ONWARD MATRON, PATRON

(Farewell to the Outgoing Matron and Patron.)

This may be given under "The Good of the Order" at the last regular meeting night on which the retiring Worth Matron serves in the East.

The Incoming Matron opens this ceremony by arising an addressing the retiring Matron and Patron as follows:

INCOMING MATRON speaks:

Salutation, --- --- --- and -- --,
The word "hello" slips off the tongue
Without much effort on our part,
But when it's time to say "good bye",
We find it very hard to start,
I know not why this should be so,
I know it seems quite true.
Therefore, because we're not to part -
We shall not say "good bye" to you.

Instead, we'll say "we thank you, dears,
For your good work in the past years".
You've served our chapter faith-ful-ly,
In ev'ry way have done your best
So to the altar, will you come?
We ask this as a last request.

The Organist strikes a chord of tune to "Onward Christian Soldiers".
Officers arise simultaneously. Chaplain and Marshal simultaneously turn towards center of the room and leave their stations to go to meet the retiring Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron when they descend the dais.
Chaplain and Marshal stop far enough apart to leave space between them for the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, to whom they bow, then face west simultaneously. The Chaplain offers left arm to the Worthy Matron and the Marshal offers right arm to the Worthy Patron. The four advance in straight line to places in large circle forming around the altar. The other officers leave their stations simultaneously with the Chaplain and Marshal and go to form the circle. The officers sing the following verse and chorus while going to their places in the circle.

SONG: Tune -- "Onward, Christian Soldiers".

Onward, faithful mem-bers,
Of the Eastern Star;
While its rays shine o'er us
Naught our way can bar!
Onward to the altar,
Let us wend our way;
For the year is ending,
And we wish to say:

CHORUS:
Thank you, Worthy Matron;
Thank you, Patron fine;
We have served so gladly
Through this year of thine.

When chorus is ended and all are in their places in the circle, the Marshal without leaving the circle speaks first and as follows:

MARSHAL:
To the altar, we have brought
Those who've lived the lessons taught,
In our Star, so clearly;
In the East, they've served us well;
So, to-night, we wish to tell -
That we love them dearly.

As soon as the Marshal finishes her speech, the Associate Matron leaves the circle to go to the west side of the altar while the Worthy Matron comes to stand on the east side of the altar. The Associate Matron speaks as follows:

ASSOCIATE MATRON:
Sister — — — — — — , Worthy Matron of — — — Chapter, we have come to the altar to express our thanks for faithful service, well done, and to offer you a token of our appreciation for that service.

You have been a wonderful Worthy Matron and we, your officers of 20—, thank you most sincerely.

Instead of saying "Good bye", we shall say "Onward, Worthy Sister", to new duties and higher honors in our Grand Order, as we ask you to accept this gift with our love and best wishes. (Presents gift.)

The Worthy Matron and Associate Matron return to their places in the circle. The Associate Patron leaves the circle to go and stand on the west side of the altar while the Worthy Patron comes at the same time to stand on the East side. The Associate Patron speaks to the Worthy Patron as follows:

ASSOCIATE PATRON speaks:

Brother — --- -----, the officers of 20-- wish to thank you for serving this chapter for the past year in the capacity of Worthy Patron. You have received the highest honor that was in their power to bestow upon you. They feel that you have proved worthy of that honor.

Instead of saying "Good bye" -- because, anyway, I do not believe that men often say "Good bye" to each other -- they say rather "so long" (or words to that effect) -- so we are saying "Onward, Worthy Patron, to more duties and more honors in our grand and noble order.

We ask you to accept this gift with our thanks and very best wishes.

They return to their places in the circle.

The Chaplain then goes to stand by the altar and with bowed head offers the following prayer:
CHAPLAIN:

We thank Thee, God, for people who
In loving deeds - reflecting you -
Cause us to feel that Thou art near.
For Thou art Love and Thou art dear.

We thank Thee for their words, their smiles,
And their companionship through miles
Of life's hard places which would be
More hard without their com-pa-ny.

We're told:  all good gifts from above
Are sent by Thee, Oh God of Love;
And so the least that we can do -
Is thank Thee for these faithful two.

Chaplain returns to her place in the circle.

The officers now sing verse II. When they begin the chorus, they shall start the return to their stations, singing the chorus while they go. As soon as all have arrived and the singing is ended, they shall be seated simultaneously. (without gavel) Proceed with any further business.

SECOND VERSE:

Onward Matron, Patron;
May the coming years
Bring success and gladness,
With no cause for tears.
Work well done should never
Soon forgotten be -
So we'll not forget how you have
Served here faith-ful-ly.

SECOND CHORUS:

Thank you, lovely Matron,
Thank you, Patron fine;
We've been glad to hear you,
Through this year of thine.

A SUGGESTION: Don't forget to tell the officers, if you give them carbon copies of the song, that just the first verse and chorus are sung while going to form the circle around the altar. The second verse and chorus are sung while they are returning to their stations.

The End