

JANUARY - THE MONTH OF BEGINNINGS
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Bell ceremony to welcome guest(s).

May be used to present colors to Star points following Installation.

Speech for Worthy Matron, (or other officer or member.)

When we face the beginning of a New Year, we are reminded that the wheels of time never cease moving. They perform their task day after day, and year after year. The months roll around with rapid strides, and when January is ushered in, we realize that we are a year older. With the beginning of each new year, we face an uncertainty. With all of our experience with the past, we must admit that we cannot lift the veil and see what the New Year has in store for us. In each New Year we find a great lesson of faith, for our success depends wholly upon it. We are living in a world of intelligence, and the manner in which we use this intelligence creates to a certain extent our destiny for the future.

If we begin the New Year with good resolutions, let these resolutions be to have faith in people. There is something in every heart which will respond to our faith and gives us the needed confidence we must have in people with whom we come in contact, and creates relationships which are friendly and amicable to understanding.

At the beginning of every New Year we find that we have many ideals, but ideals are like the stars above us. We cannot touch them, but looking up, they guide us, and help us to reach our destiny. As we enter upon the work of the New Year which is before us, may we resolve that it may be the beginning of greater things, and may the desires of our hearts be accomplished and enjoyed.

We whisper a prayer at the dawn of the day,
That the New Year may start with a glorious ray,
That will shine on our path with a sunbeam of cheer,
To guide bravely on for the rest of the year,
So that we may have, above turmoil and strife,
The faith that it takes for a beautiful life.

If ceremony is used to present bells to Star points, Marshal approaches Adah's station and presents bell as follows: (These bells may be of appropriate color, or tied with ribbons of appropriate colors.)

To Adah:

The New Year rings a bell for you that sounds so sweet and clear,
And it will chime in peaceful tones throughout the coming year;
For years may come and years may go but time remains the same,
To let our bells ring out with faith will always be our aim.

To Ruth:

The golden bell of constancy will ever ring for you,
And as it's tones fill all the air, we'll know that they are true;
For every month throughout the year, from start until the end,
We'll find each service that we give will make for us a friend.

To Esther:

The purity of every hope will ring out sweet and clear,
As with the bells of loyalty, we serve through all the year;
And as we look ahead with faith that shows us what to do,
We struggle on and pray for strength each day the whole year through.

To Martha:

The bells ring out so very clear when faith has had it's way,
And we can look ahead with hope to that eternal day;
When joy will fill the hearts of men, and they will look above,
To that great promise which is given of that eternal love.

To Electa:

The faith we have of fairer day will help each one to see,
That if our hearts are filled with love, we'll have much charity;
For when the bells of New Year's day ring out so loud and clear,
We know that love will fill the earth throughout the coming year.

Bell may be presented to Worthy Matron as follows:

As New Year bells ring out for you, we know they'll stand the test,
And give to you throughout the year, our very, very best;
For every bell that rings for you, from greatest to the least,
Will give you joy and happiness while you serve in the East.

If ceremony is used to welcome guests, each Star point in turn may give verse appropriate to her station, and after verses are given, bell or bells may be presented to guest or guests as follows:

We are so glad that you have come to start the coming year,
Because your presence helps so much to fill our hearts with cheer;
And as the days may come and go, we hope the whole year through,
You will enjoy this little gift that comes from us to you.

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