

EXPERIENCE — ALFONSO DIAZ, NEW YORK CITY I FELT THE PEACE WITHIN MYSELF

My daughter, Irene, practices Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and on several occasions, she invited me to visit the SGI-USA New York Culture Culture as a guest. I also attended meetings at members' homes.

During those visits to the culture center, I observed and experienced the harmony, tranquillity, togetherness and serenity of the surroundings. But above all, I felt the peace within myself.

Whenever I visited my daughter or she visited me, we talked about Buddhism. At no time did she ask me or tell me that I have to practice Buddhism. One thing I recall her saying to me is; "Pop, chant. It will help you."

For some time I have had problems with my vision in my right eye. So I started chanting without my daughter's knowledge, praying that my eye condition would improve.

One day my daughter had to visit her eye doctor and she invited me to accompany her. While I was at the doctor's office, I decided to speak to the doctor about my condition. After he examined me, he said I needed to have an operation; otherwise, I would lose the sight in my eye. That day I went home very disillusioned and scared, but thanks to my faith and positive thinking, I kept chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo.

The day of the operation, I remember the doctor talking to me since I was awake during the whole procedure; I was chanting during the entire time. Now I feel much, much better and I can still see clearly. At age 78, I am very grateful that everything has turned out for the best. After all this time, I received the Gohonzon three weeks ago, on May 2.

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