rose Lecturer) to join you with the new Sisters.

(The Sister of Faith goes to the Rose Lecturer [who will be carrying the roses in her arms], bows to her, and arm-in-arm they approach the new Sisters. After they are facing the new Sisters, Faith quietly asks them to stand.)

Rose Lecturer: My Sister(s), I extend to you a hearty, and loving, welcome into our Assembly. Rainbow teaches duty four-fold: First, duty to God; second, duty to country; third, duty to parents, and fourth, duty to love and care for each other. Very importantly, Rainbow also teaches harmony and friendship.

In Rainbow, the clasped hands of friendship reach beyond the door of this Assembly Room. They reach across the vast lands of the United States, and then across the expanse of oceans as they touch other girls in every part of the world. You are now a link in this great, undying chain of friendship. Always remember that "A chain is as strong as its weakest link."

May your link in the Rainbow chain always be strong as it is strengthened by your faith in God.

Come with me now and listen to a short, and meaningful, poem, entitled, "My Hand in God's."

(The Rose Lecturer will lead the Sister(s) on a walk about the room. If there is one new Sister, the Sister of Faith will take the Sister by the arm and follow the Rose Lecturer. If there is more than one, with the aid of the Sister of Faith, form the Sisters in pairs; Sister of Faith will follow the Sisters, or take the last Sister by the arm, if there is an odd number.

The Rose Lecturer will lead the group about the room as she gives her lecture. She will walk West on the north marching lane, turning South to walk on the west marching lane to the South marching lane where she will turn East and proceed to the station of Love. She will enter the Bow at Love's Station, leading the Sisters to the west side of the Altar where she instructs them to face the East. They will be in a single line, facing East. She then, by square corners, walks to the east side of the Altar, and faces West, to face the Sisters. Sister of Faith is in a straight line with the Sisters, facing East also.)

(The Rose Lecturer gives this short poem as she walks about the room with the Sisters. She should time herself so to end the poem as she turns into the Bow at the station of Love.)

Rose Lecturer: Each morning when I wake, I say
"I place my hand in God's today."

I know He will walk close by my side,
My every wandering step to guide.

He leads me with the tenderest care,
When paths are dark and I despair.

No need for me to understand,
If I but hold fast to His hand.

My hand in His – no greater way
To go safely through each day.

By His great bounty I am fed.
Warmed by His love, and comforted.

And when at day's end I seek my rest,
And realize how much I am blessed,

My thanks pour out to Him, and then,
I place my hand in God's again.

(The Rose Lecturer finishes the poem [by Florence Scripps Kellogg] at the Station of Love, and resumes the lecture when the Sisters have been placed at the Altar facing East, and she has arrived at the east side of the Altar, facing West.)

Tonight you knelt at the White Altar of the Holy Promise and you pledged your life to one of Love and Service. You held the hand of God through these ceremonies. Now, each morning when you awake and look upon the pages of your open Bible, remember that you once held the hand of God. And then, place your hand in His and look forward to a new day with renewed courage and faith.

(The Rose Lecturer, turns South, and then walks between the girl(s) and the Altar, gives each girl a red rose and returns to the North to her position East of the Altar.)

Rose Lecturer: On this occasion I have placed in your hand a rose. This small red Rose of the Rainbow symbolizes a girl's love and devotion to her Mother. Your Mother, and your family, has made this day possible for you to enjoy through their sacrifices and prayers.

Tonight, when you tell your mother, or someone who has taken her place, about this ceremony, give her your rose. And when you kiss her good night, remind her that you love her.

(The Rose Lecturer places the remaining roses on the Altar, then continues.)

Rose Lecturer: And now, to honor every girl's mother, and in memory of those who have passed into the Golden City Beyond, I place these remaining roses upon the Altar. I bid you welcome into Rainbow, with the hope that the words, Love and Service, will lead you through a happy and successful life.

(The Rose Lecturer takes the first girl, and quietly tells the others to follow, and leaves the Altar from the North, and returns the Sisters to their chairs. The Rose Lecturer returns to her seat and the Sister of Faith returns to her station, and they are seated at the same time.)

