

ANOTHER NICHIREN SHOSHU TEMPLE SECEDES

On Sept. 9, another Nichiren Shoshu temple, Daien-ji in Kanagawa Prefecture (close to Tokyo), seceded from Nichiren Shoshu. This is the third temple to leave Nichiren Shoshu this year. Reverend Bando Sato, Daien-ji's chief priest, said in a letter to Nikken that the revelation of the high priest's doubt in the Dai-Gohonzon (see the Sept. 10 *World Tribune*) led him to his decision. In Reverend Sato's opinion, the high priest has denied the basis of Nichiren Shoshu's faith and hence is only masquerading as high priest.

Reverend Sato is a middle-level priest, tonsured some 30 years ago, who has always been very close to Nikken. His departure from Nichiren Shoshu was unexpected by the priesthood and a shock to the high priest. Also unexpected was that Reverend Sato left Nichiren Shoshu together with his three sons, all of them Nichiren Shoshu priests as well.

Reverend Sato concludes his letter to Nikken by saying: "Daien-ji was completed as the 10th of the 200 temples whose construction was initiated by Soka Gakkai Honorary President Ikeda. Daien-ji's construction was supported by the sincere donations of Gakkai members in the Yamato area of Kanagawa Prefecture. It was to serve their activities for kosen-rufu. And I believe that this temple should be returned to those members who made the donations for its construction, so that they can use it freely, for its original purpose. This is how I feel about this temple. Returning it to them is the right thing to do."

— TED MORINO