

Nichiren Shu News

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1

Let Us Repay the Four Favors in the New Year

Honorable Rev. Nisso Uchino, Archbishop of Nichiren Shu, Chief Abbot of Minobusan Kuonji Temple

In this early spring of 2016, I give my sincere compliments of the New Year season to all the ministers and devotees of Nichiren Shu. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for the constant service and contributions you are rendering to Nichiren Shu and Minobusan, the Founder's mountain.

This year we are commemorating the 750th anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's mother, Umegiku. Her Dharma name is Myoren-songi. On September 14, her memorial service will be held at her grave in Myorenji Temple, Chiba Prefecture. The following day, I will officiate as Archbishop of Nichiren Shu at the Grand Ceremony to express the feeling of gratitude to her at Tanjoji Temple of Kominato. In our age when the breakdown in relations between parents and children is reflected, this is a great opportunity to show the importance of the bonds of parent-child affection.

Last April, we began the third phase of our Rissho Ankoku and Odaimoku Kechien Campaign, expressed in the slogan Inochi Ni Gassho: Praying to Life. In this phase, we emphasize

"Flowering from the Seeds." This year, we should show our respect and gratitude as we prepare for the 800th anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's birth in 2021.

The basic concept of this phase lies in the Four Favors Nichiren Shonin described in his treatise, "Open Your Eyes." He says, "Disciples of the Buddha and students of Buddhism should not fail to feel grateful for the Four Favors received from people, parents, sovereign, and Buddhism, and repay them." The Four Favors are: 1) from all sentient beings – Nichiren Shonin vowed to save all sentient beings and was glad to be able to practice the Bodhisattva Way, because there are various types of people, good and bad; 2) from parents – Nichiren Shonin often expressed his gratitude for his parents



as they gave birth to him and brought him up to become the practitioner of the Lotus Sutra; 3) from sovereign – the sovereign, land and conditions of the country all awakened him for his mission to spread the True Dharma; and 4) from the Three Treasures of Buddhism – Nichiren Shonin was grateful to the Lotus Sutra, for revealing the true intent of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Nowadays, we tend to avoid socializing with other people as we feel it troublesome. Nichiren Shonin insists, however, that we should always feel grateful for the Four Favors and repay them. To feel grateful for the Four Favors means valuing human relations highly. We live a wonderful life through good human relations. Once they do not go well, we are tempted to break off

the relationship. But it never comes to a happy ending. Rather, as Nichiren Shonin himself realized, the tougher life gets, the more productive life we can enjoy later on. The Lotus Sutra teaches us that we need to strive to make friends with those who we consider our enemy. I believe this can be accomplished by receiving and repaying the Four Favors.

In Chinese astrology, 2016 is the Year of Hinoe-Saru, the Monkey, and the 33rd year of the sexagenary circle. Hinoe is symbolic of things brought to light and becoming prosperous. The Monkey symbolizes making further progress. It is a golden opportunity this year to improve ourselves through our faith in Odaimoku, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.

At the beginning of 2016, from Minobusan, which Nichiren Shonin perceived as a sacred mountain, I wish peace throughout the world. May all of you have a happy year and significant lives. Finally, I would like to ask all the ministers and devotees to give continuous and immediate support to Nichiren Shu and the Founder's temple. With Gassho.

Inochi ni Gassho, Praying to Life and the World in 2016

Rev. Junko Kobayashi, Chief Administrator of Nichiren Shu

I would like to extend to all of you my best wishes for the New Year! Last year, natural disasters, such as massive earthquakes, torrential rains, and volcanic eruptions took many lives and created suffering around the world. I pray for the souls of the victims and express my sympathy to those damaged from the disasters, sincerely wishing for the earliest possible recovery of the affected people and areas.

In Europe, people are thrown into confusion due to huge numbers of refugees and unpredictable terrorist attacks. We all see the link between hatred and retaliation, but nobody wants to create more casualties among civilians and increase the number of refugees. Additionally, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change says that global warming will increase terrorism and create even more refugees.

We are very sad to see natural disasters, warfare, conflict and terrorism and now global warming affecting so many lives all over the world. These are urgent issues for all humanity. It is important, therefore, for us as Nichiren Buddhists to expound the value of human life and act on our belief

in spreading peace by establishing the True Dharma.

Nichiren Shu has started the Odaimoku Kechien Campaign with the slogan Inochi Ni Gassho: Praying to Life. The goal of the campaign is to establish a peaceful world with peaceful minds by respecting each other. This is the second year of the third phase of the campaign, "Flowering from the Seeds." I want to emphasize that each organization in Nichiren Shu should reconsider what steps to take for this phase, and take positive action towards its realization.

Our Founder Nichiren Shonin said, "Those who learn and practice the teachings of the Buddha should never forget the kindness of their parents, masters, and sovereign." Considering gratitude as a fundamental virtue for human life, he never forgot to express his feelings of gratitude to others throughout



his life. In 2022, we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's birth. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our sincere gratitude to Nichiren Shonin.

For the last two years, we have discussed projects and activities to honor the 800th anniversary. Last March, the Nichiren Shu Congress approved nine projects. These include the ceremony for the 800th anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's birth, commemorative gatherings to be held in 11 districts, a campaign to spread Shodaigyo chanting, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo, a program for educating young people, repairs of the Shingyo Dojo seminary, festivals and publicity work at temples, revision of the Nichiren Shu Encyclopedia and others. All of these are indispensable to support the slogan of Inochi Ni Gassho, Praying to Life and the World.

Beginning this coming April, we will ask all the temples, ministers and devotees around the world to make monetary donations from the year 2016 to 2021. Our goal is to raise ¥2,234,000,000 for these projects. This goal cannot be achieved without your help.

We should unite and do our best to realize our Founder's wish to make all beings under the heaven and within the four seas live in accordance with the Wonderful Dharma, to keep faithful to Minobusan, our Founder's mountain, and to bring a happy life to those devoted to Nichiren Shu Buddhism. I ask you for your cooperation in realizing the 800th anniversary of our Founder's birth and making the projects and events successful.

Seeing in this new year, we ask both ministers and devotees to pay homage at Minobusan where we can feel Nichiren Shonin's soul and deepen our faith in the Lotus Sutra. We should pray with palms together in our daily lives and create a peaceful society through the Odamikou, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.

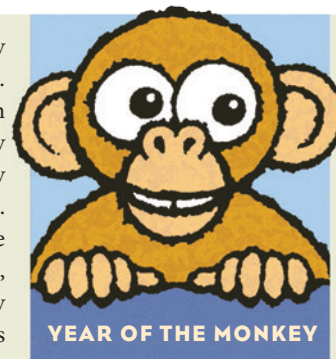
—Translations by Rev. Sensho Komukai

YEAR OF THE MONKEY: According to the traditional Chinese calendar, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.

People born in the Year of the Monkey are smart, clever, and intelligent, especially in their career. They are lively, flexible, quick-witted and versatile. They are also gentle and honest which helps develop a lasting relationship with others. They tend to overwork so it is best for them to take

a break to save their energy during their busy schedule.

Though people born in the Year of the Monkey have enviable skills, they have several shortcomings. They sometimes tend to be jealous, suspicious, cunning, selfish, and arrogant. They also have an impetuous



temper and a tendency to look down upon others.

From the writings of Nichiren Shonin, we can understand that there were many monkeys living on Minobusan. He said he could see and hear them as they scampered through the mountains. Legend says that

a monkey saved Nichiren Shonin's life. When he was attacked by a mob at his residence in Matsubagayatsu, Kamakura, a white monkey suddenly appeared before him and led him to safety.

People born in the following years are born in the Year of the Monkey: 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, and 2016.

—Compiled by Sandra Seki

Bringing Back the Cherry Trees of Cereseto to Honor Nichiren Shonin

Text and Photography
by Jan Deputy-Louy

Nestled in the beautiful Piedmont region of northern Italy sits the village of Cereseto. Over 200 years ago, this village was graced with innumerable cherry trees. The name “Cereseto” comes from the Italian word for “cherry.” The fruit is included on the village’s coat of arms. In the late 1800s, an extremely cold winter killed off most of the cherry trees. Years later, the remaining trees were wiped out by disease.



Cereseto is also home to the Nichiren Shu Temple of Renkoji and its resident priest Rev. Shoryo Tarabini. From this temple, Rev. Tarabini and his assistant, Rev. Keiji Oshima, propagate the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Shonin’s teachings throughout Italy and the rest of southern Europe. Rev. Tarabini, considering ways to further promote Nichiren Shu Buddhism and honor the life of Nichiren Shonin, thought of bringing the cherry trees back to Cereseto.

The cherry tree is important in Nichiren Shu. When Nichiren Shonin passed away on October 13, 1282, the cherry trees at Ikegami suddenly bloomed out of season. Hence, cherry blossoms have become a symbol representing the overall life of Nichiren Shonin.

Rev. Tarabini set the ambitious goal of planting 800 cherry trees, one for each

year since Nichiren Shonin’s birth in 1222. Bringing back the cherry trees of Cereseto would forever link the small village to the life of Nichiren Shonin.

When he learned of Rev. Tarabini’s ambition, Rev. Join Inoue of the Nichiren Shu Beikoku Betsuin in Los Angeles, California decided to join Rev. Tarabini in this campaign. After a lengthy discussion by the governing board of the temple in Los Angeles, board member Kathleen Quinn stepped up to lead fundraising efforts to assist Rev. Tarabini.

Los Angeles temple members and friends have raised enough funds for over 150 trees. Contributors selected either a sapling or a full sized tree. Donors were also able to buy a plaque to be attached to their tree for a specific dedication.



Ms. Quinn flew to Italy in person to present the donation and the special plaques to Renkoji Temple and the City of Cereseto. The Mayor of Cereseto, Enzo Lavagno, joined the presentation



and personally thanked the Los Angeles Nichiren Shu Beikoku Betsuin and its representatives.

Rev. Tarabini, Rev. Oshima, Renkoji Temple member Federico Bombardi, Ms. Quinn and I were invited to City Hall to meet with Mayor Lavagno, Vice Mayor Angelo Borello and other city officials. During the meeting, Ms. Quinn presented cherry trees to the mayor.

Out of these tree donations, around 50 trees will be planted by the children of Cereseto this year. The mayor declared that Renkoji Temple’s campaign would allow him to reinstate an old local tradition of planting a tree whenever a child is born. He further explained how planting these trees is in line with goals

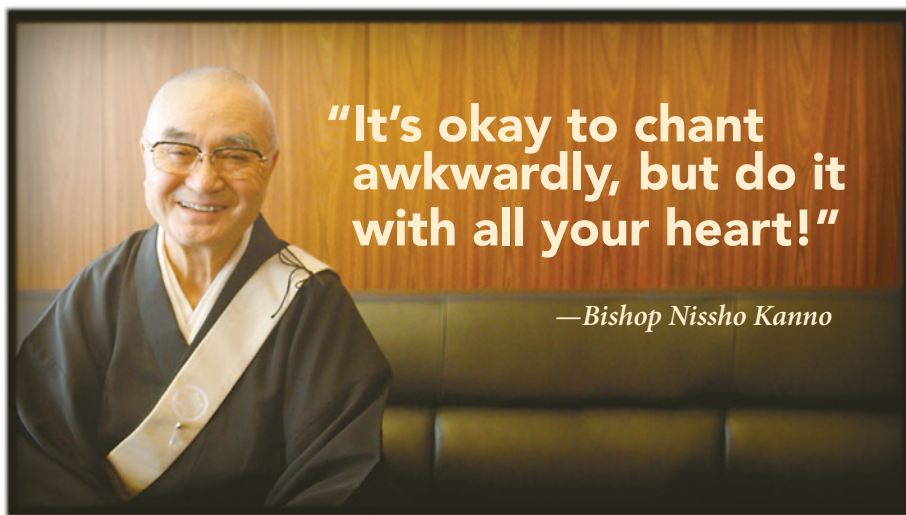
of both the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992 and its subsequent Kyoto Protocol of 1997.

To promote these goals and in appreciation for this generous offering, the village decided to erect a commemorative plaque in honor of the Los Angeles Temple. Mayor Lavagno also stated his desire to visit Los Angeles and personally thank Rev. Inoue, the Los Angeles Temple members and friends for their generous contribution to the people of Cereseto. As the mayor ended the meeting, he reminded those present of the origin of the name of the village of Cereseto and expressed his gratitude and hope that the town, through these efforts, will eventually return to its original splendor.

On November 21, a tree planting ceremony took place in the city park. A total of 207 trees have been planted since the campaign began two years ago.

Through this effort, born from the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Shonin, the people of Cereseto will benefit from the beauty of these trees for many years.

As I observed these events, I was left with a clear image of this small, fairy tale village in Italy, blooming with 800 cherry trees honoring Nichiren Shonin. This all began with the simple dream of a single Nichiren Shu priest.



Bishop Nissho Kanno, known for the “Reverend Kanno Preaches” column, was installed as the 83rd Chief Priest of Ikegami Honmonji Temple in Tokyo on December 1. In an interview in October, he shared his excitement on the official announcement of his appointment.

About 50 years ago, when I came from Hokkaido to serve at Ikegami Honmonji Temple, I found it devastated by the calamities of the Second World War. My colleagues and I pledged ourselves to revitalize Honmonji Temple. Now I believe there are two ways of doing this. The first way is to bring ordinary citizens to understand the wonder of the Odaimoku, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo. The second way is to make Honmonji Temple the center of educating Nichiren Shu priests. As I spent 30 years serving as a housemaster of the Buddhist student seminary of Nichiren Shu, I dedicated myself to establishing a place for training young priests.

As a Nichiren Shu minister, always imagine how to perform your duty as if you are a temple master. To me, young ministers today seem to just follow the manual. People do not want us to read or chant the sutra routinely like a machine. The point is, it is okay to chant awkwardly, but do it with all your heart!

Moreover, we should be aware that we are serving under the living Buddha and Nichiren Shonin. Whenever I read the Lotus Sutra in the morning, I am deeply moved to tears. That is because I feel that I am with the Buddha and Nichiren Shonin.

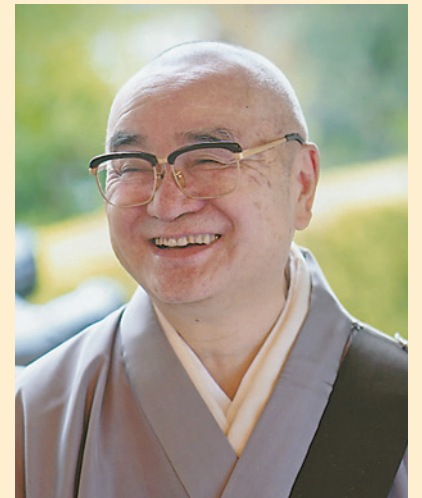
It is greatly important to show sincerity all the time. Keep in mind that people are always looking at you from behind. I would like to train Nichiren Shu ministers who can lead people into Buddhahood, not only by preaching but also by showing an attitude of sincerity.

—Translated by Rev. Sensho Komukai

REVEREND KANNO PREACHES (40)

“I expounded the Wonderful Dharma with these various expedients, and caused the living beings to rejoice.”

—Lotus Sutra, Chapter XVI,
The Duration of the Life
of the Tathagata



“Rejoicing”

As you are well aware, Chapter XVI is the foundation of Namu Myoho Renge Kyo, the Odaimoku. This chapter clarifies how the Buddha relieves us throughout eternity.

The phrase tells us that Shakyamuni Buddha has been expounding His teachings from the innumerable past and “caused all living beings to rejoice,” by letting them attain “great peace of mind.”

We often miss our aim and experience “premature joy.” The joy the Buddha leads us to attain is eternal and unchangeable. That is “true joy,” in other words, “the great peace of mind.” It is stated in the sutra that people in the present day will also be able to attain “true joy, the great peace of mind” as did the people in the past. You may wonder, how can we attain it?

Devote yourself to chanting “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo” by body, by mouth and by mind. This is the basic practice for all Buddhists. “The great true joy” is assured ahead.

Rev. Nissho Kanno, Bishop of Ikegami Honmonji Temple, Tokyo

HILO NICHIREN MISSION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



**Text and Photography
by Jan Deputy-Louy**

The Hilo Nichiren Mission, on the Big Island of Hawaii, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, December 5, 2015. The anniversary ceremony was officiated by Rev. Chishin Hirai, Bishop of the Nichiren Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu, Rev. Hosho Sugawara, Resident Minister of the Hilo Mission, and Rev. Gakugyo Matsumoto of Rengeji Temple, Minobusan, Japan.

The grand ceremony included chanting the Lotus Sutra and a Kito Blessing. Following the ceremony, Rev. Hirai and Rev. Sugawara addressed the gathering.



Revs. Hirai, Sugawara, and Matsumoto officiated over the anniversary ceremony.



Wayne Nakayama, age 90, drives to the temple for every other Sunday service to pray for his beloved wife, who passed away seven years ago.

Rev. Sugawara spoke of his deepest desire since he originally arrived. He has wanted to restore the wonderful energy and enthusiasm to the same level as when the temple was originally established. He thanked the temple members with deep respect and appreciation.

Rev. Hirai presented a set of juzu prayer beads that had belonged to Bishop Kanryu Mochizuki, who founded the temple in Hilo. Rev. Hirai and the late Bishop Joyo Ogawa found this juzu when they were cleaning the temple storage room. Bishop Ogawa gave the beads to Rev. Hirai and explained their importance and origin.

The celebration concluded by presenting leis to some of the original members of the Mission and recognizing the many members who have dedicated themselves to the temple over the years.

The Hilo temple is graced with a long history. Its original predecessor was the Kapapala Nichiren Mission. In the 1950s, changes in the sugar industry caused many Japanese workers to relocate to the city of Hilo and other urban areas. With the decline in religious activities, the Kapapala congregation began to

diminish. Bishop Mochizuki then decided to establish a temple in Hilo. The Kapapala Mission sat empty for 18 years with no members, and it was eventually given to a group of Tibetan Buddhists.

On April 1, 1959, the Hilo Nichiren Shu Temple was established behind the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture on Kilauea Street. The three-acre lot was purchased on what is now Makalika Street for \$1,000. Temple members, waiting for the construction on the Hilo Nichiren Main Hall to be completed, met in their own homes until 1965.

In November 1969, Rev. Junko Kajiyama became Head Minister and the first to reside at the temple. She increased membership by teaching calligraphy to children of the Nisei, second generation Japanese community. She also established a women's club to help beautify the temple.

In 1972, Rev. Myoyo Mizuno became the new resident minister. She was a devout worshipper of the Goddess Shichimen, protector of Minobusan, enshrined at the top of Shichimenzan. Rev. Kaishuku Mochizuki, who was in charge of



Statue of the Goddess Shichimen, the protective deity of Minobusan.

Keishin-in Temple on Shichimenzan, generously donated a statue of the Goddess Shichimen to the Hilo Mission. The statue was enshrined on September 12, 1982 in a ceremony led by Bishop Senchu Murano.

A special hall was constructed along with an artificial hill that resembled Shichimenzan in order to house the special statue. In 1985, Rev. Issei Mochizuki of the Kuonji Temple on Minobusan came to Hilo to preside over the ceremony celebrating the completion of the Goddess Shichimen Hall. Since then, the Hilo Nichiren Mission holds a Shichimenzan Festival annually.

In February 2010, Rev. Hosho Sugawara, who had also served in Honolulu, was inaugurated as the tenth Resident Minister of the Hilo Mission. Rev. Sugawara revitalized the temple after many years without a minister. He increased membership, attracting many with his energy and attention to the temple as a place of beauty, peace and contemplation.

At the 110th anniversary celebration of Nichiren Shu in Hawaii in 2012, Archbishop Nisso Uchino visited the Hawaiian Islands. The Hilo Nichiren Mission proudly welcomed the Archbishop as part of his tour.

Though it is small in size, the Hilo Nichiren Mission plays a large role in the history of Nichiren Shu in Hawaii. Rev. Sugawara and his wife, Kumiko, will return to Japan in January 2016. The temple members will miss them and wish them well in their new life.



Appreciation for the 50th Anniversary

In February 2010, I was assigned to the Hilo Nichiren Mission on the Big Island of Hawaii. When I arrived, it seemed the entire property, including the temple building, had been without a master for so long that it had developed a dark atmosphere.

A resident minister is like a blood vessel. When blood flow stops, our physical condition becomes bad, and all parts of the body deteriorate.

Since coming here, I have worked to restore this wonderful energy to the same level as when this temple was founded. My first goals were to repaint the whole building and make the garden and grounds beautiful.

Many members and visitors noticed that the temple was getting cleaner and neater. But I wanted to make it even more beautiful, so I kept working every day. I knew I had to make the temple so wonderful that everyone who passed by or visited would get a very comfortable energy from this small temple.

After more than two years of work, the inside and outside of the temple were

finally restored, and its bloodstream was healthy again. It was so strong that we welcomed Archbishop Nisso Uchino, on July, 2012 for the 110th Anniversary of Nichiren Buddhism in Hawaii.

This is how Hilo Nichiren Mission came to be known as one of the more active temples.

The bond between the temple and its members has become stronger because of our ancestors' faith, the hard work of many Japanese immigrants and the leadership of overseas ministers.

Hilo Nichiren Mission has been protected and saved by many invisible powers.



We must never forget the original members in Kapapala. Thanks to them, we have the present Hilo Mission where we can pray and practice the Lotus Sutra. We must continue to keep our deep gratitude for this temple. The way of thinking is changing with the times, and people might feel that things are becoming old. However, as long as the temple's bloodstream is always active, it will attract many people. And the chanting voices will never stop.

It is important that we can feel relaxed at the temple. When we are really relaxed, we can naturally receive its positive feeling without any explanation. Anyone can receive it. To invite people into a truly peaceful world is the universal role of temples. This has not changed for hundreds of years.

Please regard the Hilo Mission as your first home, not your second one. And please help, support and accept each other so that everyone who comes to this temple receives real comfort.

The Buddha, guardian deities and your ancestors are always watching your wonderful practice.

—Rev. Hosho Sugawara

Devotion to Our Temple

Talking with Mr. Nakagawa, who had been our temple president for a long time, I learned that many people have contributed to this small temple. These include people who became members but quit for some reason, people who didn't have any family to whom they could pass on their religion, people who had attended services only occasionally, or had just come to receive blessings from the resident minister. During the six years we have been here, between one hundred and two hundred people have joined us to chant Odaimoku.

We are fortunate that several families have been here from the beginning. I am grateful to have heard so many valuable stories directly from the members who have been here all 50 years, carrying on the mission of the Kapapala Temple.

—Kumiko Sugawara



TEMPLE EVENTS

Honolulu Myohoji Mission Rev. Josho Yamamura An Afternoon of Opera and Dharma Talk

As part of the monthly Friday Lecture Series, sponsored by Nichiren Shu and held at the Head Office on the first Friday of each month, Rev. Josho Yamamura of Honolulu Myohoji Mission came to Japan to give his presentation, "The 85th Anniversary of Honolulu Myohoji Mission, a Concert of Song and Dharma Talk."



Rev. Yamamura held the Japanese audience in rapt attention. He seasoned his lecture with singing selections of opera, such as Carmen, and Japanese songs, including "Like the Flow of the River," which was the last song recorded by the famous Japanese singer Hibari Misora.

Bishop Tsumyo Ito, who officiated the Myohoji 85th anniversary ceremony on May 17, was in the audience enjoying the special lecture along with Nichiren Shu devotees.

After the lecture, Rev. Yamamura remarked: "This went much more quickly than I had anticipated, there were seven more pages of speech that I didn't get to. Everybody has listened very earnestly, and I am grateful to them. I just wish I knew more about Buddhism in America, so I could explain it better to Japanese members."

Nichiren Mission of Hawaii Rev. Chishin Hirai, Bishop of Nichiren Mission of Hawaii Shodaigyo Seminar

A special seminar on Shodaigyo, chanting the Odaimoku, was held on October 24 and 25 at the Nichiren Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu. The instructors were Bishop Nissho Kanno, the newly appointed Chief Abbot of Ikegami Honmonji Temple, and Rev. Taiju Ito, manager of the Nichiren Shu Horinouchi Dormitory. There were more than 20 participants from our Betsuin as well as people from Wahiawa and Myohoji.

Bishop Kanno shared with us his down-to-earth wisdom and applied it to our daily lives. As he explained, "Shodaigyo is a practice to chant the Odaimoku. Meditation is not the main purpose. We meditate in order to chant the Odaimoku better and taste the joy of

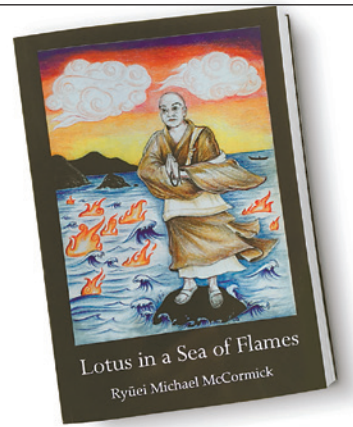


uniting with the Buddha. Uniting with the Buddha through Shodaigyo brings us the power of living and the power to overcome worries and difficulties. Meditation is a preparation for chanting the Odaimoku and expressing our gratitude after chanting. Before starting, we must put our posture in order. We can put our minds in order by putting our breath in order. In this way, we can chant the Odaimoku properly when our body and mind are in order.

"As Nichiren Shonin said in his Kanjin Honzon Sho, the Lotus Sutra is the Buddha's best teaching. The Odaimoku is the essence of the Lotus Sutra. When we have faith and uphold the Odaimoku, all of the Buddha's virtues and enlightenment are naturally transferred to us. When we receive his enlightenment, we become the same as the Buddha. We can unite with the Buddha. Buddhism is the teaching of the Buddha and the teaching of how to become a Buddha. That is what happens when we chant the Odaimoku.

"Even with this understanding, it is still not easy to chant the Odaimoku properly. This is because of our bad karma and the many worldly thoughts we have in our daily lives. We need to set aside those thoughts before chanting the Odaimoku. That is why we need meditation to clear our minds so that we can concentrate on chanting the Odaimoku."

What Bishop Kanno emphasized was to forget everything around us when we chant the Odaimoku. Then, the great power of Buddha's virtue and enlightenment will come into our body. This power revitalizes and boosts our power of life. This power makes us see things more clearly and make us overcome our worries and difficulties. This is the greatest benefit we can obtain from Shodaigyo.



San Jose Myokakuji Betsuin Rev. Arnold Matsuda "Lotus in a Sea of Flames"

Since our temple was established, Myokakuji Betsuin has published several scholarly books on various aspects of Nichiren Shu Buddhism. For the commemoration of our 35th anniversary, we decided to take a different approach.

"Lotus in a Sea of Flames" presents Nichiren Shonin's life as a historical novel. This book was written by Rev. Ryuei Michael McCormick and has 564 pages. Copies are available from our temple for a donation of \$25, plus \$6 for handling and mailing costs.



Digital Future of Nichiren Shu News

As we make plans for the digital future of Nichiren Shu News, we would like to hear from you. Please visit the survey page and share your thoughts with us. Thank you from the staff of Nichiren Shu News.

www.nichiren.or.jp/english/survey2016/

DRAGON PALACE TEMPLE 16TH ANNIVERSARY

On November 25, a delegation of 14 members from the Nichiren Shu International Buddhist Fellowship Association, led by Bishop Nichiyu Mochida, conducted the 16th anniversary service for the Dragon Palace Temple in Kamptee City, Nagpur India. They were assisted by ten members of the All Nichiren Shu Youth Association, who conducted a special Kito Blessing led by Rev. Jikei Matsumoto. Rev. Shingyo Imai and Rev. Kosho Imada were also on hand to assist in the international event.

Dragon Palace Temple was established in 1999 by Ms. Noriko Ozawa, a Nichiren Shu devotee, and Ms. Sulekha Kumbare, former Minister of Environment of India. The history

of Modern Buddhism in Nagpur was explained by Bishop Mochida in his address to the gathering: "It is 59 years since the Respected Dr. Ambedkar

announced his faith in Buddhism at this place. The light of Buddhism shines brightly in this holy site of Nagpur. We hope that Dragon Palace Temple will

become a holy place of Buddhism on the order of Deekshabhoomi."

Bishop Mochida also expressed hope that Nichiren Shu would continue to support Dragon Palace Temple and propagate the teachings of Nichiren Shonin in the land of Shakyamuni Buddha and the Lotus Sutra.

Ms. Kumbare expressed her gratitude to the International Buddhist Fellowship Association for its support, which allowed the temple to install stained-glass windows and repair the outer walls of the main hall.

Many temple members and dignitaries gathered to chant the Odaimoku and offer incense. The event was also extensively covered by local area news organizations.



Calendar for February 2016–March 2016

FEB 3 Setsubun (first day of spring in the traditional Chinese calendar)

FEB 4-8 Study Tour in Nepal 2016

FEB 10 Service observing the completion of the 100-day Arago Ascetic Training

FEB 15 Nirvana Day

FEB 16 Commemoration Day of the Birth of Nichiren Shonin

MAR 18-24 Spring Higan

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