

RITUAL TEXTS

Collection of Texts for
the Rites of Rissho Kosei-kai

Electronic Edition

Rissho Kosei-kai International

Rissho Kosei-kai International
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Introduction

1.

This collection comprises the texts for the rites observed by the lay Buddhist organization of Rissho Kosei-kai and its members at their headquarters, local Dharma centers, homes, and other places when rituals and ceremonies are needed. A ritual text is a document which an officiate or sutra-recitation leader uses to announce to the Eternal Buddha, all buddhas, and all honored ones the significance and purpose of the ritual or ceremony that members will conduct as well as their vows and prayers. When read aloud by the ritual officiate, the text also informs those present at the ritual or ceremony of its significance and purpose and helps them prepare for it. Further, specific ritual texts are chosen for particular rituals or ceremonies, and in some cases, supplementary “special words” may also be stated in the recitation of the ritual text. Generally, the statement of the special words is considered a part of the ritual text, but for convenience of use, examples of the special words are collected in the appendix of this collection separately from the texts.

2.

Users of this collection of texts for rites and ceremonies may digitally store on digital devices texts they wish to use. As for the special words, please prepare them by referring to the examples in the appendix. For the special words used in funeral rites, it is recommended to obtain the necessary information about the deceased’s name, date of death, personality, lifestyle, and other relevant details prior to the service. This ensures that the content of the special words appropriately reflects what the departed was like in life.

3.

Ritual texts for the headquarters’ regular ceremonial events may differ from those in this collection because each time we receive guidance from the president on the text to be used for each ceremonial event. For this reason, we will send a copy of the text for each event to Dharma centers in advance.

4.

Statements of special words are read aloud in the recitation of the ritual text at the headquarters’ regular ceremonial events. As some phrases or words may be revised, we will send the special words to Dharma centers every time in advance of the following events: Celebrating the First Day of the Year, Commemoration of Shakyamuni Buddha’s Nirvana, Anniversary of the Founding of Rissho Kosei-kai, Anniversary of the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, Ullambana Ceremony, Memorial Service for All Victims of War and Prayers for Peace, Annual Memorial Day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma, Annual Memorial Day of Founder Niwano, Annual Memorial Service for Nichiren,

Anniversary of the Birth of Founder Nikkyo Niwano, Anniversary of Shakyamuni's Attainment of Buddhahood.



When Dharma centers celebrate the enshrinement of their Buddha statue, the completion of their building, and significant milestones such as the decennial anniversaries of the center's founding, they receive the special words from the president.

5.

As for the recitation of the *Kyoten: Sutra Readings*, the whole *Kyoten* is usually recited unless otherwise indicated. However, specific chapters can be selectively chosen from the sutra or the Threefold Lotus Sutra, depending on the purpose and time limitation of the ceremonial event or memorial service, as well as on the guests invited.

6.

As every recitation leader officiates the entire ritual or ceremony on behalf of the president, in their everyday life they are expected to dedicate themselves to religious training in a way that is befitting their role and be well-versed in all aspects of the rituals. Officiates and sutra recitation leaders should ensure that they attentively read and understand the content of the special words in advance, and, at the ritual or ceremony, read them aloud fluently and clearly, calmly and slowly. They should offer the special words in the hope that the buddhas, gods, ancestors, and all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, will be moved and overjoyed. This will create a solemn atmosphere.

7.

1) In the texts and special words, there are italicized words or phrases in parentheses as well as brackets. The words and phrases in parenthesis are instructions for ritual manners, such as chanting the O-daimoku or striking the gong, and also guidelines for chapters to be recited from the *Kyoten* and the Threefold Lotus Sutra. The words or phrases in brackets require officiates and sutra recitation leaders to insert appropriate names, pronouns, numbers, and so on, as well as to choose alternatives or appropriate words.

2) Notes are placed at the end of some texts. Officiates and sutra recitation leaders should read and understand them to prepare the text and special words before the ritual or ceremony at which they will officiate.

3) Direct quotations from the Threefold Lotus Sutra are taken from *The Threefold Lotus Sutra: A Modern Translation for Contemporary Readers*, published by Kosei Publishing Company in 2019.

4) The texts are formatted in both Microsoft Word and PDF files. With the Word files, users can

make necessary revisions to names, descriptions, and so on, while the PDF files can be preserved as unchanged standard data. The Word file is formatted for printing in letter size. However, users who wish to print the texts in A4 size should modify the format accordingly.

5) This collection of ritual texts may be revised in the future as the need arises. To avoid confusion between the old and new editions, each edition's publishing date is indicated in the right footer of the ritual texts. In addition, the left footer contains the particular number of each text, as shown in the table of contents.

6) The no. 9 folder "Addendum" has three ritual texts: "Anniversary of Birthday," "Wedding Anniversary," and "Wedding Anniversary Announcement before the Buddha." Rissho Kosei-kai International created them to adapt to the contemporary needs of dissemination worldwide.

7) The Special Words to Transfer Merit, the Words Guiding the Newly Departed, and the Announcement in the no. 8 folder "Appendix" may be better printed in slightly larger italics on letter-size or A4 paper to suit the solemn atmosphere of the ceremony. It is then folded and placed in an envelope with a title such as "Special Words to Transfer Merit" written in large letters on the front side. On the day of the ceremony, the officiant or sutra recitation leader should place it on the sutra desk beforehand. During the ceremony, after reciting O-daimoku ten times, the leader picks it up and reads the words aloud, and when finished, returns it to the envelope and places it on the sutra desk.

Celebrating the First Day of the Year

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to sincerely celebrate New Year's Day [*solar calendar year*].

We reverently ask you to accept our New Year's Vow and earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapter 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Vow for the Beginning of the New Year
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the First Day of the Year Celebration, we express our sincere gratitude
for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

President's First Dharma Talk for the Year

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Risho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have solemnly gathered together to receive the President's Dharma message for the New Year.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

All of us have now renewed our vows to cultivate our minds and hearts and to share the Dharma
in the spirit of “many in body, one in spirit.”

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the-daimoku three times.*)

Mid-Winter Sutra Recitation

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered in midwinter to recite the Threefold Lotus Sutra.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*chapters from the Threefold Lotus Sutra*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, in midwinter, we have respectfully recited the Threefold Lotus Sutra with hearts united as
one to embrace the Dharma with our body, speech, and mind, and all of us have renewed our
vows.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Setsubun-e (Seasonal Celebration)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Risho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, in the year of the [*name of the year's star according to the nine-star astrology*] Star, have gathered together to celebrate Setsubun-e, Seasonal Celebration.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having welcomed this crisp spring morning by reciting the sutra together, all of us gathered
here have purified our six sense organs and renewed our vows.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

In the second paragraph beginning with “We, members of [*Dharma center name*],” you can omit the
phrase “in the year of the [*name of the year’s star according to the nine-star astrology*] Star” if the
participants are not familiar with the nine star astrology.

Commemoration of Shakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Today, we, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered together to solemnly commemorate the anniversary of Shakyamuni Buddha's nirvana.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the memorial service marking Shakyamuni Buddha's nirvana, we
express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Anniversary of the Founding of Rissho Kosei-kai

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to wholeheartedly celebrate the [*ordinal number*] anniversary of the founding of Rissho Kosei-kai.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of Rissho Kosei-kai, we express
our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Anniversary of the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Today, we, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to wholeheartedly celebrate the auspicious anniversary of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this commemoration of the anniversary of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth, we express our
sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Ullambana Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissyo Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this Ullambana Ceremony and commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Here, we reverently pray that

All ancestors of every member of this Sangha,

All deceased members,

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

And especially (*Read out posthumous names*),

may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the transfer of merit from our sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the Ullambana Ceremony and the monthly memorial day of
Shakyamuni Buddha, we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra
recitation.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this sutra recitation to

All ancestors of every member of this Sangha,

All deceased members,

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

And especially to all those whose first Ullambana is this year,

so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of

Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Memorial Service for All Victims of War and Prayers for Peace

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this memorial service for all victims of war, to pray for peace, as well as to commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Here, we reverently offer and transfer the merits of this sutra recitation to

All victims of war

And all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the memorial service for all victims of war and prayers for peace as well as the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha, we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Annual Memorial Day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Risho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to commemorate the annual memorial day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Gratitude
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on the annual memorial day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma, we express our sincere
gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Annual Memorial Day of Founder Nikkyo Niwano

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Risho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to commemorate the annual memorial day of Founder Nikkyo Niwano.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Gratitude
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on the annual memorial day of Founder Nikkyo Niwano, we express our sincere gratitude
for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Annual Memorial Service for the Great Bodhisattva Nichiren

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct the annual memorial service for the Great Bodhisattva Nichiren.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
The Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on the annual memorial service for the Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, we express our sincere
gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Anniversary of the Birth of Founder Nikkyo Niwano

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Risscho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to wholeheartedly celebrate the anniversary of Founder Nikkyo Niwano's birth and commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together, all of us gathered here reflect on the meaning of his birth into this world. We express gratitude for our precious encounter with the Dharma through the teachings of the Founder.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, the Founder's original wish for world peace as well as all living beings' attainment of liberation may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Anniversary of Shakyamuni's Attainment of Buddhahood

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, we, members of [*Dharma Center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to wholeheartedly celebrate the anniversary of Shakyamuni's attainment of buddhahood.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma Center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this commemoration of the anniversary of Shakyamuni's attainment of buddhahood, we
express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Ceremony on the First of the Month (Uposatha Day)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We members, all of pure heart, have gathered to conduct this ceremony to mark the first day of the month.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

In the presence of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni, we have now conducted this ceremony to mark the first day of the month. All of us have renewed our vows and pledged to pursue further bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Monthly Memorial Day of Founder Nikkyo Niwano

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We members, all of pure heart, have gathered to conduct this monthly memorial service for Founder Nikkyo Niwano.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the monthly memorial day of Founder Nikkyo Niwano, each and every one of us reflects on the mission given to us through our karmic connections and vows to pursue bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Monthly Memorial Day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We members, all of pure heart, have gathered to conduct this monthly memorial service for Cofounder Myoko Naganuma.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the monthly memorial day of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma, each and every one of us reflects on the mission given to us through our karmic connections and vows to pursue bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Monthly Memorial Day of Shakyamuni Buddha (Uposatha Day)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We members, all of pure heart, have gathered to commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha, each and every one
of us reflects on the mission given to us through our karmic connections and vows to pursue
bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Anniversary of Founding the Dharma Center

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Today, we members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this ceremony for the [*ordinal number*] anniversary of founding this Dharma Center.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect (*Only once a decade like the 10th, 20th, and 30th year after founding*)
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the [*ordinal number*] anniversary of founding this Dharma Center, we all
vow to share the teachings more widely and further our bodhisattva practice, reflecting on the
significance of the establishment of this Dharma Center.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Memorial Day for the Family

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day that the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni was enshrined in this home, we conduct this memorial service for the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

We sincerely offer our reverence and respect to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni and all our ancestors through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the memorial day of the [*family name*] family, we renew our awareness
that we are embodiments of the universal life of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni shared by all
living beings. And we devote ourselves to bodhisattva practice with gratitude to all our ancestors.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this recitation to
All our ancestors and all others who are recorded in our memorial registers;
All those whose memorial day is today;
And all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,
so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of
Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Deathbed Prayer Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], and members of the Sangha, have all gathered to reverently pray and recite the sutra for the late [*full name*], who has just passed from this world, so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly enter the wondrous realm of nirvana.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us—the members of the [*family name*] family and members of the Sangha—have
 sincerely recited the sutra to transfer the merits of its recitation to the late [*full name*].

The Sutra of the Method for Contemplating the Bodhisattva Universal Sage says:

“The ocean of all karmic impediments
 Arises from illusions.
 If you want to perform acknowledgment and remorse,
 You must sit correctly and contemplate ultimate reality.
 All wrongs are just as frost and dew,
 So the sun of wisdom can melt them away.
 Therefore, with utmost sincerity,

Perform acknowledgment and remorse for the six sense faculties.”

We reverently pray that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly depart for the jeweled land of tranquil light and accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Vigil Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], and their relatives have gathered together with members of the Sangha and friends to solemnly conduct this vigil service for the late [*full name*].

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation and protection, as well as your guidance in all things to the departed.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this vigil service, the bereaved family, their relatives, members of the Sangha, and friends
 have sincerely recited the sutra with hearts united as one to transfer the merits of its recitation to
 [*Posthumous name/ Secular name*].

We reverently pray for your sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. If a posthumous name is not yet given, state the departed's secular name preceded by "the

late.”

2. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.
3. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Special Words to Transfer Merit are stated.

Funeral Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], and their relatives have gathered together with members of the Sangha and friends to solemnly conduct this funeral service for the late [*full name*].

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as your guidance in all things to the departed.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words Guiding the Newly Departed
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this funeral service, the bereaved family, their relatives, members of the Sangha, and
 friends have sincerely recited the sutra with hearts united as one to transfer the merits of its
 recitation to

[*Posthumous name/ Secular name*].

We reverently pray for the Buddha's sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. As for the Sutra Recitation, two chapters from the Kyoten (chapters 2 and 16) or four chapters (chapters 2, 10, 16, and 20) are acceptable as an alternative to all the chapters.
2. As for the Words Guiding the Newly Departed, refer to the examples in the appendix.
3. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Words Guiding the Newly Departed are stated.

Memorial Service Held on the Seventh Day after Death Including Forty-ninth Day and One Hundredth Day

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], and their relatives have gathered together with members of the Sangha and friends to solemnly conduct the seventh-day [*or forty-ninth day/one hundredth day*] memorial service for the late [*full name*], who is here given the posthumous name [*Posthumous name*] (*Recite it twice*).

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation and protection, as well as your guidance in all things to the departed.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation

- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [Dharma center name];
 The guardian spirits of the [family name] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this seventh [*or forty-ninth/ one hundredth*]-day memorial service, the bereaved family, their
 relatives, members of the Sangha, and friends have sincerely recited the sutra with hearts united as
 one to transfer the merits of its recitation to
 [*Posthumous name/ Secular name*].

We reverently pray for the Buddha's sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. The memorial service can be performed every seven days, from the second seventh day
 until the sixth seventh day.

2. In the second paragraph beginning with “The bereaved members of the [*family name*] family,” you can omit the phrase, “who is here given the posthumous name, [*Posthumous name*].”
3. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the example in the appendix.

Specific-Year Memorial Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The [family name] family, of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name] conducts the [ordinal number] memorial service for

[Posthumous name/ Secular name] (*Recite it twice.*)

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as your guidance in all things to the departed.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit

○ Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on the occasion of this memorial service for the [*family name*] family, all of us—the family members of the departed and members of the Sangha—have sincerely recited the sutra and offered this memorial service from the heart.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

○ Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

1. The term “specific-year” used for the specific-year memorial service means the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 23rd, 27th, 33rd, 50th, and 100th year after death.
2. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.

Burial Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*] and their relatives have gathered with members of the Sangha to solemnly conduct this burial service for [*posthumous name/ secular name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us—the bereaved members of the [*family name*] family, their relatives, and Sangha
members—have sincerely recited the sutra and expressed gratitude for the Buddha’s arrangement
of this burial service for [*posthumous name/ secular name*].

We reverently pray that through this sutra recitation
[*Posthumous name/ Secular name*] (*Recite it twice*)
as well as all ancestors of the [*family name*] family
may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
Awakening in the eternal tranquility of the wondrous land of nirvana.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Grave Consecration Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Here, the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], conducts this ceremony for the consecration of their family grave.

A new headstone is now placed on this gravesite by the [*family name*] family at the wish of the representative of the family.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten' appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku

○ Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us gathered here have sincerely recited the sutra and respectfully expressed our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the consecration of the [*family name*] family's grave.

We reverently pray that
all ancestors of the [*family name*] family
as well as all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,
may delight in the taste of the Dharma in the eternal tranquility of the wondrous land of nirvana
and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Pouring the Water on the Gravestone
- Blessing (*Sprinkle the salt, rice and sake.*)
- Incense Offering
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the grave site or, if the grave is shaped such a way that it does not have four corners, sprinkle them at imaginary four corners. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Grave Consecration and Burial Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [family name] family, of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name], their relatives, and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this grave consecration and burial service for [posthumous name/ secular name].

A new headstone is now placed on this gravesite by the [family name] family at the wish of the representative of the family.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit

- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us—bereaved family members, relatives, and Sangha members—have sincerely recited
 the sutra and respectfully expressed our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the consecration of
 this grave and the burial service for the [*family name*] family.

We reverently pray that through this sutra recitation
 [*Posthumous name/ Secular name*] (*Recite it twice.*)
 as well as all ancestors of the [*family name*] family
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
 Awakening in the eternal tranquility of the wondrous land of nirvana.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Burial (*Ceremony to lay one's ashes to rest*)
- Ritual of Pouring the Water on the Gravestone
- Blessing (*Sprinkle salt, rice and sake.*)

- Incense Offering
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the grave site or, if the grave is shaped such a way that it does not have four corners, sprinkle them at imaginary four corners. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Memorial Service for Unborn Children

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Today, members of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this memorial service for unborn children.

Here, we reverently pray from our hearts that

All unborn children, especially [*posthumous name*] to whom we offer this memorial service, may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the sutra recitation of this service.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the guardian and heavenly spirits extend their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as their guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse

- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this memorial service for
 unborn children.

We reverently pray that through this sutra recitation
 All ancestors of each member of this Sangha;
 All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;
 And especially to the unborn children for whom we conducted this memorial service,
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of Supreme
 Perfect Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living
 beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. In the third paragraph above, beginning with “Here, we reverently pray,” you can remove the phrase “especially [*posthumous name*] to whom we offer this memorial service.”
2. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.
3. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Special Words to Transfer Merit are stated.

Ceremony Marking the [*Spring/Autumn*] Equinox

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Today, members of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this ceremony marking the [*spring/ autumn*] equinox.

Here, we reverently pray that

All ancestors of every member of this Sangha;

All deceased members;

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;

and especially [*posthumous names/ secular names*],

may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the sutra recitation of this service.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the guardian and heavenly spirits extend their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as their guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this ceremony marking the [*spring/ autumn*] equinox, we express our sincere gratitude for the
Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.
We reverently pray that through this recitation
All ancestors of every member of this Sangha;
All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;
And especially to the deceased for whom we conducted this memorial service,
may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of Supreme
Perfect Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.
2. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Special Words to Transfer Merit are stated.

Memorial Service for the Victims of War, Disaster, Accident, and Violence

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Here, today, members of [*Dharma center name*] have gathered with members of the community, all of pure heart, to solemnly conduct this memorial service for the victims of [*name of war / description of disaster, accident, or violence*].

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the guardian and heavenly spirits extend their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku

- Special Words to Transfer Merit
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, at this memorial service for the victims of [*name of war / description of disaster, accident, or violence*],
 we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We reverently pray that through this sutra recitation
 All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;
 And especially to the deceased for whom we conducted this memorial service;
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
 Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living
 beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. After the second paragraph that begins “Here, today, members,” if reciting posthumous names, add the following:
“We reverently pray that
[*Read posthumous names out*]
may delight in the taste of the Dharma through the sutra recitation of this memorial service.”
2. As for the Special Words to Transfer Merit, refer to the examples in the appendix.
3. “Incense offering” can be performed by the sutra recitation leader after the Special Words to Transfer Merit are stated.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for Dharma Centers

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Members of [*Dharma center name*], people with karmic connections to this area, and related parties, all of pure heart, have gathered to respectfully conduct this ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*]; we solemnly purify this land, which now becomes a sacred place of the Buddha Dharma.

Here,

“May This Dharma Center and the Earth Supporting It Be Places of Awakening.”

(Recite the Land Purification Inscription twice.)

We reverently pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, this location may become a place from which the true Dharma reaches far and wide. We also earnestly pray for guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the participants of pure heart at the site of
 [*Dharma center name*], we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the ground
 breaking ceremony for the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*].

We reverently pray that
 All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,
 And, especially, those who were related to this place,
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
 Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that all hindrances to completing this Dharma Center may be dispelled and purified so that it become the site for sharing the Dharma.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Ritual of Taking the First Shovelful of Earth
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the ground for the Dharma center. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for Members

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], their relatives, and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, have gathered to respectfully conduct this ground breaking ceremony for the new [*home, factory, store, or other structure*] of the [*family name*] family.

Here,

“May This [*Home, Factory, Store, or other structure*] and the Earth Supporting It Be Places of Awakening.”

(Recite the Land Purification Inscription twice.)

We reverently pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, all karmic connections to this place may be auspicious. We also earnestly pray for guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the [*family name*] family, their relatives, and
 members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for
 arranging the ground breaking ceremony for the new [*home, factory, store, or other structure*] of the [*family
 name*] family.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this recitation to

All ancestors of the [*family name*] family;

All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be;

And especially,

“May This [*Home, Factory, Store, or other structure*] and the Earth Supporting It Be Places of Awakening.”

(Recite the Land Purification Inscription twice.)

May all beings to whom we transfer this merit quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that all karmic connections to this place may be auspicious and that all hindrances may be dispelled, as well as ask for guidance to successfully complete a sound [*home, factory, store, or other structure*] that is free from defilement.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Ritual of Taking the First Shovelful of Earth
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the ground for the home, factory, store, or other structure. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Topping-Out Ceremony for Dharma Centers

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, members of [*Dharma center name*], people with karmic connections to this area, and related parties, all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this topping-out ceremony for the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the participants of pure heart, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the completion of the main structure of [*Dharma center's name*].

We reverently pray that all karmic connections to this place may be auspicious and that all hindrances may be dispelled. We also earnestly ask for guidance to successfully complete a magnificent and robust Dharma center.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the building foundation of the Dharma center. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Topping-Out Ceremony for Members

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], their relatives, and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this topping-out ceremony for the [*family name*] family's new [*home, factory, store or other structure*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the [*family name*] family, their relatives and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the completion of the framework of the [*family name*] family's new [*home, factory, store or other structure*].

We reverently pray that all karmic connections to this place be auspicious and that all hindrances may be dispelled. We also earnestly ask for guidance to successfully complete a sound [*home, factory, store or other structure*] that is free from defilement.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners

of the building foundation of the home, factory, store or other structure. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.

Ceremony to Consecrate a Newly Completed Structure

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], their relatives, and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, have gathered to respectfully conduct this sacred ritual to complete the [*family name*] family's new [*home, factory, store, or other structure*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the [*family name*] family, their relatives, and
members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for
arranging the completion of the [*family name*] family's new [*home, factory, store, or other structure*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things and that through their firm faith, the family's fortunes
may prosper. We also respectfully pray that this new [*home, factory, store, or other structure*] may be a place
for practicing the Buddha Way and that all of us together may accomplish the Buddha Way.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Enshrinement Ceremony for the Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We solemnly conduct this enshrinement ceremony of the Focus of Devotion for the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the [*family name*] family and the members of
the Sangha in attendance, all of us respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging
this enshrinement of the Focus of Devotion in the [*family name*] family's home.

The enshrined Focus of Devotion is the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni along with the Stupa of the
Tathagata Abundant Treasures as well as the four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless
Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice embodied in its nimbus.

The recipient and Sangha members gathered here in purity of heart, together as one, realize the
meaning of the enshrinement of the Eternal Original Buddha and renew their vow to devote
themselves to bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Ceremony for Transferring a Dharma Center's Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We solemnly conduct this ceremony for transferring the Focus of Devotion of [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,

may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the transfer of the Focus of Devotion to [*Dharma center name*].

Here, under the great benevolence and great compassion of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni as well as the protection of all the other buddhas and honored ones, we have received our Focus of Devotion and thus a new ground for conveying the Buddha Dharma far and wide and sharing the teachings. We vow to pursue further bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Relocation Ceremony for the Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon) [*and Guardian Spirits (Goshugo-sonjin)*]

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We solemnly conduct this relocation ceremony for the Focus of Devotion [*and the guardian spirits*] of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging this ceremony for
relocating the Focus of Devotion [*and the guardian spirits*] of the [*family name*] family.

Here, under the great benevolence and great compassion of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni as
well as the protection of all the other buddhas and honored ones, we have received our Focus of
Devotion and thus a new ground for conveying the Buddha Dharma far and wide and sharing the
teachings. Together with hearts united as one, the entire family vows to pursue further bodhisattva
practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Ceremony for Returning a Dharma Center's Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

At this ceremony for returning the Focus of Devotion of [*Dharma center name*], we reverently recite the sutra.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

On [*month/day/year*], the Focus of Devotion was enshrined at this Dharma Center. Since that day
until today, it has bestowed the Buddha's innumerable fruits for our sacred work, such as sharing
the Dharma, liberating living beings, and purifying the society.

With the compassionate eyes of his honored face, the Focus of Devotion freed those who paid
homage from various sufferings and gave them comfort. All the members of the Sangha who
have gathered here respectfully express our sincere gratitude and vow to pursue further
bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Ceremony for the Inheritance of the Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon)

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We solemnly conduct this ceremony for the inheritance of the Focus of Devotion of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, we express our sincere gratitude to the Buddha for arranging this ceremony for the inheritance of the Focus of Devotion of the [*family name*] family. All of us—the family and Sangha members—realize the significance of enshrining the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni and vow to share the teachings so that the Dharma will long abide in this world and liberate living beings.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and unfailing protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Vow of the Parent[s] (*See a statement of the vow below.*)
- Vow of the Child (*See a statement of the vow below.*)
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Vow of Parent[s]

Today, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the inheritance

of the Focus of Devotion of the [*family name*] family.

We, as one family, will continue to live together in harmony in the spirit of “many in body, one in spirit,” and we vow to share the Dharma and practice the bodhisattva way in our home, community, and society while cultivating our hearts and minds.

[*Date*]

[*Dharma center name*]

[*Full name*]

Vow of Children

Now, having reverently inherited the Focus of Devotion of the [*family name*] family from our father [*given name*] [*or our mother* [*given name*]], we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha’s benevolent and compassionate arrangement. We vow to continue our diligent practice and remain firm in faith so that the next generation can also inherit the Focus of Devotion.

We are sincerely grateful for everyone’s participation and this auspicious ceremony.

[*Date*]

[*Dharma center name*]

[*Full name*]

Enshrinement Ceremony for the Focus of Devotion (Gohonzon) Bestowed at a Dharma Center

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We solemnly conduct this enshrinement ceremony of the Focus of Devotion, the Dharma Titles of Founder and Cofounder, and the plaques of Ancestor Appreciation and Land Blessing for the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together, all of us respectfully express our gratitude to the
Buddha for arranging in the [*family name*] family's home this enshrinement of the Focus of
Devotion, the Dharma Titles of the Founder and Cofounder, and the plaques of Ancestor
Appreciation and Land Blessing.

The enshrined Focus of Devotion is the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni along with the Stupa of the
Tathagata Abundant Treasures as well as the four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless
Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice embodied in its nimbus.

The [*family name*] family and the members of the Sangha gathered, all of pure heart, here realize
the meaning of the enshrinement of the Eternal Original Buddha, look up to the Founder and
Cofounder as revered teachers, and make a vow to devote themselves to bodhisattva practice
aspiring to liberate all sentient beings.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this recitation to all ancestors of both sides of the
family and all living beings related to this home and land:

“For the Mutual Awakening of the [*first partner's family name*] and [*second partner's family name*]

Families and Their Ancestors through the Bodhisattva Way”;

“May This Home and the Earth Supporting It Be Places of Awakening”

(Recite the Land Purification Inscription twice.)

We reverently pray that they may receive the joy of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage *(Recite the O-daimoku three times.)*

Opening the Wisdom-Eyes (Kaigen) Ceremony for Posthumous Names

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

As Dharma teachers of [*Dharma center name*], all of us sincerely recite the sutra together.

Here, we dedicate:

[*Posthumous name(s)*] (*Read it [them] out twice.*)

We earnestly pray for guidance in opening the wisdom eyes of this inscription of the posthumous name[s].

(*Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.*)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapter 20 from the Threefold Lotus Sutra*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra as Dharma teachers, all of us respectfully express our
gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this ceremony for opening the wisdom eyes of this
inscription of the posthumous name[s].

We reverently pray that you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection
for those who have now received their posthumous names [*the person who has now received his/her*
posthumous name].

We also earnestly ask that they meet the Founder and the Cofounder in the presence of the Eternal
Buddha Shakyamuni and hear the Wondrous Dharma of the true teaching of the One Vehicle so
that they [*he/she*] may quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Opening the Wisdom-Eyes (Kaigen) Ceremony for the Focuses of Devotion and the Dharma Titles

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, we earnestly pray for guidance in opening the wisdom eyes of

[number] Focus[es] of Devotion,

[number] Dharma Title[s] of Founder Nikkyo Niwano, and

[number] Dharma Title[s] of Cofounder Myoko Naganuma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapter 16 from the Kyoten and chapter 17 from the Threefold Lotus Sutra*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten, five times each.*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of opening the wisdom-eyes of the Focus[es] of Devotion and Dharma
Title[s], we express our sincere gratitude for the Buddha's arrangement of this sutra recitation.

We also earnestly pray that you extend your hands of compassion and sympathy through empathetic
response with us so that the Land of Eternally Tranquil Light may be achieved through world peace
with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Prayer Service for Activities and Events

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Now, we solemnly conduct this prayer service for [*name of the specific activity or event*] of
[*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One; The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra; The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future; The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice; The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas; Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra; Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle; Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion; The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai; The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*]; The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai; And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the prayer service for [*name of the specific activity or event*] of [*Dharma center name*] all of us gathered here reverently recited the sutra together with hearts united as one.

The sutra says:

“This sutra can deliver all living beings from suffering and pain. And this sutra can confer great benefits upon all living beings and completely satisfy their aspirations.”

We earnestly pray that you extend your hands of compassion and sympathy through empathetic response with us, so that our aspirations may be realized with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. In the Invocation above, before “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, we solemnly conduct,” you may add “the [*chapter name*] Chapter of” or “the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter of.”
2. In the Invocation above, after “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, we solemnly conduct,” you may add to more details, for example, “[*Full name of the supplicant*] reverently prays for the great success of [*full formal name of the specific activity*] at [*place name and location*] on [*date or specific occasion*].”
3. As an alternative to reciting the entire Kyoten, appropriate chapters from the Kyoten can be recited. Additionally, appropriate chapters from the Threefold Lotus Sutra and/or dharanis from the Kyoten can be included.
4. In the Transfer of Merit above, before “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, on this occasion of,” you may add “the [*chapter name*] Chapter of” or “the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter of.”

Prayer Service for Specific Objects

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Now, we solemnly conduct this prayer service to bless [*specific object*] of [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the prayer service to bless [*specific object*] of [*Dharma center name*], all of us gathered here have sincerely recited the sutra together and renewed our vow.

We earnestly pray that all karmic connections to this [*specific object*] may be auspicious and without hindrances, and that we may receive further merits for deepening our faith, sharing the Dharma, as well as cultivating bodhisattva practice.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. In the Invocation above, before “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, we solemnly conduct,” you may add “the [*chapter name*] Chapter of” or “the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter of.”
2. If this service is conducted for a car, then in the Invocation above, after “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, we solemnly conduct,” additionally state the car’s make, model, license plate number, and so on when you state [*specific object*].
3. In the Transfer of Merit above, before “[*Dharma center name*]” in the sentence beginning with “Now, on this occasion of,” you may add “the [*chapter name*] Chapter of” or “the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter of.”

Prayer Service for Recovery from Illness/Injury or Successful Surgery

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Now, we solemnly conduct this prayer service for [given name], aged [number], of the [family name], member of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name], so that [appropriate pronoun] may [recover from illness/injury or have a successful surgery].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the prayer service for [*given name*] of the [*family name*] family, member of
the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may [*recover from
illness/injury or have a successful surgery*], all of us gathered here have reverently recited the sutra
together with hearts united as one.

The merit power of the Wondrous Sutra of the Dharma Flower “enables living beings to take
leave of all suffering and all pain and disease, and to completely undo the fetters of birth and
death.”

We earnestly pray that you extend your hands of compassion and sympathy through empathetic
response with us, so that [*full name*] may [*recover from illness/injury or have a successful surgery*] and
quickly return to good health with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

As an alternative to reciting the entire Kyoten, appropriate chapters from the Kyoten can be

recited. Additionally, appropriate chapters from the Threefold Lotus Sutra and/or dharanis from the Kyoten can be included.

Expression of Gratitude Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

[*Dharma center name*] solemnly conducts this expression of gratitude service.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this occasion of the expression of gratitude service, having sincerely recited the sutra together, all of us gathered here express our genuine gratitude for [*name of object*]'s [*many*] years of service.

We reverently pray that through the merits of this sutra recitation, all that we have deconsecrated may be purified. We also earnestly pray for protection in all things.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

1. Above, for [*name of object*], insert the specific name of the object that is deconsecrated by this service.
2. Above, in the place of [*many*], you can use any specific number.
3. After the sutra recitation, purify the deconsecrated object by scattering salt, grains, and alcohol first in the northeast direction and then in the cardinal directions: north, east, south, and west.

O-daimoku Chanting Practice to Cultivate Spiritual Sensibilities

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We have gathered to sincerely conduct the O-daimoku chanting practice [*the spiritual training*] at [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Sino-Japanese reading of chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- O-daimoku Chanting Practice or Spiritual Training
- Jeweled Stupa Verse
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having completed the practice of chanting the O-daimoku with hearts united as one, all of
the Sangha express our gratitude to the Buddha for guiding us in purifying our six sense organs,
deepening our faith, as well as his empathetic response with us. We also renew our vow to
dedicate ourselves to sharing the Dharma and cultivating bodhisattva practice.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings
may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Prayer for a Safe Birth

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], conducts this ceremony to ask for a safe birth.

These good sons and good daughters have gathered here to pay homage as members of Rissho Kosei-kai who aspire to awakening and have renewed their vows to diligently seek the Way.

We reverently pray for the boundless protection of all buddhas and honored ones as well as the guardian spirits and ancestors of the [*family name*] family.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Presentation of a Memento for a Safe Birth (*The recitation leader presents the memento placed in the altar to the representative of the family.*)
- Closing Remarks
- Words of Celebration
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Dharma Name-giving Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], receive the Dharma name [*name of the Dharma, given by Rissho Kosei-kai*] for their new member.

We reverently pray for protection in all things so that this child of the Buddha may grow up in good health.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Bestowal of the Dharma Name
- Closing Remarks
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

During the Bestowal of the Dharma Name, the recitation leader presents the certificate of the Dharma name that had been placed on the altar to the representative of the family.

Newborn's First Visit to a Dharma Center

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, we sincerely celebrate the first visit to the Dharma center by [*given name or Dharma name*], the child of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*].

[*Name*], who for the first time has come to pray at a Dharma center, having received the rare gift of life as a human being and the uncommon opportunity of encountering the Dharma. [*Appropriate pronoun*] is a child of the Buddha who came into this world with precious karmic connections and an important calling.

All of us in attendance here acknowledge our debt of gratitude to the Dharma and take this ceremony as an opportunity to vow to further advance our diligent practice in seeking the Way.

We earnestly pray that with your boundless protection, this child of the Buddha, [*full name*], may grow up in good health, and that all of us here may fulfill the vows that we have made.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Presentation of Prayer Beads

- Closing Remarks
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

As for the Presentation of Prayer Beads above, the recitation leader presents the prayer beads that had been placed on the altar to the infant or the parents.

Visit to a Dharma Center by Children Aged Three, Five, and Seven

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Vow

(The recitation leader announces the title printed on the card of the children's vow.)

Children's Vow

(Everyone recites the following vow together.)

We boys and girls revere the Buddha,
vow to be kind to others,
to be polite at all times,
and to honor our parents.

- Presentation of Commemorative Gifts
- Closing Remarks
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

The texts of Children's Vow should be distributed to the participants beforehand.

Coming-of-Age Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, [*Dharma center name*] celebrates the coming-of-age of [*full names and chapter names of those who have come of age*].

Here, altogether [*number*] people sincerely acknowledge their deepest gratitude to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni as well as to all buddhas and honored ones for watching over them as they have come of age.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit

- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddhas in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

[*Number*] young men and women, all of pure heart, have now come of age. Each of them appreciates the dignity of life and expresses their gratitude for receiving the rare opportunity of encountering the Dharma. They now renew their vows to further advance in bodhisattva practice.

We reverently pray that you acknowledge their vows and wishes and thereby bring them innumerable merits so that, firm in the power of faith, they can accomplish the original vows of bodhisattvas.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Engagement Ceremony

- Family Members and the Matchmaker or a Trusted Friend to the Couple Take Their Seats
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimokun three times.*)
- Opening Words from the Matchmaker
- Exchange of Engagement Gifts
- Closing Words from the Matchmaker or Trusted Friend
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimokun three times.*)

Note

If an exchange of engagement gifts is conducted, the gifts should be placed on the altar beforehand.

Wedding Ceremony

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We now solemnly conduct the wedding ceremony of the groom, [*given name*], and bride, [*given name*], following the sacred ritual of Rissho Kosei-kai.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapter 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Wedding Announcement before the Buddha
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddhas in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [Dharma center name];
The guardian spirits of [groom's family name] family;
The guardian spirits of [bride's family name] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

We now have respectfully recited the sutra at this wedding ceremony for the groom, [given name], and
bride, [given name].

We reverently pray that you may witness this wedding ceremony and bestow your boundless
protection upon the groom and bride.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ceremonial Exchange of Cups of Sake or Some Other Appropriate Beverage
- Wedding Vow
- Exchange of Wedding Rings
- Presentation of Prayer Beads
- Greeting from the Officiant
- Introduction of Relatives and Friends
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Notes

1. As for the Wedding Announcement before the Buddha, refer to the Examples of Statement.
2. The Ceremonial Exchange of Cups of Sake or Some Other Appropriate Beverage is performed to symbolically establish the union of the groom and bride.
3. As for the Wedding Vow, refer to an example below.
4. The Exchange of Wedding Rings and the Introduction of Relatives and Friends are optional.

An Example of Wedding Vow

In the presence of the Eternal Original Buddha Shakyamuni, we have now solemnly held this wedding ceremony following the sacred rituals of Rissho Kosei-kai and promised ourselves to each other for eternity.

As members of Rissho Kosei-kai, we take today's ceremony as an opportunity to reaffirm our vows.

We vow to

Take refuge in the Three Treasures,
Venerate each other's ancestors,
Maintain loving affinity,
Respect each other,
And work together in harmony.

We also vow to

Establish a sound and spiritually rich home
And contribute to the development and peace of society.

Today, on [month/day/year], the groom [full name] and bride [given name] have now made their vows.

Celebration of Auspicious Birth Anniversaries

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, we commemorate the [*ordinal numbers*] year of the lives of [*full names and chapter names of those congratulated*] (*Announce them*).

We laud the many years of distinguished service of these [*total number*] members and most sincerely acknowledge our debt of gratitude to them for their accumulation of virtues as well as to celebrate their longevity.

Here, we pray that those who mark this anniversary will deepen their faith and revitalize their vows to practice compassion, and thereby continue to serve as model practitioners.

We reverently pray that the buddhas and bodhisattvas, the guardian and heavenly spirits allow us to receive the Three Treasures of Buddhism and know our vows. We also earnestly pray for protection in all things.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Presentation of Commemorative Gifts

- Words of Congratulation
- Words of Gratitude
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

The term “Auspicious Birth Anniversaries” refers to the commemoration of a person’s birth on the occasion of specific significant ages to celebrate their longevity. Those ages are the 60th, 70th, 77th, 80th, 88th, 90th, 99th, 100th, 108th, 111th, 120th birthdays. Insert the appropriate ordinal number in [*ordinal numbers*] above.

Special Words to Transfer Merit for a Vigil Service

These words transferring merit are reverently addressed to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni, all buddhas, and all other honored ones.

Now, we conduct this vigil service for the departed [*full name*], who passed away at the age of [*number*]. [*Given name*] has received the posthumous name of [*Posthumous name*] (*Recite it twice*).

The “Devadatta” chapter of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma states: “Wherever they are born, they will always hear this sutra. If they are born among humans and heavenly beings, they will enjoy marvelous delight. If they are born into the presence of buddhas, they will be born from lotus flowers.”

We pray:

May those who are not yet free from suffering become able to attain freedom from suffering,
May those who are not yet happy become able to attain happiness,
May those who have not yet aspired to the mind of awakening become able to aspire to it,
May those who have not yet attained buddhahood attain the joy of the Dharma inspired by this sutra recitation, enter the unsurpassable Way, and thereby accomplish embodiment as buddhas, all through the merits of embracing the Three Treasures.

We respectfully pray that the departed may be guided by the Founder and Cofounder’s teachings of great benevolence and great compassion so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly enter the wondrous realm of nirvana and accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Notes

1. If a posthumous name has not yet been conferred on the departed, delete the second paragraph’s sentence above beginning with [*Given name*].
2. After the second paragraph that begins with the words “Now, we conduct this vigil service,” state the date when the departed passed away and the reference to the departed in his or her lifetime. Make the text appropriate to the departed’s good personality, virtuous deeds, age, accomplishments, and so on. Refer to the examples 1 to 4 below.

Example 1

On [month/day/year], [given name] departed from this world to continue on [appropriate pronoun] spiritual journey. Our meeting was also the start of our parting; such is the way of this world. Life is as fleeting as the morning dew in the sunlight. Those who leave this world are surely sorrowful, but those left behind are also grieved.

Due to [appropriate pronoun] abundant virtues from past lifetimes, [given name] received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Wondrous Dharma that is rarely met. Since the time when [appropriate pronoun] became a member of Rissho Kosei-kai in [year], [appropriate pronoun] has practiced diligently and lived [appropriate pronoun] entire life in single-minded pursuit of the Dharma.

Example 2

On [month/day/year], [given name] reached the fullness of [appropriate pronoun] life in this world and quietly took [appropriate pronoun] last breath. When we reflect on life, humans beings are likely to flounder in the ocean of samsara, and they find it difficult to ascend to the pinnacle of nirvana. Those born in this world are destined to pass away and someday part from those they have met. This is the truth of the world that even the distinguished sages are unable to avoid.

Thanks to [appropriate pronoun] abundant virtues from past lifetimes, [given name] received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Wondrous Dharma that is rarely met. In [year], [appropriate pronoun] was connected to the Dharma through Rissho Kosei-kai, and since then, [appropriate pronoun] has cultivated the fields of [appropriate pronoun] heart and mind, thoroughly dedicated [appropriate pronoun] to sharing the Dharma with many people, and thus demonstrated the model of a lay bodhisattva for all of us.

Example 3

[Appropriate pronoun] received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Wondrous Dharma that is rarely met. But, on [month/day/year] as the last day in this lifetime, at the age of [number], [appropriate pronoun] departed this world. This life is much like a pretty flower in bloom that is violently blown away by a gust of wind; or comparable to a beautiful full moon that is unexpectedly obscured by sudden clouds.

In the spirit of honesty and sincerity, the deceased has unfailingly rendered service for the sake of people and the world as well as venerated [appropriate pronoun] ancestors and been kind to

[*appropriate pronoun*] parents. Thus [*appropriate pronoun*] has walked the Buddha Way, focused single-mindedly on the Buddha.

Example 4

[*Given name*] was born through the utmost benevolence of [*appropriate pronoun*] parents, and on [*month/day/year*], [*given name*] departed this world at the age of [*number*]. Parents depart this world, and their children are left behind, as this is the usual order of passing away in this world. But death comes to old and young alike. In the face of a child's untimely passing, parents feel overshadowed by gloom as though dark clouds have obscured the sunlight, or as if they have strayed deep into dim mountain forests.

With abundant virtues from past lifetimes, [*given name*] was born into the family of Rissho Koseikai members who deeply venerate the Three Treasures and earnestly transfer the merits of sutra recitation to their ancestors. [*Appropriate pronoun*] was a boy [*girl*] who embraced the true Dharma by making those merits a part of their lives.

Words to Guide the Newly Departed for Funeral Service (1)

These words are reverently addressed to
the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni,
all buddhas, and all other honored ones,
and especially to King Yama, the underworld judge for sentient beings from the five realms, as
well as to his servants.

Now, on [*month/day/year*], this good son [*or daughter/boy/girl*], aged [*number*], having reached the last
moment of this lifetime, has departed for the beyond. In place of [*appropriate pronoun*] secular
name, the dearly departed has received the posthumous name of
[*Posthumous name*] (*Recite the name twice*).

When we reflect on events in the past, we acknowledge that even the noble golden body of the
Buddha faded away behind the clouds that descended upon on the twin *sala* trees at Kushinagara,
and even those sages who possessed the three clarities and six transcendent powers eventually
disappeared into the funeral pyre's smoke of transience. Although the newly departed received the
rare gift of life as human beings and encountered the true Dharma that is rarely met, since a
human body is the temporary union of the five aggregates, the life given to [*appropriate pronoun*]
was transient from the very beginning.

Now, as we recite the essential passages of the Lotus Sutra that guide us to awakening, we ask the
departed and all those present to humbly listen to them.

Chapter 3 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “A Parable,” says:

“Now this threefold world
Is all my domain,
And the living beings in it
Are all my children.
But now it is filled
With disaster and trouble,
And only I am able
To rescue and protect them.”

Chapter 12, “Devadatta,” also says,

“The Buddha said to the monks, ‘If, in the future, there are good sons and good daughters who
hear this Devadatta chapter of the Wondrous Dharma Flower Sutra and believe and revere it with

pure hearts and without doubt, then they will not fall into the realms of hells, hungry spirits, or beasts. They will be born into the presence of the buddhas of the ten directions. Wherever they are born, they will always hear this sutra. If they are born among humans and heavenly beings, they will enjoy marvelous delight. If they are born into the presence of buddhas, they will be born from lotus flowers.”

To illustrate the meanings of these passages, the Great Bodhisattva Nichiren said as follows: “The Lotus Sutra is the ship that transports us across the River of the Dead; the great white oxcart that carries us over the Mountains of Death; the light that guides us in the darkness of the underworld; and the bridge that conveys us to Divine Eagle Peak.”

In a word, this Lotus Sutra is the mighty vessel ferrying us across to that other shore; it is the bejeweled carriage delivering us to Divine Eagle Peak.

Now, the bereaved family, their relatives and friends, and the members of the Rissho Kosei-kai Sangha who have gathered here resolve to pursue the bodhisattva way by performing virtuous deeds and thus accumulating merits. We pray that these merits may assist the departed in embarking upon the unsurpassable Way and reaching the wondrous realm of nirvana.

We also earnestly ask that the Buddha and all the buddhas and honored ones may extend their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection to the departed so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly be led into the radiant land of tranquil light.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Notes

After the third paragraph, make an additional statement appropriate to the circumstances of the deceased’s passing. Refer to the examples 1 to 3 below.

Example 1

Since the departed was recently struck by illness, the best medicine and treatment were given in every possible way, and the family members and friends sincerely cared for [*appropriate pronoun*]. But just as a flame flickers out when there is no longer oil in the lamp, [*appropriate pronoun*] has reached a peaceful conclusion to this life.

Example 2

The departed met with an unforeseeable accident, which brought about [*appropriate possessive pronoun*] immediate and unexpected journey from this world and into the beyond.

Example 3

Every person born as a human being in this world passes away. This goes for the young as well as the old, just as a flower bud is sometimes blown away by the wind before it has fully blossomed, or the way the moon can be suddenly obscured by clouds.

Words to Guide the Newly Departed for Funeral Service (2)

These words are reverently addressed to
the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni,
all buddhas, and all other honored ones.

Now, on [month/day/year], this good son [or daughter/boy/girl], aged [number], having reached the last moment of this lifetime, has departed for the beyond. [Appropriate pronoun] has received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Lotus Sutra that is rarely met.

However, as the human body is a provisional union of the five great elements, [appropriate pronoun] could never avoid death. Even our teacher and master, Shakyamuni, showed his followers the appearance of extinguishment from this world, although he really did not extinguish himself. Even heavenly beings cannot escape from the five kinds of decay. How much more impossible is it for us human beings to escape death?

Now, as the dearly departed's virtuous deeds in [appropriate pronoun] life are remembered, in place of [appropriate pronoun] secular name, [appropriate pronoun] has received the posthumous name of [Posthumous name] (Recite it twice).

Chapter 16 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, "The Life Span of the Eternal Tathagata," says:

"Those who perform virtuous deeds
And are gentle and upright of nature
Will all see me here
Teaching the Dharma."

Chapter 16 also says,

"How can I cause living beings to
Embark upon the unsurpassable Way
And quickly accomplish embodiment as buddhas?"

This Lotus Sutra is a light guiding us in the dark, a staff for us to climb a steep mountain, a ship ferrying us across a river, and a bridge leading us across to the wondrous realm of nirvana.

All buddhas, all bodhisattvas, all guardian spirits, and especially Founder Nikkyo, Teacher of One

Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, will joyfully lead the deceased together with all the ancestors of the [family name] family. They will praise [appropriate pronoun]'s virtuous deeds and take [appropriate pronoun]'s hands with affection, guiding [appropriate pronoun] to the highest state of nirvana

Now, members of the Sangha in attendance here, all of pure heart, sincerely express our gratitude to the hands of deep benevolence and compassion that the Eternal Buddha and the Founder and Cofounder extended to the deceased. Further, we make a vow to pursue the bodhisattva way looking up to the deceased as a person of high virtue.

We earnestly ask that the Buddha and all the buddhas and honored ones may know our vow and assist the departed in entering the jeweled land of eternal tranquility so that [appropriate pronoun] may quickly attain the Way of the Buddha.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Notes

1. After the third paragraph above, make an additional statement appropriate to the circumstances of the deceased's passing. Refer to the examples 1-1 and 1-2 below.
2. After the third paragraph above, additionally state the date when the departed passed away and the reference to the departed in his or her lifetime. Make the text appropriate to the deceased's personality, virtuous deeds, accomplishments, and so on. Refer to the examples 2-1 to 2-6.
3. After the fourth paragraph above, mention the posthumous name by explaining the meanings of the Chinese characters used in it. Instead of after the third paragraph mentioned above in Note 2, you can incorporate here into the explanation the deceased's personality, virtuous deeds, accomplishments, and so on.

Example 1-1

Since the departed was recently struck by illness, the best medicine and treatment were given by every possible means, and the family members and friends have sincerely cared for [appropriate pronoun]. But just as a flame goes out when there is no more oil in the lamp, [appropriate pronoun] has peacefully departed from this secular world to that spiritual realm.

Example 1-2

The departed met with an unforeseeable accident, which caused [appropriate pronoun] an immediate and unexpected journey from this world into the beyond.

Examples 2-1

The departed [full name] was given [Dharma name] as Dharma name in this life. On [month/day/year], [appropriate pronoun] was born and, thanks to [appropriate pronoun] abundant merits from the past, in [year] [appropriate pronoun] established a connection with the Dharma that is rarely met. Since then, as a member of Rissho Koseikai, [appropriate pronoun] has always embraced the Lotus Sutra and pursued the wondrous way of a bodhisattva. In [month, year], [appropriate pronoun] was appointed as [name of the role], and from then on, [appropriate pronoun] has been thoroughly dedicated to the noble work of sharing the Dharma with people and helping them attain liberation.

Examples 2-2

On [month/day/year], the deceased received the gift of life in this world. Fortunately, [appropriate pronoun] became a member of Rissho Kosei-kai, and while accumulating the merits through learning the Dharma, [appropriate pronoun] has pursued the compassionate way of spreading the true Dharma and liberating all sentient beings. [Appropriate pronoun] taught many people with compassion for spiritual transformation, which contributed to the development of the [Dharma center name] Dharma center.

Examples 2-3

In [year], the deceased was employed by [name of the company or organization]. Since then, [appropriate pronoun] has strenuously worked for it with diligence and honesty, thus serving the world in a broad sense. While venerating [appropriate pronoun] ancestors and cherishing [appropriate pronoun] family at home, [appropriate pronoun] has taken refuge in the Three Treasures and strove to pursue the bodhisattva way of enlightening others through one's own practice.

Examples 2-4

When we reflect on the deceased, we know [appropriate pronoun] is gifted with the virtue of undertaking a new business, thus establishing [company name]. Since then, [appropriate pronoun] has made efforts from dawn to dusk to serve the development of the company. Spiritually rich and gentle in expressions and words, [appropriate pronoun] has been thorough in constant diligence day and night. [Appropriate pronoun] has walked the Buddha Way applying into life the principle of oneness of the secular and Buddhist truths. In [year], [appropriate pronoun] joined Rissho Kosei-kai by connecting [appropriate pronoun] with the Dharma that is rarely met, and has never spared [appropriate pronoun] life nor body for it with the Sangha members, all pure in heart, thus

demonstrating a model of lay bodhisattvas.

Examples 2-5

When we reflect on the deceased, we recognize that [*appropriate pronoun*] married into [*family name*] family due to many karmic connections from the past and encountered the Dharma that is rarely met. In [*year*], according to her virtues, she was appointed an important role of [*name of the role*] and strove to fulfill her duty with diligence in religious practice.

Examples 2-6

When we reflect on the deceased, we acknowledge that [*appropriate pronoun*] served for the sake of people and the world, venerated [*appropriate pronoun*] ancestors, and offered [*appropriate pronoun*] gratitude and sincerity to them through reciting the sutra. [*Appropriate pronoun*] walked the Buddha Way never sparing [*appropriate pronoun*] life nor body by single-mindedly wishing to see the Buddha, thus completing a life of exclusive dedication to the Dharma.

Examples 3-1

The characters incorporated in the posthumous name mean that, to the very end, the deceased always shared the Dharma with a gentle countenance and loving words and continually took refuge in the Three Treasures with a pure heart. In a word, this posthumous name shows [*appropriate pronoun*] eminent virtue.

Examples 3-2

The first three characters 〇生院 of the posthumous name mean that the deceased has been an example for the faithful and lived out [*appropriate pronoun*] allotted span of life, and the characters 〇〇徳信士[信女, 童男, 童女] denotes [*appropriate pronoun*] single-mindedly walking the Way of the Dharma and seeking its true meaning.

Examples 3-3

The characters incorporated in the posthumous name mean that the deceased has always been kind to others, always with a mind of forbearance, and has peacefully completed this life.

Special Words to Transfer Merit on the Seventh Day after Death Including Forty-ninth Day and One Hundredth Day

These words of transferring merit are reverently offered to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni, all buddhas, and all other honored ones.

Today, on the [ordinal number] day after the death of [posthumous name/ secular name], we sincerely conduct this memorial service by making offerings of incense, flowers, light, and several kinds of food and drink.

The departed received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Wondrous Dharma that is rarely met. But life is uncertain because death comes to young and old alike. There is no avoiding the suffering that comes from being separated from our loved ones, for we are destined to part with all whom we have met.

On [month/day/year], at the age of [number], [appropriate pronoun / given name] departed this world. Since then, [number] days have already passed. The people now gathered here hold the image of the dearly departed in their minds and shed tears, cherishing memories of [appropriate pronoun]. However, [appropriate pronoun] has returned to the source of all life, the imperishable life of the Eternal Buddha. May [appropriate pronoun] be guided by the teachings of Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, to reach the radiant land of tranquil light and enter the unsurpassable Way, hearing the true and wondrous Dharma of the One Vehicle.

Chapter 16 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Life Span of the Eternal Tathagata,” says,
“The Tathagata perceives the character of the threefold world as it really is. Birth and death do not leave it or appear in it. There is no staying in the world or departing from it for extinguishment. It is neither substantial nor insubstantial. And it is neither thus nor otherwise. This is not how the threefold world sees itself, but the Tathagata sees such things as these clearly and without error.”

Today, the bereaved family, their relatives, members of the Sangha, and friends, all in attendance here, have respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma. On the occasion of this memorial service, we vow to practice the bodhisattva way and

accumulate merits by doing virtuous deeds, thus transferring those merits to the departed.

We reverently pray that the Buddha and all the buddhas and honored ones witness our vow and that the departed may experience the joy of the Dharma through this sutra recitation so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo
(*Strike the gong once.*)

Note

This Special Words to Transfer Merit is also applied for the memorial service that can be performed every seven days from the second-seventh day until the sixth-seventh day.

Special Words to Transfer Merit for Specific-Year Memorial Service (1)

Now, on this occasion of the specific-year memorial service for the [*family name*] family, the family members of the departed, members of the Sangha, and friends and relatives have gathered here to sincerely conduct this memorial service by reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma as well as by offering incense, flowers, light, and several kinds of food and drink so that the departed may be at peace.

Now, we offer the essential verses on the way to attain enlightenment. We wish the deceased may believe and revere them with pure hearts but never have any doubts.

Chapter 2 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “Skillful Means,” reads:
“Of those who hear the Dharma
None will fail to become a buddha.”

Also, chapter 16 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Life Span of the Eternal Tathagata,” says:

“I always know living beings,
Those who practice the Way and those who do not,
And for their sake expound various teachings
To liberate each of them accordingly.
I am ever thinking:
‘How can I cause living beings to
Embark upon the unsurpassable Way
And quickly accomplish embodiment as buddhas?’”

All the members of the Sangha in attendance here acknowledge today’s memorial service as an opportunity to make a vow to practice the bodhisattva way by sharing the teachings with many people.

We also resolve to transfer to the deceased all the merits that we have made by performing good deeds since the beginningless past as well as all the merits that we will do from today to the infinite future.

Here, on the [*ordinal number*] memorial service for
[*Posthumous name / Secular name*] (*Recite it twice*),

we reverently pray that *[appropriate pronoun]* may experience the joy of the Dharma by hearing this sutra recitation and remembering the teachings of Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, and also that *[appropriate pronoun]* may be embraced by the great benevolence and compassion of the Eternal Original Buddha. We make a humble vow to pray that, through the wondrous Dharma taught by the Founder and Cofounder, *[appropriate pronoun]* may take *[appropriate pronoun]* place on the jeweled cart of the One-Vehicle truth and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo
(Strike the gong once.)

Note

The term “specific-year” used for the periodic-year memorial service means the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 23rd, 27th, 33rd, 50th, and 100th year after death.

Special Words to Transfer Merit for Specific-Year Memorial Service (2)

Now, on this occasion of the specific-year memorial service for the [*family name*] family, we have sincerely recited the sutra with the family members of the departed and all the people gathered here.

The brilliant light on the altar, colorful flowers, cup of tea, incense, and each of the foods and drinks are all offered with our prayer so that the departed may be at peace.

Although this world in which we live is separated from that of the deceased, we continue to be diligent in religious practice together with [*appropriate pronoun*], embraced by the great compassion of the Eternal Buddha.

Now, the most significant gift that we can offer to the deceased in the spiritual world is the promise we make on the occasion of this memorial service. We will strive in religious practice to be one step closer to the boundless heart and mind of our teacher, Shakyamuni Buddha. Further, we will ceaselessly accumulate merits through our practice and transfer them to the deceased and many ancestors.

Here, on the [*ordinal number*] memorial service for [*Posthumous name / Secular name*] (*Recite it twice*), we would like [*appropriate pronoun*] to receive this gift that we sincerely offer. In the embrace of the Eternal Buddha, all the buddhas and honored ones, and guided by the teachings of Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, may [*appropriate pronoun*] respectfully listen to the Wondrous Dharma and take a place on the jeweled cart of the One-Vehicle truth, so that [*appropriate pronoun*] quickly accomplish the true enlightenment of universal equality.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo
(*Strike the gong once.*)

Special Words to Transfer Merit for Memorial Service for Unborn Children

Today, on the occasion of this memorial service for unborn children,
we reverently address these words to
the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One,
as well as all buddhas, bodhisattvas, and heavenly spirits.

The irreplaceable life of unborn children comes into being within their mothers' bodies through their parents' deep bonds of love. Though these children received the rare gift of life as human beings, they have journeyed beyond this world. Life is as transient as the morning dew in sunlight. Their parents grieve so deeply over their loss that they hardly know how to proceed with the memorial service.

We who are gathered here today have encountered the Dharma through Rissho Kosei-kai owing to our abundant virtues from past lifetimes. We have learned of the extraordinary merits to be gained through memorial services for the departed. Aspiring to enlightenment, we will endeavor to purify ourselves through self-examination in the hope of attaining Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Chapter 25 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Bodhisattva Regarder of the Sounds of the World as Universal Gateway,” says:

“When living beings are beset by woes
And burdened by countless pains,
The wondrous wisdom power of the Regarder of Sounds
Can free them from the sufferings of the world.
She is in full command of transcendent powers,
Having fully mastered the skillful means of wisdom.
In the lands of the ten directions,
There is no place she does not manifest herself.
All the evil states of existence,
Those of hells, of hungry spirits, and beasts,
And the sufferings of birth, aging, illness, and death,
She gradually brings to an end.”

With sincere hearts, all of us in attendance at this ceremony today respectfully offer the merits of this sutra recitation to these unborn children. We recognize this ceremony as an occasion to

rededicate ourselves to bodhisattva practice. We also resolve to transfer to these children all the merits of the good deeds we have performed and will perform for all eternity.

We earnestly pray that through the merits of embracing the Three Treasures of Buddhism, these unborn children may be freed from all attachments and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Special Words to Transfer Merit for the Ceremony Marking the [*Spring/Autumn*] Equinox

Today, at this ceremony marking the [*spring/ autumn*] equinox, we reverently address these words to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One, all buddhas, bodhisattvas, and heavenly spirits.

Paramita is “the other shore,” that is, the wondrous realm of nirvana. We will depart this shore of suffering, and through perseverance in the bodhisattva practice of the Six Paramitas, reach the other shore of permanence, bliss, self, and purity, and enter the buddha land where we will attain buddhahood by accomplishing the Way. The practice of the Six Paramitas, which comprises generosity, precept keeping, forbearance, diligence, meditation and wisdom, is the essence of Namu Myoho Renge Kyo, that is, the act of taking refuge in the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma. For this reason, the Lotus Sutra is the great ship that departs this shore of delusion and crosses the great ocean of birth and death to reach the other shore of awakening. Followers of the Lotus Sutra are just like people who obtain a boat to cross the waters. The Lotus Sutra is the only ship that is certain to convey its practitioners across the great ocean of birth and death.

Chapter 10 of the Lotus Sutra, “Teachers of the Dharma,” states,
“I bestow the assurance of Supreme Perfect Awakening upon those people who hear even a single verse or a single phrase of the Wondrous Dharma Flower Sutra and thereby experience even a moment of rejoicing.”

It also states,

“Such people have already paid homage to ten thousand million buddhas and have completed a great vow in the presence of those buddhas. Out of compassion for living beings, they will be born in this human realm.”

Courageous perseverance and great joy well up like a spring in the mind of whoever hears the sutra’s passages and Dharma guidance and attains faith in and understanding of its meaning.

All the members of pure heart attending this [*spring/ autumn*] equinox ceremony vow to practice the bodhisattva way through accumulating merits and cultivating virtues. To our ancestors, we transfer all the merits of the good deeds we have performed since the beginningless past and will perform for all eternity.

We respectfully pray that through the merits of embracing the Three Treasures of Buddhism, all buddhas and all honored ones extend their hands of compassion and protection to all the ancestors of the families for whom we conduct this ceremony today, and all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be.

May all of them cross the great ocean of birth and death, so that they may reach the other shore of great parinirvana and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening in the radiant land of tranquil light.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Notes

1. As for the quotes from the Threefold Lotus Sutra in the third and fourth paragraphs, you can replace them with appropriate passages from the sutra.
2. After the fourth paragraph, you can insert a quote from the Dharma guidance of Founder Niwano or President Niwano as appropriate. See the examples 1 to 5 below.

Example 1

Placed inside the statue of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni in the Great Sacred Hall is a dedicatory inscription appended to the ten scrolls of the Threefold Lotus Sutra. The inscription, which the Founder wrote, says:

“The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni, Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One, is our great focus of devotion, which merits veneration, respect, praise, and devotion from us followers of Buddhism and even the esteem of all human beings of every faith. Practice that upholds the actions of the three vehicles through body, speech, and mind is itself the great and direct way to the wondrous abode of nirvana.”

Example 2

In his Dharma guidance, the Founder told us,

“Shakyamuni awakened to the Dharma of the three vehicles: the Four Noble Truths, the Twelve Causes and Conditions, and the Six Perfections. Practicing these teachings is the one and only way of practice that enables us to eliminate the sufferings of life and attain nirvana—the state of absolute peace.”

Example 3

In his Dharma guidance, the Founder told us,

“Future generations will need a spirituality that seeks the true wisdom and the other shore of awakening. The other shore may appear far away, but we can actually find it in the place closest to us—our own hearts and minds.”

Example 4

In his Dharma guidance, the President told us,

“We are given the gift of life and sustained by the eternal life of the Original Buddha. We are living the life of the Original Buddha in every moment.”

Example 5

In his Dharma guidance, the President told us,

“Immediately upon receiving the Buddha’s wisdom, one enters eternal life since we human beings are gifted with the ability to recognize the truth. We who have encountered the teachings of the Buddha must be fully conscious that we possess this gift. The moment we experience an awakening of gratitude for being born human and recognize the truth, we receive the Buddha’s eternal life.”

Special Words to Transfer Merit for Memorial Service for the Victims of War, Disaster, Accident, and Violence

We reverently address these words to
the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One,
as well as all buddhas, bodhisattvas, and heavenly spirits.

Here, today, we members of [*Dharma center name*], together with people of pure heart in our
community, make offerings of incense, flowers, light, and several kinds of food and drink, and
reverently recite the sutra in unison to transfer the merits of this recitation to the victims of the
[*name of war / description of disaster, accident, or violence*].

May the powerful merit of this wondrous Lotus Sutra, which we have sincerely recited, relieve all
those who have passed from this world of their innumerable sufferings and attachments. May the
powerful merit also quickly bring them to the unsurpassable Way, so that all of them together
attain the great fruit of accomplishing the Buddha Way.

Now, all people of pure heart gathered here recognize today's memorial service as an opportunity
to transfer to the deceased all the merits we accumulate by doing good deeds and practicing the
bodhisattva way. We hope and pray that those merits may allow them to rest in peace and
tranquility.

We also wish to persevere in compassionate practice for the liberation of all living beings and
change our community and society for the better through our family's joy and harmony as well as
our practice of kindness.

We reverently pray that all buddhas and all honored ones know our deep devotion and extend
their hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection to all who have passed beyond
for whom we conduct this service.

We also pray that our recitation may bring the joy of the Dharma to all the deceased and help
them to quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening in the wondrous land
of nirvana and eternal tranquility.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Notes

1. In the second paragraph above, you can replace “Here, today, we . . . in our community” with “Today, at this site [*Modify with a proper noun or name of war / description of disaster, accident, or violence*], distinguished people from the community and the members of pure heart from Rissho Kosei-kai gather together.”
2. In the second paragraph above, when the victims have already been given a collective posthumous name or specific posthumous names, replace “the victims of the [*name of war / description of disaster, accident, or violence*]” above with the collective posthumous name.
3. After the second paragraph, refer to the war, incident, or disaster, the purpose of this memorial service, and so forth. See the examples 1-1 to 1-2 below.
4. After the third paragraph above ending with “accomplishing the Buddha Way,” quote an appropriate passage from the Lotus Sutra. See the examples 2-1 to 2-4 below.
5. Since the memorial service can be held in different ways according to various purposes, adapt the Special Words to Transfer Merit to each particular service, using appropriate words and phrases. The Special Words to Transfer Merit above as well as the examples below are models for your service.

Example 1-1

When we humbly reflect on the Second World War, we realize that the infinitely precious lives of many people were lost in the war. Acknowledging that the peace we enjoy today has been achieved as a result of their sacrifice, we owe them a debt of deep gratitude and express a sense of commemoration. We solemnly conduct this memorial service for the victims of war as we resolve ourselves to further efforts for world peace to prevent the tragedy of war from ever taking place again.

Example 1-2

We remember that on [*month/day/year*], rock and mud slides devastated [*place name*] with a thunderous crash and swept away many houses in an instant, eventually causing a disaster that took the lives of [*number*] people. Though [*number*] years have passed since then, we cannot help but shed tears of sorrow over the loss of our family members and loved ones, as the wound in our hearts remains unhealed.

Example 2-1

Chapter 2 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “Skillful Means,” says,
“Of those who hear the Dharma,
None will fail to become a buddha.”

From the remotest past, the vow of all buddhas is
To enable all living beings
To attain this very same Buddha Way
That they themselves practice.”

Example 2-2

Chapter 3 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “A Parable,” says,
“Now this threefold world
Is all my domain,
And the living beings in it
Are all my children.
But now it is filled
With disaster and trouble,
And only I am able
To rescue and protect them.”

Example 2-3

Chapter 12 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “Devadatta,” reads,
“If, in the future, there are good sons and good daughters who hear this Devadatta chapter of the
Wondrous Dharma Flower Sutra and believe and revere it with pure hearts and without doubt,
then they will not fall into the realms of hells, hungry spirits, or beasts. They will be born into the
presence of the buddhas of the ten directions. Wherever they are born, they will always hear this
sutra. If they are born among humans and heavenly beings, they will enjoy marvelous delight. If
they are born into the presence of buddhas, they will be born from lotus flowers.”

Example 2-4

Chapter 25 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Bodhisattva
Regarder of the Sounds of the World as Universal Gateway,” reads,
“When living beings are beset by woes
And burdened by countless pains,
The wondrous wisdom power of the Regarder of Sounds
Can free them from the sufferings of the world.
She is in full command of transcendent powers,
Having fully mastered the skillful means of wisdom.
In the lands of the ten directions,
There is no place she does not manifest herself.

All the evil states of existence,
Those of hells, of hungry spirits, and of beasts,
And the sufferings of birth, aging, illness, and death,
She gradually brings to an end.”

Wedding Announcement before the Buddha

We reverently offer this announcement before the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni.

Today, on the [*ordinal number*] day of [*month*], in the year [*year*],
we celebrate the wedding of this fine couple as the time for marriage has ripened thanks to the Buddha's assistance in bringing them together.

Reflecting on the meaning of marriage, we acknowledge that it serves as one of the ethics fundamental to human beings and has, for ages, brought about successive lives that will continue for eternity. The bride and groom, with their hearts and minds united as one, take firm refuge in the Three Treasures and diligently practice the bodhisattva way as lay Buddhists under the guidance of Founder Niwano.

Here, we pray that this celebration may encourage the couple to walk the path of the One Vehicle by deepening a sense of compassion for each other, sharing joy and suffering together, thereby cultivating their hearts and minds. We also pray that they dedicate themselves to bring peace to their families of origin, community, country, and the world. Thus, their families will prosper without fail, and the merits they accumulate through good deeds will certainly be transferred to their ancestors and their descendants.

Now, together with those people with whom they are connected through the Dharma, the couple [*or bride and groom*] have renewed their vows to share the teachings with others and establish the Land of Eternally Tranquil Light in this world.

We earnestly pray that all buddhas, all bodhisattvas, and all the countless heavenly spirits bestow their sagely guidance and boundless protection upon the newlyweds and both their families of origin.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)

Birthday

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

In [month/day/year], [name] was born as a human being in this world with a connection to the Dharma that is rarely met. On this auspicious day, we, the [family name] family, members of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name], conduct a service to celebrate the anniversary of [appropriate noun] birthday and to appreciate our ancestors for the gift of life as a human being.

We sincerely offer our reverence and respect to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni and all our ancestors through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku

○ Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this celebration of [*name*]'s birthday, we renew our awareness that our life was inherited from countless ancestors from time immemorial, each of whom was an embodiment of the universal great life of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni that is shared by all living beings. We appreciate the Buddha and our ancestors for what we are now, and we devote ourselves to bodhisattva practice with gratitude to them.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this recitation to

All our ancestors and all others who are recorded in our memorial registers;

All those whose memorial day is today;

And all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Wedding Anniversary

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We now solemnly conduct the wedding anniversary of the couple, [*couple's names*], following the sacred ritual of Rissho Kosei-kai.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the merit we receive from reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapter 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Wedding-Anniversary Announcement before the Buddha
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddhas in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of [*first partner's family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of [*second partner's family name*] family;
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

We have now respectfully recited the sutra at this wedding anniversary for [*couple's names*].

We reverently pray that you may witness this wedding anniversary and bestow your boundless protection upon the couple.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Couple Exchanges Words of Love and Appreciation for One Another.
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Wedding-Anniversary Announcement before the Buddha

We reverently offer this announcement before the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni.

Today, on the [*ordinal number*] day of [*month*], in the year [*year*], we celebrate the wedding anniversary of this fine couple as [*number*] years have passed since marriage thanks to the Buddha's sagely guidance and boundless protection.

Reflecting on the meaning of marriage, we acknowledge that it serves as one of the ethics fundamental to human beings and has, for ages, brought about successive lives that will continue for eternity. The bride and groom, with their hearts and minds united as one, take firm refuge in the Three Treasures and diligently practice the bodhisattva way as lay Buddhists under the guidance of Founder Niwano.

Here, we pray that this celebration may encourage the couple to walk the path of the One Vehicle by deepening a sense of compassion for each other, sharing joy and suffering together, thereby cultivating their hearts and minds. We also pray that they dedicate themselves to bring peace to their families of origin, community, country, and the world. Thus, their families will prosper without fail, and the merits they accumulate through good deeds will certainly be transferred to their ancestors and their descendants.

Now, together with those people with whom they are connected through the Dharma, the couple [*or bride and groom*] have renewed their vows to share the teachings with others and establish the Land of Eternally Tranquil Light in this world.

We earnestly pray that all buddhas, all bodhisattvas, and all the countless heavenly spirits bestow their sagely guidance and boundless protection upon the couple and both their families of origin.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo (*Strike the gong once.*)