

THE SGI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE MARCH 16 YOUTH MEETINGS EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH ACTION

My heartfelt congratulations on this proud gathering of my beloved youth division and junior high and high school division members of America, who have gathered in high spirits to usher in a new era. Thanks to each of you for your hard work.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, a philosopher of the American Renaissance, whose works I have fondly read since my youth, once said, "The one thing in the world, of value, is the active soul." Everything begins with action. When you act, you will tap your wisdom and see the road that you must take. Since all of you uphold the supreme Mystic Law, you can transform everything into a source of happiness and victory.

Nichiren Daishonin writes, "When the lion roars, all the other beasts are silenced" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 4, p. 300). I ask that each of you, as a courageous lion, challenge yourself to advance fearlessly and boldly, and to speak out for justice in a way that befits youth. When you contribute to others and to society with such a powerful life-force, you will win people's praise and trust, which will in turn prove the validity of this Buddhism.

I am confident that each of you — without a single exception — will grow into a great leader of the 21st century. And I am chanting for each of you every day.

I conclude my message by urging you, my beloved youth division members of America, to score your own victories through justice and perseverance, and through your own efforts to create a wave of propagation in America.

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