MY SHIP SETS SAIL

This is a simple installation featuring a nautical theme. If the Chapter does not have a Soloist, a selected group of the Chapter may carry the singing parts. The Star Point Officers need small Bibles of uniform size and the other sister Officers should carry miniature ships. These may be of plastic and may be bought in a dime store or hobby shop.

As the retiring Officers rise to march out, Organist plays softly and Chapter hums any favorite song that has a "sea" slant . . . as "Come to the Sea," "A Life on the Ocean Wave," "Red Sails in the Sunset" or "Harbor Lights." After retiring Officers leave, incoming Officers enter, taking their places in a semicircle west of Altar as their names are called.

Ritual is followed until the Obligation is completed. If it is permitted in your Chapter, have the Soloist sing "The Lord's Prayer" after the Worthy Matron has taken the Obligation and before she leaves the altar.

Installation proceeds according to Ritual until all Officers are at their stations and are seated. Then Worthy Matron speaks:

WORTHY MATRON: Sisters, Brothers and Visitors of ——— Chapter, I am both proud and happy to be elected and installed in your East tonight. I am humble in my limitations, but confident that with your help, all my plans and dreams will come true. I have chosen a nautical theme for my year and wish to thank each one who had a part in launching my ship of state tonight. Past Captains with their loyal crews have given us a fine example to follow. Brother ———, my Mate for our voyage into the future, I am proud to share this high station with you. May God bless our voyage, protect us from the seas of discord, and chart our course to a final harbor of love.

She takes a while silk cord, attaches it to her pedestal in the East, and slowly moves toward the altar, where she attaches it (with a small piece of Scotch tape) to the top, almost touching the Bible.

WORTHY MATRON continuing: This will be our life line for the voyage.

She stands there while the Organist strikes a chord and Officers rise. They approach the labyrinth as for the golden chain in Initiation. The Star Point Officers enter the labyrinth, carrying Bibles, the other Officers form an outer circle, each holding a small ship. As each Star Point Officer speaks, she places her Bible in a straight line along east of altar, but not touching Bible.

ADAH: The Bible represents the papers for your voyage . . . the commission which every Captain must have before beginning a voyage.

RUTH: My Bible is your chart. By it you can read your location, through sunny or stormy weather.

ESTHER: My Bible represents a lighthouse. It will warn you when help is needed.

MARTHA: My Bible is your anchor. No harm can come to you, so long as you have this.
ELECTA: My Bible represents your lifeboats. This is your last and final margin of safety.

They remain in their inner circle as other Officers speak. The Brothers speak first, but there is no special order of speaking. Each one holds the ship high enough to be seen, and continues to hold it until they return to their stations.

BROTHER: These ships will accompany you upon your voyage. They will stand by, when needed, and obey your every command.

BROTHER: With a navy such as this the world would be safe.

SISTER: This is Membership. It is important, for without members any voyage would fail.

SISTER: This is Sponsorship. This is where your program for youth flourishes.

SISTER: This is Scholarship. Our proficiency certificates are evidence that you use this ship.

SISTER: This is Friendship. It could also be called Comradeship or Fellowship. It strengthens the bond between your Officers and your crew.

SISTER: This is Citizenship. This is our prayerful promise of loyalty and service. We will keep your banners high.

SISTER: This is Worship. It will ever keep afloat through the strength of the life-line of our Captain.

SISTER: This is Partnership. There must always be a dual responsibility in every partnership . . . you for me, and I for you.

SISTER: This is Workmanship. This is our pledge to serve beneath your banner. Whether it be to trim the sails or swab the deck, we will prove willing.

SISTER: This is Showmanship. Our publicity will help to make your voyage famous.

SISTER: And this is Leadership. It is dedicated to you, honored Captain. Through your wise leadership we will reach a harbor of success, in a haven of love.

WORTHY MATRON: Sister Secretary, you will enter this knowledge within your log, that we may have the record in future years.

SECRETARY: It is done.

WORTHY MATRON: Thank you, my loyal and able crew. With such ready help, there will be no mutiny, and there will be no danger of running aground. My confidence is complete. Thank you, one and all.

CHOIR (or SOLOIST) sings to the tune "Harbor Lights," the words:

Your ship sets sail tonight,
Your ship that sails into tomorrow;
Your plans are very bright,
And, may the breeze be fair.

Into a harbor safe,
May you miss stormy winds of sorrow,
And bring a cargo home
Of love beyond compare.

Now raise your anchor, and let banners float on high,
You have the chart that makes a glorious bye-and-bye.
Your ship sets sail tonight,
It will be laden with great treasure,
A blessed golden hoard, Because you do and dare.

To soft music Officers return to stations.