

**APPLYING NICHIREN DAISHONIN'S WRITINGS TO DAILY LIFE
SIGN POSTS
Splendid!**

**By JEFF FARR
SGI-USA YOUTH DIVISION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**How can I describe your sincerity? In truth, it is splendid! (“The Person and the Law,”
The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 1, p. 264)**

Nichiren Daishonin often praised his young disciple Nanjo Tokimitsu with words like these. In another Goshu, the Daishonin says Tokimitsu's faith is consistent like flowing water, while others' faith is short-lived like fire. In another, he says that Tokimitsu must have served “a hundred thousand million Buddhas in his past existences” (MW-2 [2nd ed.], 260).

Why did the Daishonin praise Tokimitsu so much? It was because of Tokimitsu's commitment during the Atsuhara Persecution. When that persecution began in 1275 — a persecution in which practitioners of the Daishonin's Buddhism were not only arrested but executed — Tokimitsu took concrete steps to protect the community of believers. Various disciples, including Nikko Shonin, found refuge in Tokimitsu's home, while he spoke out against the alliance of priests and government officials behind the injustice. That persecution lasted seven years, from 1275 until 1281, and throughout Tokimitsu took responsibility for bringing an end to it.

I thought of this recently when the temple issue reached its seven-year mark on Dec. 27. “How can I describe your sincerity? In truth it is splendid!” — I believe that this praise for Tokimitsu also applies to all the SGI-USA members, who have been challenging the temple issue for seven years. Last month, when I attended the Central Executive Committee meeting, I was relieved by how all the leaders have united around the temple issue. And I was moved when I heard recently from many members in all parts of the country who were holding chanting sessions in relation to Nikken's Dec. 22 testimony. So I think everyone's doing a splendid job.

This Goshu passage gives me confidence that the Daishonin is praising all of us for the progress we've made and is looking forward to what we'll accomplish in 1998.

WT