

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH DISTRICT  
INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS  
COMMEMORATING KOSEN-RUFU DAY  
BECOME THE GREATEST ALLIES TO SUFFERING FRIENDS**

The dynamic spirit of youth fills the month of March. On March 16, the day of our eternal foundation, youthful disciples shall stand up to take full responsibility. My sincere congratulations on this gathering of American youth to commemorate this significant day, and my heartfelt thanks for all your untiring efforts!

At the solemn ceremony on March 16, 1958, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, expending his very last ounce of energy, declared like a roaring lion, "The Soka Gakkai is the champion of all religions!" This means that we are the leaders of philosophy. We uphold the supreme Mystic Law, which is the source of infinite hope. We are therefore the true winners, who triumph over ourselves.

Nichiren Daishonin states, "Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is the greatest of all joys" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 788). When we share this great confidence, we will emerge as magnificent champions who are full of joy and fear nothing.

Beethoven once said: "Hope — you forge the mind into iron!" Hope is confidence, hope is courage, and faith is the ultimate form of hope. In Beethoven's genuine declaration shines the infinite potential of life.

I ask that each of you build an eternal, indestructible palace of joy in your lives and become the greatest allies to suffering friends, rushing to their side and encouraging them with all your heart. Please build a beautiful castle of solidarity as you expand your network of friendship, justice and happiness at your work and in your community.

I am praying day and night for your excellent health, successful endeavors and splendid growth. So please challenge your circumstances to your heart's content, never giving in to worry. I, too, will do my utmost for you each day, as your development is my greatest joy.

Once again, my sincere congratulations on today's gathering and your new departure!

March 2001  
Daisaku Ikeda