

Myohoji Bulletin

March, April, May, June 2010

myohoji.nst.org

Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin (Excerpt) January 1, 2010

The important thing in carrying out shakubuku is Shodai. Shodai is fundamental to Buddhist practice. It is a significant practice for one's attainment of Buddhahood....Without Shodai, we can never enjoy the boundless benefits of Buddhism. Furthermore, the Daimoku in the Latter Day of the Law is the practice for oneself and others, unlike the Daimoku for oneself only, which was practiced during the two periods of the Former and Middle Days of the Law. "On the Three Great Secret Laws" ("Sandai hiho-sho") reads:

There are two methods for the practice of Daimoku. The first was used during the Former and Middle Days of the Law, and the second is to be used during the Latter Day of the Law. Although Bodhisattvas Vasubandhu and Nagarjuna themselves chanted the Daimoku during the Former Day of the Law, they did so for their own sakes only, and did not tell many others about it. So did Nan-

Yueh and Tiantai during the Middle Day of the Law. This method might be called practice in principle only. Now, in the age of the Latter Day of the Law, the Daimoku that Nichiren chants is different from that of previous ages. It is the Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo of both practice for oneself and for others.

(Gosho, p.1594)

In other words, the Daimoku in the Latter Day of the Law is the practice to save oneself and others. The Daimoku for saving oneself refers to Shodai. The Daimoku for saving others is shakubuku. Shodai and shakubuku cannot be separated. Shodai based on one's sincere faith is the energy source for shakubuku. Thus, High Priest Nichikan Shonin teaches in the Exegesis on the "True Object of Worship" ("Kanjin no honzon-sho" mondan):

If practice for oneself

Continued on other side

March

March 7 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

March 14 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

March 17 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

March 21 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

March 28 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

April

April 4 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

April 11 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

April 18 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

April 21 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

April 25 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Risshu-e
Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

May

May 2 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

May 9 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

May 16 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

May 19 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

May 23 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gongyo
Clean up

May 30 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

June

June 6 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

June 8 (Tuesday)

7:00 PM
Exchange Meeting with Fuji
Gakuriin Student Priests

June 13 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

June 16 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

June 20 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

June 27 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

Rev. Taishin Takano,
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Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

is fulfilled, there exists practice for others without fail. Practice for the sake of others is the act based on one's profound compassion.

(Mondan, p.219)

It is taught in this passage, when one becomes filled with the benefits of chanting the Daimoku his act is certainly accompanied by the practice of shakubuku. What I would like to emphasize is Shodai and shakubuku are united as one. One should not do Shodai only for the sake of chanting the Daimoku. What is most important is one should do shakubuku based on the benefits and joy

from Shodai. Shodai alone is not the true Daimoku, that can save both oneself and others. We are apt to become bogged down in the theoretical Daimoku of the Former and Middle Days of the Law. Therefore, in this "Year of Advancing toward Kosen-rufu," each individual should steadily strive to chant Daimoku and do shakubuku, and remain committed to the practice for oneself and others. With this, each person should pledge to the three treasures that he or she will achieve this year's goal and courageously work toward the achievement of the aspiration for kosen-rufu.

Higan-e Memorial— March 21

Memorial service performed twice a year on or around the equinox. More information will be mailed at a later date.

The Risshu-e Ceremony: Celebrating the Declaration of True Buddhism—April 25

The Risshu-e Ceremony, the establishment of true Buddhism will be celebrated on April 25 at 10:00 AM.

In the early morning of April 28, 1253, Nichiren Daishonin, age 32, stood alone in Kasagamori forest at the top of Seicho-zan Mountain waiting for dawn. As the sun rose above the Pacific Ocean, Nichiren Daishonin joined his hands in prayer and began to chant the Daimoku: "Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo..." The significance of the annual Risshu-e Ceremony is to express our gratitude to Nichiren Daishonin. Through his profound mercy, he overcame tremendous obstacles to establish true Buddhism for all eternity. So we commemorate this day by making the determination to follow the Daishonin's example of teaching everyone about Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo.



Read this Myohoji Bulletin
on the web:

<http://myohoji.nst.org/category/myohoji-bulletin/>

Exchange Meeting with Fuji Gakurin Student Priests June 8 at 7 PM

An exchange meeting with the Fuji Gakurin student priests will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 8th in the main hall of Myohoji Temple. Following the meeting, a reception will be held in the patio.

Please bring snacks and finger foods for everyone to enjoy. On the following evening, June 9th, the visiting student priests will attend local home meetings. Please contact local coordinators for details.

Subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly

To learn more about our dynamic practice, we encourage you to subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly, published 12 times a year. Since the purpose of the monthly is specifically for study, each edition is packed with in-depth material dealing with complex aspects of true Buddhism, as well as the more basic concepts. Also, each monthly Oko lecture will be read from the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly for that month. So, please remember to bring your copy of the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly!



NST Myohoji Temple Hours

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| Open: | Mon. - Sat.: | 6:15 AM |
| | Sun.: | 8:00 AM |
| Closed: | Mon. - Fri.: | 8:00 PM |
| | Thurs.: | 8:30 PM |
| | Sat. & Sun.: | 5:30 PM |
| Gongyo | | |
| Morning: | Mon. - Sat.: | 6:30 AM |
| | Sun.: | 10:00 AM |
| Evening: | Mon. - Fri.: | 6:30 PM |
| | Sat. & Sun.: | 4:00 PM |