

QUESTION of the MONTH:
'At Thanksgiving time, what are you most thankful for?'

I am most thankful for having the Gohonzon, the SGI-USA family and challenges. All of these have become a true mirror of myself, helping me to change internal and external negative causes to positive causes. These elements are helping me improve daily.

— VIVIAN G. FORD, Marshall, Mo.

At Thanksgiving time, I am thankful for life itself, for my practice, the Gohonzon, the SGI and SGI President Ikeda. The ability to chant to become happy and to help others do the same. The nurturing qualities of family and friends. And, of course, good food! To humanity, I give art.

— ROWENA PERKINS, Cape Cod, Mass.

I am thankful for the SGI "family spirit." This year, I participated in activities in North Hollywood, West Los Angeles and Santa Monica, Calif., and in Southfield, Mich. Everywhere I visited, I was welcomed like a favorite relative. As long as a community center is close by, none of us is a stranger anywhere in the world.

— ANN PERRY, Ravenna, Ohio

At Thanksgiving time as well as every day, I am thankful for having the good fortune to practice Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. When I began practicing in 1985, I was unhappy, easily intimidated and full of anger. Today, I am happy, confident and eager to show actual proof. As a result, I'm a better mother, teacher, friend, sister, daughter, cousin, neighbor, etc.

— DENESE E. TURNER, Detroit

My mother, because of her strong faith, determination and example, has shown me the way to practice this wonderful religion. Because of my strong practice, I met my husband and we had our son, Seth. Because of our strong connection to each other, our connection to the Gohonzon and Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, kosen-rufu is happening in my family — right before my eyes! I am the most fortunate woman in the world and deeply thankful.

— CHRISTINE KENKELEN LEVINE, Silver Spring, Md.

I feel so thankful that I can share this holiday with my family (parents, brother, sister-in-law and nephews). In fact, I couldn't be happier. I feel like a child again (fat chance — I'm 44 years old). This is so because, through my Buddhist practice (which my non-practicing parents support), I have come to appreciate and value my family as I've never dreamt possible.

— ANDY SANCHEZ, San Juan, Puerto Rico

I'm thankful for my health and that of my family and friends, for waking up every day, for having the Gohonzon and for the undying support and encouragement of my leaders. But most important, for Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and my faith in this Buddhism.

— VIRGINIA GUERRA, Temple City, Calif.

For the SGI pioneers who enabled me to appreciate in times of hardship the following words from SGI President Ikeda: "Viewed from the profound perspective of Buddhism,

Title: Question of the Month: At Thanksgiving time, what are you most thankful for?

Subject: World Tribune 11/07/97 n.3164 p.2 WT971107p02

Author:

Keywords: Attitude Experiences Month most Opinion Question thankful Thanksgiving time Tribune World

your suffering is like that portrayed by a brilliant, highly paid stage actress cast in the role of a tragic heroine. When the play is finished, the actress goes home to a life of ease and comfort. Your life is the same.... There is no need to worry. You will definitely become happy....”

— TESSIE METCALF, Wheaton, Md.

At Thanksgiving time I am most thankful for the opportunity to get up once again and to sit once again in front of the Gohonzon and chant. To have my family sitting together enjoying a wonderful meal, which is prepared by my husband.

— CYNTHIA G. GITTENS, Pemberton, N.J.

I am most thankful for discovering this practice of Buddhism. I was introduced to this practice by Nathan Shulkin back in July. Ever since then I have raised my life-condition, and I am a stronger person. I am thankful for getting a chance to take charge of my life and happiness.

— LORRINE RIVERA, San Jose, Calif.

Thanks to all who responded!

Title: Question of the Month: At Thanksgiving time, what are you most thankful for?

Subject: World Tribune 11/07/97 n.3164 p.2 WT971107p02

Author:

Keywords: Attitude Experiences Month most Opinion Question thankful Thanksgiving time Tribune World