

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1961

(April—June)

Apr. 1 —H'gashi Honganji temple in Kyoto dedicated a hall (capacity 1,000) for the use of its women's organization which has nearly 200,000 members.

Apr. 2 —Reiyū Kai Kyōdan observed the 36th anniversary of its founding with a convention of some 27,000 youths.

Apr. 4 —The annual three-day conference of United Church of Christ-related missionaries opened at Sanmai-sō, Hakone, with some 300 missionaries attending.

—The Risshō Kōsei Kai membership fee was raised from 10 to 100 yen a month. The new fee will include a subscription to some of the society's publications.

—Nishi Honganji temple in Kyoto opened the second period (April 4—16) of its 700th anniversary (Dai Onki) commemorating the death of its founder, Shinran (1173—1262).

Apr. 6 —Sōka Gakkai submitted a petition to both houses of the Diet

concerning the right of its members to inter the ashes of their dead in family temple burial grounds without interference by the temples concerned.

Apr. 7 —Several leading Christians, including Mrs. Tamaki Uemura and Prof. Hidenobu Kuwata of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary issued a statement opposing the enactment of a lese majesty law.

Apr. 9 —The Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō) announced a second five-year plan which will include publication of a manual for Shinto priests, and activities promoting (1) the enactment of a lese majesty law, and (2) designation of February 11th as National Foundation Day (*Kigensetsu*).

—Seichō no Ie announced its approval of a lese majesty law.

—Repair of the severe damage to the Grand Shrine of Ise caused by the Ise Bay Typhoon (Typhoon Ida), in the fall of 1959 has been com-

pleted. More than 15,000 volunteers assisted in the repair work.

—The Japan Catholic Doctors Association (Katorikku Ishi Kai) held a convention in Tokyo commemorating the 10th anniversary of its founding.

Apr. 10 —The National Cultural Conference (Kokumin Bunka Kaigi), a “progressive” group closely related to the General Federation of Japan Trade Unions (Sōhyō), passed a resolution opposing a lese majesty law.

Apr. 11 —A four-day conference of Catholic diocesan leaders was opened in Tokyo, which, among other things, discussed some fundamental points to be observed by the believers in dealing with political problems.

Apr. 12 —Tenri-kyō announced the organization of a group of 200 devotees to translate the sect's books into Braille for use in propaganda among the blind.

—Zōjōji temple, Tokyo, consecrated a new hall for its believers.

Apr. 13 —Higashi Honganji temple in Kyoto announced completion of an English translation of its fundamental scripture, “Kyō-gyō-shin-

shō” (“Teaching, Practice, Faith and Attainment”) by Shinran.

Apr. 14 —Higashi Honganji temple in Kyoto opened a fifteen-day period of services commemorating the 700th anniversary of the death of its founder. Shinran (1173—1262).

—A new St. Joseph Friary Church (28—4, Mikawadai-machi, Minato-ku, Tokyo) will be built as a Franciscan Apostolic Center in the middle of Tokyo. The new church will include a basement “Chapel Center” for social and religious affairs, which will also serve as a social center for people from the various countries, working in embassies and private business, as well as for Japanese.

—The Board of Trustees of Nanzan University in Nagoya announced that Nanzan University will move to Rakuen-chō, the so-called “new university property.” (Nanzan owns approximately 27 acres there.)

Apr. 15 —The Minister of Education, Mr. Masuo Araki, stated that the government does not regard the administration of Shinto shrines by the state nor the revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law (Shūkyō Hōjin Hō) as necessary

at this time.

—Jinrui Aizen Kai, an organization affiliated with Ōmoto, started a campaign to collect signatures in support of total disarmament.

Apr. 16 —The National Cultural Conference (See April 10) announced its opposition to renting the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium to the Tokyo Christian Crusade on the ground that it would be a violation of the Constitution.

Apr. 18 —Tenri-kyō celebrated the birthday of its founder with ten days of special services which were attended by some 300,000 believers, including many from abroad.

Apr. 21 —The Tokyo Municipal Assembly voted to rent the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium to the Christian Crusade Committee.

Apr. 28 —The series of anniversary services commemorating the 750th anniversary of the death of Hōnen (1133—1212) and the 700th anniversary of the death of Shinran (1173—1262), which began at Chion'in on March 1 in Kyoto came to an end. An estimated total of 1.3 million people attended these services.

May 3 —The Catholic Educational

Conference (Katorikku Kyōiku Kyōgi Kai) was opened in Tokyo.

May 6 —The Tokyo Christian Crusade opened in the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium.

May 9 —Completion of the first Pāli-Japanese dictionary by Associate Prof. Shōzen Kumoi of Ōtani University in Kyoto was announced. —The Buddhist Peace Conference (Bukkyōsha Heiwa Kyōgi Kai), a group of "progressive" Buddhists, issued a statement condemning the Christian Crusade as anti-communistic propaganda.

May 10 —A three-day International Conference for Cultural Harmony (Seishin Bunka Kokusai Kaigi) sponsored by Ananai-kyō, one of the postwar religious movements, opened in Tokyo with some 100 delegates reported to have come from abroad. Additional meetings with most of the delegates in attendance were subsequently held in Kyoto, Fukuoka, and Kurume.

May 13 —A delegation of Buddhists left for China to return the ashes of some Chinese laborers who had died in Japan during World War II.

May 15 —The Japan Council of

Evangelical Missions (JCEM), composed of representative of 37 missions in Japan, was organized and officers were elected. Dave Hesselgrave of the Evangelical Free Church Mission was elected Chairman.

May 17 —The National Conference of Shinto Youth (Shinto Seinen Zenkoku Kyōgi Kai) opened in Tokyo to discuss the problem of Shinto propaganda among the youth.

May 22 —The Association of Shinto Shrines observed the 15th anniversary of its founding at Toyoko Hall in Tokyo, with some 3,000 people in attendance. In his address President Morihiko Tomioka discussed the policy of the association to secure governmental administration of Ise Shrine and the revival of February 11th as National Foundation Day (*Kigen-setsu*).

May 23 —The 117th anniversary of the founding of the Baha'i faith was commemorated at the Baha'i Center in Tokyo.

May 26 —Ōmoto announced plans to commemorate in 1962 the 70th anniversary of its founding which include the construction of new

training hall at its center in Kameoka, Kyoto, and the publication of a history of Ōmoto.

—The so-called Dancing Religion, Tenshō Kōtai Jingū-kyō, announced plans to build a hall for the training of its believers at its center in Tabuse, Yamaguchi prefecture.

—Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Hideki Yukawa of the University of Kyoto, is one of ten new members who have been named to the Pontifical Academy of Science.

May 30 —On behalf of President Lubke of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Ambassador conferred on the Rev. Joseph Roggendorf, S. J., well known educator of Sophia University, The Cross of Merit, First Class, for his promotion of good relations between Japan and Germany, and for his efforts towards an understanding of East-West cultures.

May 31 —The 7th annual convention of All Japan Buddhist Woman's Association (Zen Nippon Bukkyō Fujin Renmei) was held in Sōjiji temple in Yokoyama.

June 1 —The 9th convention of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai) was opened in

Sōjiji temple with some 1,000 registered delegates. The main subjects discussed were: revival of Buddhist temples, youth problems, international peace and graveyard rights.

June 3 —Two trained nurses departed from Yokohama for Nepal where they will serve as medical missionaries sponsored by the Christian Doctor's Association.

June 4 —The Tokyo Christian Crusade ended. According to the official reports there was a total attendance of 226,752 at the mass meetings. The average daily attendance was about 7,500 and the total of those who indicated a desire for baptism or further instruction was 8,941. The total amount of the offerings was ¥4,577,675 or \$12,715.

June 8 —According to a study by the Kyoto Educational Institute on the moral character of the pupils of sectarian schools, such pupils show a tendency towards a higher sense of personal responsibility, while those in public schools have a keener sense of social solidarity. —Representatives of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai) met with the official

of the Ministries of Education and Welfare to discuss the "graveyard problem."

June 9 —A committee has been organized by the Yokohama Diocese to plan for the centenary of the first Catholic Church in Japan to be established after the expulsion of foreigners in the Tokugawa era. The event will be observed in the spring of 1962.

June 11 —Students of Kokugakuin University, a Shinto institution in Tokyo, requested that "Introduction to Shinto," be made an elective instead of a required course.

June 12 —It was announced that the Christian Academy, in Ōmori, Tokyo, an organization modeled after the Evangelische Akademie in Germany, has been incorporated.

June 13 —The National Cultural Conference (See April 10), established a sub-committee to deal with religious matters.

June 14 —A party of four Christian members of the Diet departed for a three-week tour of Germany as state guests of the West Germany Government. The party consists of two members of the Liberal Democratic Party, and one

each of the Socialist and Democratic Socialist Parties.

June 17 —The National Holiday Bill, which among other new holidays included February 11 as National Foundation Day, was shelved by the Diet for the third time.

June 21 —A Ministry of Education sponsored study of Zen from a psycho-somatic point of view was begun under the leadership of Prof. Kanae Sakuma of Tōyō University in Tokyo and a number of noted physicians and psychologists.

—Yasukuni Shrine and 50 other shrines throughout the country initiated a campaign to increase expressions of reverence for the

war dead.

June 24 —The Grosses Verdienstkreuz was conferred upon the Rev. Francis X Ōizumi, S. J., President of Sophia University, at the German Embassy in Tokyo on behalf of the German Government for "his outstanding merits in promoting the advance of scientific pursuits and cultural exchange between Japan and Germany."

June 25 —The foundation of the new Shinto University building at Ise, Jingū Kōgakukan University, was laid.

June 28 —A Buddhist Culture Institute (Bukkyō Bunka Kenkyū Sho) was established at the Ryūkoku University in Kyoto.