

Jodo Shinshu Day in Canada

As we commemorate 105th Jodo Shinshu Day, first of all I wish to join with each and everyone across Canada in paying tribute of sincere respect and appreciation to the pioneers for their enthusiasm and insight to light the torch of Nembutsu in this country.

Although in recent years we have witnessed the decline of membership, what each one of us cannot forget as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists is to continue to cherish the teaching of Nembutsu ourselves in order to truly share it with our family, neighbours and friends, so that this Jodo Shinshu teaching will eventually flourish in the hearts and minds of the people.

Keeping this in mind, my recommendations for this Jodo Shinshu Day are as follows;

1. Recite the Essentials of Jodo Shinshu (My Path) regularly.
2. Read the Buddhist books that are available in the temples or public libraries and bookstores.
3. Chant Sutras including Shoshinge, which was written by Shinran Shonin.

This Jodo Shinshu Day message will be the last one for me as Socho as I will be stepping down from the office next spring. May I take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your support for the last eight years. I hope you can continue to give good support to the incoming Bishop Shigenori Makino.

In gassho, namoamidabutsu,
Orai Fujikawa

浄土真宗カナダ教団創立記念日にあたり

1905年に本山より初代開教使が派遣されてから、105回目の創立記念日にあたり、カナダ各地の法友の皆様とともに、念仏の法灯を掲げてくださった先輩開拓者の方々の熱意と先見の明にたいし、衷心より敬意と感謝を表します。

末法の時代にあつて、最近信徒の数が減少していますが、「自信教人信」と言われますように、自分自身が念仏の教を喜び、それを家族、友人達と分ち合うことにより必ずや浄土真宗がカナダ人の宗教として受け容れられる日が来ると確信いたします。

そのためには、お互いに次のことに留意したいものです。

- 1 浄土真宗の教章を繰り返していただくこと。
- 2 お寺の図書館や本屋で仏教書を求めて読んでみること。
- 3 お経を習うこと。特に親鸞聖人の正信念仏げを味わってみる。

それぞれが恥ずかしくない浄土真宗門徒になりたいものです。合掌。