

# Woman's Life®

*A Trusted Fraternal Life Brand*

## **Ceremony for New Member Initiation**

As a fraternal benefit society, Woman's Life®, a Trusted Fraternal Life™ brand, has always recommended that its chapters follow meaningful rituals for important events. The welcoming of new members is one of those events. For new chapters, initiation of members is included in the Installation of Officers ceremony. On an ongoing basis, many chapters enjoy welcoming new members through a simple initiation ceremony; it is not required. You may find the suggested ceremony below helpful.

Chapters may choose to have a New Member Initiation ceremony whenever they have new members or may prefer to hold this special event on a quarterly or annual basis. The ceremony may be conducted at a monthly business meeting or may be the reason for a special social event. Some chapters provide special decorations and/or refreshments for the event; some chapters hold the ceremony at a restaurant and include lunch or dinner. Some chapters present a red rose to each new member to symbolize her new connection to Woman's Life.

There are several people who might lead the initiation ritual. These include: the Chapter President or Vice President, a member of the Membership Committee, a member of the Welcome Committee, an officer of Woman's Life, a Member Engagement Representative, a Woman's Life Home Office employee, or a past officer of the chapter.

At the conclusion of the ceremony (or at the end of the business meeting that includes the ceremony), all attendees should gather around the new member(s) to offer congratulations and extend a personal welcome. Simple refreshments might be served at the end of a meeting, or a more elaborate event might include a luncheon or dinner.

However you design your initiation ceremony, be sure to take some photos for a chapter scrapbook or album -- and be SURE to send some in to Home Office! This is also a great time to send a press release to your local newspaper to acknowledge your new members and to tout some of your chapter's accomplishments.

## **Woman's Life Ceremony for Initiation of New Members**

(New chapters: Initiation of new members is included within the New Chapter Installation of Officers ceremony.)

The following items should be available:

- List of new members' names and date of membership
- Any items to be presented to new members

If held at a business meeting, the initiation ceremony should follow the Call to Order, Roll Call of Members, and Introduction of Guests. The leader for the initiation, if not a Chapter member, would be the final guest introduced, leading into the ceremony.

## **Chapter President**

It is now our pleasure to initiate new members into our chapter.

*(If the Chapter President will not be leading the initiation:) Presiding over this important task will be (name of leader for initiation).*

*(Leader comes forward.)*

## **Leader**

Will the new members please come forward?

*(The leader will guide the new members to form a semicircle where they face the audience).*

I am pleased to welcome the following new members to Chapter \_\_\_\_\_:

*(Leader will say each new member's name and date of membership.)*

*(If applicable)* Please accept this red rose as a symbol of your connection to the members of this chapter and to all members of Woman's Life.

New members, to show your willingness to join our chapter and your commitment to helping it succeed, please repeat after me:

*(Leader says each line and waits while new members repeat it.)*

I am excited to be a member of Woman's Life Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_...

I'm looking forward to many good times with my chapter friends...

And many opportunities to help my community...

Through the work we do together.

In the presence of the members and officers here...

I pledge that as long as I remain a member...

I will abide by the Laws, rules and traditions of Woman's Life.

I promise I will do everything I can...

To promote the growth of the society and our chapter...

And I promise to support my fellow members...

In making this chapter as great as it can be!

## **Leader Continues**

Welcome, and thank you for connecting with us. We will all do great things together!

*(Continue as appropriate:)*

*(At a special initiation event:) We will now take a few moments for handshakes or hugs; please join me in coming up to welcome our new members! (Until food arrives or refreshments are ready, as applicable.)*

*(During a business meeting:) Now we will resume our business meeting, but we will take time after the meeting to personally welcome our new members and enjoy some refreshments together. (Leader takes her seat and Chapter President continues the meeting.)*