

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.