

## 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.