

## CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

(January—March)

*Note:* In preparing this chronology the editor has been dependent mainly on normal news channels. Any omissions or errors will be gladly corrected, if our attention is drawn to them. A few additions to the 1959 Chronology are given at the end.

**Jan. 1** —The previously announced reorganization of the Risshō Kōsei Kai, which divides the sect into ten districts and delegates greater responsibility to local leadership, was implemented.

**Jan. 4** —The Shimo Kamo Shrine in Kyoto seceded from the Association of Shinto Shrines because of a disagreement over the shrine's selection of a business man as chief priest.

**Jan. 5** —It was announced that His Holiness Pope John XXIII had appointed Archbishop Domenico Enrici as the new Apostolic Internuncio to Japan. He succeeds the Most Rev. Maximilian de Furstenberg, recently appointed Apostolic Delegate to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

**Jan. 6** —The Kinugasa Hospital in Yokohama, which is sponsored by the United Church of Christ in

Japan, was destroyed by fire with a loss of eighteen lives, including eight infants. (Subsequently the hospital was reorganized and reconstruction projected.)

**Jan. 7** —The Reverend Iwao Kobayashi, associate chief priest of the Grand Shrine of Ise, died at the age of 54.

**Jan. 8** —Perfect Liberty, one of the newer modern religious movements, announced that Tokuhito Miki (30) will be the successor of his uncle, the Reverend Tokuchika Miki, as patriarch of the sect. (The decision was made on the basis of a revelation received by the present patriarch on December 8, 1956.)

**Jan. 12** —A delegation of seven members of the Japan Buddhist Association to Burma presented a Buddhist image and a good-will message to Burmese Buddhists.

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(The statue was a gift from the Asian Good Neighbour Movement in Japan.)

**Jan. 15** —A Christian mass meeting against the proposed revision of the US—Japan Security Treaty was held at the National Railway Laborers Hall in Tokyo, after which about one thousand participants paraded down the Ginza singing Christian hymns.

—The Buddhist Peace Association held a mass meeting in opposition to the US—Japan Security Treaty.  
—Coming of Age Day, a national holiday, was celebrated at shrines and temples and in community programs.

**Jan. 16** —The Council for Interfaith Cooperation held a reception for Mr. Anthony Brook, a religious peace worker from Sarawak, Borneo.

**Jan. 17** Ryūgeji, one of the five temples of Mount Ōmine, decided to admit women visitors from July, 1960. (The other four temples of Mount Ōmine continue to maintain the ancient restriction against women.)

**Jan. 19** —According to the Chūgai Nippō, one-tenth of the adherents

of eighteen temples in Kawaguchi City belonging to the Chisan Sect of Shingon Buddhism are also affiliated with some “new religion.”

**Jan. 21**—The Christian Liaison Committee voted: (1) to re-affirm its opposition to granting special status to the Grand Shrine of Ise; (2) to advise the churches to provide their own graveyards in place of the Buddhist temple graveyards now being used; (3) to disapprove the proposal of the Ministry of Education to conduct a nation-wide survey of religion.

**Jan. 22** —It was announced that Father Dominic Yoshimatsu Noguchi, Pastor of St. Vianney Kōenji Church and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Tokyo has been appointed as the first Bishop of Hiroshima.

**Jan. 23** —An anonymous believer contracted for a ¥ 250,000 (approx. \$ 700) life insurance policy and designated the Higashi Honganji Sect as the beneficiary.

**Jan. 26** —The Council of Religionist for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons sent a cable to the Chinese Association of Buddhists stating that it was seeking to have all military blocs in the world dissolved

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and to defend the present Constitution of Japan.

**Jan. 28** —Sensōji Temple, commonly known as Asakusa Kannon, established a research institute on contemporary Buddhism that will study the relation of modern science and Buddhism.

**Jan. 29** —The Reverend Kiyoshi Tanaka, formerly a priest of Meiji Shrine and later an official of Kogakuin University, was appointed associate chief priest of the Grand Shrine of Ise.

**Feb. 3** —The Association of Shinto Shrines granted the title of "Elder" (*Chōrō*) to the Reverend Kan'ichi Hirata of the Ōmi Shrine in Shiga Prefecture and to the Reverend Yoshiharu Fujioka of the Kino Shrine in Yamanashi Prefecture.

**Feb. 9** —Mrs. Masako Takegami, vice president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union reported at a National Christian Council-sponsored meeting at the Ginza Christian Center on the visit of a delegation of five women leaders, of which she was chairman, to USSR and Communist China.

**Feb. 10** —Masaharu Taniguchi, founder and patriarch of Seichō-No-

Ie, sent a letter to the special committee of the Liberal Democratic Party approving the proposal to give special status to the Grand Shrine of Ise.

**Feb. 11** —The Kyoto Council of Buddhists decided to oppose the signing of the revised US-Japan Security Treaty.

—For the first time in recent years a discussion of the revival of the pre-war National Foundation Day (*Kigensetsu*) was not discussed very widely in the secular press.

**Feb. 12** —The twenty-third anniversary of Shishin Kai.

—The Meiji Shrine Supporters Association was organized.

**Feb. 14** —The small town of Hori-nouchi in Niigata Prefecture decided to consolidate five shrines into one. (The decision was the target of much criticism.)

—His Excellency the Most Rev. Maximilian de Furstenberg, Apostolic Internuncio to Japan for the past ten and a half years, left for Europe en route to his new appointment as Apostolic Delegate to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

**Feb. 18** —Higashi Honganji an-

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nounced that the letters of the founder, Shinran would be published in colloquial Japanese.

**Feb. 19** —The Association of Christian Schools held a two-day retreat for elementary school teachers of the fourteen member-schools that have an enrollment of approximately 4,600 pupils. Thirty teachers attended.

—The National Christian Council executive committee decided to send a Christian doctor to Indonesia in cooperation with the East Asia Christian Council and Japan Church World Service.

**Feb. 22** —A United Church of Christ in Japan policy conference was held at Amagi Sansō. (110 persons representing the fourteen districts of the country were present.)

—Publication of an Encyclopedia of Christianity in 1962 was announced by the Literature Commission of the National Christian Council. (The first draft is expected to be completed within the current year. 10,000 subjects will be presented by 200 contributors. Dr. Hidenobu Kuwata, president of Tokyo Theological Seminary, is

the editor-in-chief).

**Feb. 23** —The Religionist for the Abolition of Nuclear weapons presented a protest against nuclear tests to the French Embassy.

**Feb. 27** —A paid announcement in the Kirisuto Shimbun (signed by several conservative ministers and missionaries) urged non-attendance at the March 1—4 World Vision-sponsored conference at Hakone.

**Mar. 1** —The sanctuary of World Messianity in Atami was completed.

—1600 ministers met in Hakone for a four-day conference under the sponsorship of World Vision. At the final session the Reverend Takeshi Mutō, chairman of the National Christian Council, and the Reverend Akiji Kurumada, chairman of the Evangelical Fellowship of Japan (Fukuin Remmei), pledged their cooperation in the projected World Vision-sponsored 1961 Tokyo Crusade.

**Mar. 3** —The Religions League of Japan voted not to cooperate with the Ministry of Education in the proposed survey of religious organizations.

—The Union of New Religious

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Organizations in Japan notified the special committee of the Liberal Democratic Party that it was opposed to granting a special status to the Grand Shrine of Ise.

—Yoshio Shinohara, former Chief of the Religious Affairs Section of the Ministry of Education, died of apoplexy at the Ōmoto headquarters in Kameoka, Kyoto Prefecture.

**Mar. 4** —His Holiness Pope John XXIII sent a message of congratulations to Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko on the birth of their son.

**Mar. 8** —Tenri-kyō youth decided to send young missionaries to both the Amami Islands and Okinawa. The former already has fourteen churches and the latter thirteen.

**Mar. 9** —A resolution opposing official status for Yasukuni Shrine was adopted by the general assembly of the Tokyo District of the United Church of Christ.

**Mar. 10** —A five-minute message on peace by Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa was broadcast over the Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) net-work.

**Mar. 13** —An English language Center for the Study of Zen Buddhism was established in the Fuku-

shima Building in Shibuya, Tokyo.

**Mar. 14** —The Liberal Democratic Party's special committee on the Religious Juridical Persons Law met to discuss the status of the Grand Shrine of Ise. (Both Buddhists and Christians have expressed opposition to this proposal, while Shrine Shintoists favor it.)

—The Japan Association of Gokoku Shrines meeting at Yasukuni Shrine discussed, among other matters, the securing of financial support from the Imperial Family. (Gokoku Shrines are dedicated to the veneration of the war dead on a local, in many cases prefectural, level.)

**Mar. 15** —Sixteen Jesuit scholastics (five Japanese, five Spaniards, three Americans, one Brazilian, one English, and one German) were ordained to the priesthood in St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo by Cardinal-designate Peter T. Doi, Archbishop of Tokyo. (The Jesuit mission in Japan is staffed by priests and brothers from 20 different nations. The number of Jesuits now stands at 407.)

**Mar. 16** —The United Church of Christ in Japan executive committee announced that the Lacour

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Special Evangelism Project, which was carried on for five years and culminated in the Protestant Centennial of 1959, will not be continued. (Thirty self-supporting churches resulted from the project. Three need some further assistance.)

**Mar. 18** —The Ministry of Public Welfare sent a notification regarding burial in Buddhist temples to each prefectural government to the effect that temples have no reason to reject the burial of those who have a different kind of faith.

**Mar. 23** —The National Christian Council held its two-day annual meeting at Aoyama Gakuin. Especially significant decisions were (1) approval of the proposal to sponsor a Christian Study Center for Japanese Religions, and (2) a resolution opposing an official status for Yasukuni Shrine.

**Mar. 26** —Dr. Hajime Nakamura of Tokyo University spoke on "Buddhism and Politics" at a meeting of the Buddhist Political League.

—The Japan Association of Bud-

dhist nuns was organized with nuns of the Sōtō, Jōdo, and Nichiren Sects participating.

**Mar. 27** —Hiroshima Municipal officials decided not to host the Sixth World Congress for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (A ceremony for world peace and consolation of the war dead will be held instead.)

**Mar. 28** —Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Shinnyo-en.

—His Eminence Peter Tatsuo Cardinal Doi, along with six other prelates, was created a Cardinal by His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

**Mar. 29** —A ceremony was observed by Myōchi Kai, marking completion of the frame of a new four-storey auditorium at an estimated cost of ¥2,000 million (approx \$555,000).

**Mar. 31** —Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of the Federal Republic of Germany, who arrived in Tokyo March 25th on a seven-day state visit, received special honours and broke ground for a new science building at the Jesuit Sophia University.

**Additional items for the 1959 Chronology**

**Apr. 4** —The supporters of Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto went on a strike and refused to carry the sacred palanquin (*mikoshi*) unless the chief priest resigned.

**May 5** —The executive board of the Association of Shinto Shrines decided to work for (1) a special law for the Grand Shrine of Ise, (2) revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law, and (3) establishment of National Foundation Day (February 11) as a national holiday.

**Oct. 1** —The 100th anniversary of the founding of Konkō-kyō opened

at the headquarters in Okayama Prefecture with 20,000 in attendance. (The festival continued until November 11.)

**Oct. 10** —Risshō Kōsei Kai completed construction of a new hospital at a cost of ¥260 million (approx. \$722,000.) which provides for everything except mental cases. (In 1949 Risshō Kōsei Kai constructed a nursery. Subsequently, it has provided facilities for a kindergarten, middle school, high school, old people's home, library, fencing hall, cemetery, wedding hall, etc.)

### **The Buddhist Jayanti**

The Buddhist Jayanti, which was held in Tokyo from March 27, 1959, was one of the by-products of Prime Minister Kishi's trip to Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia in 1958. Convinced that it was necessary to promote good relations with these countries through the medium of Buddhism, he conferred with Buddhist members of the Diet and officials of the Japan Buddhist Association. Later, objections being raised on religious grounds, it was suggested that the word Buddhist be eliminated from the title, but this naturally did not satisfy the Buddhists. Finally, invitations were sent out to cultural representatives, scholars, politicians, businessmen and priests to a celebration in commemoration of the 2500th anniversary of the Buddha's birth. In an editorial in the February 20th issue of the "New Religions News" Mr. Shūten Ōishi commented that it was pleasant to know that the politicians were aware that religion was important, but sad to realize that they only tip their hats to religions in order to use it. Moreover, he criticized the use of public funds in this way for a particular religion by finding technical loopholes which bring the Constitution into contempt and invite wholesale violations.

The Rev. Kyōtoku Nakano of the Nichiren Sect, expressing his opinion in the *Jinja Shimpō* of March 7th., criticized the government on the grounds that, in spite of the efforts being made to conceal it, one of the main objectives of the conference was to assist Buddhist propaganda. He contended that this was in violation of the Constitution and that the politicians were making Buddhism a handmaid of international politics.



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Mr. Keitarō Nishimura of the Episcopal Church expressed the opinion that national interest—that is, good international relations with Buddhistic countries—was of more importance than a mere technical violation of the Constitution.

Mr. Akio Saki, a leftist religious critic wrote an article in the *Asahi* (March 18) in which he stated that freedom of worship has a basis deep in the human spirit and that a creative, healthy development of culture was impossible if this freedom was endangered. Moreover, while he admitted that observance of the 2500th anniversary of the birth of the Buddha might be helpful in promoting international goodwill, he contended that, since this particular conference was supported by a grant of ¥30 million, it was tied to the Asian policy of the present administration and in a sense could produce antagonism rather than friendship in the name of the Buddha. He urged politicians to beware of the mistakes made in the past by politicians who were blind to the importance of freedom of worship and opportunistic religious leaders who despise themselves in serving politics at the expense of piety. He also called attention to the fact that the Japanese had already commemorated the 2500th anniversary according to their chronology in 1934, and said that to repeat this in 1959 was to “polish the apple” for Theravada Buddhism. Furthermore, he criticized Japanese piety and scholarship for receiving funds from a secular government.

Dr. Seiichiro Ono, former professor of law of Tokyo University, insisted that the nature of the conference was cultural and not religious and warned the people involved not to indulge in any religious propaganda at the conference. To

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illustrate his point of view, he said that to exchange diplomatic missions with the Vatican was essentially against the law, but that it is practiced from the point of view of international friendship.

The issue was taken up by the Board of Audit on the basis of an alleged violation of the Constitution, but on April 21st the Cabinet issued a statement to the effect that the conference was for the purpose of paying respect to the character of the Buddha, that it was to promote cultural exchange with countries influenced by Buddhism, that no religious action was involved, and that consequently assistance to this conference was not in violation of the Constitution.