

## 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*]