



# 立正佼成会ニューヨーク教会

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## March 2021 Newsletter



Hello, everyone!

The weather continues to be very cold in most areas. How are you faring?

As for the coronavirus infectious disease, the distribution of the vaccines finally started in various parts of the world.

The inoculation is focused on starting with those in the healthcare industry and the elderly, and it seems it will probably take until nearly end of the year to reach everyone.

Until now, numerous people have lost their precious lives. Names of some well-known people have been noted.

We, first of all, would like to pray that their precious spirits may rest in peace.

And for those who are presently in the hospital and all those who are undergoing treatment, we pray for your speedy recovery.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated work of those in the healthcare industry and all the essential workers who are supporting our daily lives.

This is the month we will finally welcome spring and it is also the month we will celebrate the 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary since Rissho Kosei-kai was established.

On March 5, 1938, Rissho Kosei-kai was born in Suginami-ku, Tokyo.

The organization was launched by the Founder, the Cofounder and their 30 followers of faith, with the Headquarters located on the second floor of the Founder's house. It was when the Founder was 32 years old.

Recalling that time, the Founder said,

“We were trying to create an organization with just 30 people and had no ambition to make it into a large organization. I think the only way to describe it was that we were just so grateful with a compelling wish to take refuge in the Buddha's teaching.”

[ 〈Rissho (立正)〉 means to establish the teachings of the true Dharma in this world, i.e., the teachings of “the Lotus Sutra”

With Kosei (佼成), the 〈ko (佼)〉 means religious interaction, learning together and encouraging each other and the 〈sei (成)〉 sets forth the ideal of perfecting ourselves and the attainment of Buddhahood.

On this occasion I changed my name to “Nikkyo (日敬)” and that of Mrs. Naganuma to “Myoko (妙佼).” ]

Whatever our Founder envisioned, he never forgot his high aspirations.

His big wish for establishing Rissho Kosei-kai was “for as many people as possible to encounter the teachings of this ‘Lotus Sutra’ and find happiness.”

And I believe his other wish was to always cherish every encounter he faced.

Whether it was a convenient encounter for him [direct appearance: junke (順化)] or an inconvenient encounter for him [reverse appearance: gyakuke (逆化)], he valued that encounter, never looking away.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of our organization, let us once again reflect on its significance.

Meanwhile, when we turn our attention to the entire vast universe, we see that our earth is one of the solar systems in the Milky Way. In this universe there are several thousands, tens of thousands, of nebulae. But when the American researchers examined that galaxy, they found numerous nebulae that were constantly changing and developing, as well as those heading toward extinction. Our Milky Way, however, exists in a very stable state and they could find only six that could be counted as similar to ours.

As the reason for that, this Milky Way is considered as a frontier that exists far away from the center of the universe, having had very little contact with other nebulae and thus remained stable. However, according to a recent research, they found an evidence of a collision with another nebula about 10 billion years ago, and it seems that even now, a part of that movement remains. And yet, that nothing had happened and stability was maintained since the collision 10 billion years ago is quite miraculous.

Moreover, that research is predicting that there is a possibility of a collision, in about 2 billion years, with a nebula known as Magellan Cloud. Speculation on what would happen should there be such a collision are: either that changes would result in the movement of the Milky Way that had been stable or our solar system would be ejected from the Milky Way.

10 billion years, 2 billion years, may seem like extraordinary length of time, but from the perspective of movement of the vast universe, it may be just a moment.

Shakyamuni Buddha was awakened to the Truth that penetrates the Universe. Based on that Truth, the Buddha taught us how we should live. And the true meaning he mostly wanted to tell us was conveyed by the Mahayana movement, indicated in “the Lotus Sutra,” and through the course of a long history, until today.

Through his encounter with the Lotus Sutra, our Founder established Rissho Kosei-kai by his conviction that this teaching will indeed liberate all people and guide the world to peace. He taught us the spirit of the Lotus Sutra and the Buddha’s long cherished wish in an easy to understand manner.

The science and technology are well developed today. Yet, in this world there are many things we still do not understand. Let us be good encounters for those people who are seeking the true origin of this world as well as the true way to live, and unlimitedly interact with them. That will connect us to the significance and the spirit for the establishment of our organization.

Gassho

Rev. Tomokazu Hatakeyama

Minister of RKNY

