

NICHIREN SHOSHU HONSEIJI TEMPLE

Dear Honseiji Members,

October 1st, 2018

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health and high spirits. I am truly happy to see the deepening of your faith each day, and the further developing of our Honseiji family, based on your sincere practice for oneself and others. I have enclosed a copy of the Honseiji Temple October calendar, and I would like to formally announce that **the Oeshiki Ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday October 14th.**

The Oeshiki is the annual ceremony commemorating the day on which Nichiren Daishonin physically passed away, and celebrating his eternal life as the True Buddha. In other words, we celebrate Nichiren Daishonin's manifestation of his eternal life in his extinction and non-extinction, throughout the three existences.

Nichiren Daishonin's life as the True Buddha always resides in this world, leading all existence throughout the entire universe to the life condition of enlightenment. For this reason, the Oeshiki Ceremony is a time when we celebrate the Daishonin's eternal life with sincere gratitude, and reaffirm our determination to contribute towards his greatest will; the achievement of true peace and security of the land, otherwise known as kosen-rufu. When the Chief Priest reads the Rissho ankoku-ron during the ceremony, it indicates the Daishonin's Buddhism of shakubuku. Compassionate shakubuku is the key to perpetuating Nichiren Daishonin's teaching for the future and accomplishing a world of lasting peace.

The Oeshiki Ceremony is the most important ceremony in the Nichiren Shoshu faith, therefore, please come and celebrate this day with us, and encourage fellow members to attend as well. This is also a great opportunity to invite your family or friends as guests. To best support your guest's understanding and experience at the temple, please explain the significance of this ceremony in advance, so they can sincerely participate in this celebration of the True Buddha and his will for lasting world peace.

Each year in preparation for the Oeshiki Ceremony, many members gather together at the temple to make paper cherry blossoms in commemoration of the time of the Buddha's physical passing when the earth shook and the cherry trees bloomed out of season. These cherry blossoms are offered to the Gohonzon and adorn the altar for the Oeshiki Ceremony. **This year flower making will be held at the temple from October 8th-10th (10 am - 8 pm).** Let's make lots of paper cherry blossoms together!

Lastly, I pray for the continued deepening of your faith and practice, as well as the health, happiness, and further development of our Hokekko family.

Rev. Shoka Kimura
Honseiji Temple Chief Priest