

## CHRONOLOGY FOR 1962

( January—March )

**Jan. 5**—More than thirty interested persons from Buddhist circles gathered in Osaka to form The New Japanese Samgha 新日本僧伽, the aim of which is to improve the Buddhist discipline of the monks.

✓—Seventeen Buddhists, of whom nine are members of Sōkk Gakkai 創価学会, have so far declared their candidacy for election to the House of Councillors, which is expected to be held in June.

**Jan. 6**—A mission consisting of eighteen Buddhists, organized by the Japanese Association for Buddhist Culture (Bukkyō Bunka Kyōkai 日本仏教文化協会), left for India to make a pilgrimage to the holy places of Buddhism.

**Jan. 7**—The Youth Group of Risshō Kōsei Kai 立正佼成会, which became established in December, 1961, held its first general meeting in Tokyo, attended by 13,000 delegates from all over the country.

✓—Sōka Gakkai held its regular examination for the promotion of adherents at 235 different places in the country. Nearly 340,000 persons are said to have applied.

—World Messianity has collected the signatures of more than 800,000 persons

who oppose the nuclear tests. These signatures are to be presented to the Diet shortly.

**Jan. 11**—The Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) decided to join the organization of former landowners demanding compensation for the damages caused by the postwar land reform. It further decided to carry out a survey of the rural temples involved in this problem.

**Jan. 12**—Ōmoto 大本 sent Mr. Isao Deguchi 出口伊佐男, General Director, to prepare for a mission in Hachijō Island to be inaugurated as a part of the program commemorating the 70th anniversary of its founding.

—Pope John XXIII has raised the Apostolic Prefecture of Miyazaki to the Diocese of Oita. (Dec. 22, 1961)

**Jan. 13**—Mr. Masuo Araki 荒木万寿夫, Minister of Education, submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Ikeda concerning the status of nursing facilities and kindergartens carried on by religious bodies, in which he is reported to have advocated the separate treatment of these facilities.

**Jan. 17**—The United Church of Christ in Japan (Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan 日本

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基督教団) is planning to raise one billion yen (about \$2.8 million) in the next 9 years as the fund to support and promote its numerous activities.

**Jan. 19**—Cardinal Frings of Cologne, Germany, has appealed for funds for the construction of a Cathedral in Tokyo.

**Jan. 20**—The Japan Buddhist Youth Association (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai 全日本仏教青年会), which was founded last year in Kansai District, established its Kanto branch and held the first meeting in Tokyo.

**Jan. 23**—The Institute on Mission of the United Church of Christ in Japan has completed a survey of the attitudes of Christians toward the Emperor.

**Jan. 24**—Matriarch Yoshi Okada 岡田よし of the Church of World Messianity (Sekai Kyūsei-kyō 世界救世教) died. She was succeeded by Mrs. Itsuki Okada as the third Matriarch.

**Jan. 25**—The Osaka District Court rendered its decision in the case of alleged election law offences committed by Sōka Gakkai adherents in 1957. The Court found president Daisaku Ikeda of Sōka Gakkai not guilty, but sentenced the other 20 adherents to fines and a suspension of civil rights.

—Representatives of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) and the Daiei Film Co., had a meeting in which the company

agreed to cut several scenes out of the film "Sakya" which had given great offense to Buddhist circles.

**Jan. 27**—Sōka Gakkai has become affiliated with the Institute for Oriental Science (Tōyō Gakujitsu Kenkyū Sho 東洋学術研究所).

—The National Christian Council (Nihon Kirisutokyō Kyōgikai 日本基督教協議会) appointed a committee to examine the possibility of unifying Christian terminologies in use among various Protestant denominations.

—Higashi Honganji temple opened a counselling bureau where the adherents can secure advice on legal matters.

**Jan. 29**—President Daisaku Ikeda of Sōka Gakkai, together with four high ranking officials of the organization, started on a trip to Near East countries. He carried his "Lectures on Buddhism" (in English) with him.

**Jan. 31**—Zōjōji temple, Tokyo, has established the Sanko Cultural Institute (Sankō Bunka Kenkyūsho 三康文化研究所).

**Feb.**—The Women's College, Seisen Joshi Daigaku 清泉女子大学, conducted by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is being transferred from Yokosuka, Kanagawa-ken, to Gotandō, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo.

**Feb. ?**—The Science Council of Japan (Nihon Gakujitsu Kaigi 日本学術会議)

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held a symposium on freedom of thought and science which aroused much public interest in connection with the current issue on revision of the Constitution.

**Feb. 4**—Kanda-dera Buddhist Cultural Center (Kandadera Bukkyō Bunka Sentā 神田寺仏教文化センター) of Tokyo, of which Rev. Entai Tomomatu 友松円諦 is the director, inaugurated a series of public lectures by prominent scholars.

**Feb. 6**—The 13th meeting of youth leaders of the National Christian Council was held in Izu under the slogan:

“Unity of Churches begins with youth.”

**Feb. 7**—The Ministry of Education gave its official approval of the founding of Kōgakkan University 皇学館大学.

**Feb. 11**—Many Shinto shrines observed National Foundation Day (Kigen Setsu 紀元節).

**Feb. 13**—President Nikkyō Niwano 庭野日敬 of Risshō Kōsei Kai for the first time in a public speech took a firm stand against the challenge of Sōka Gakkai and urged other denominations to cooperate in the fight against Sōka Gakkai aggression.

**Feb. 15**—The Socialist Party invited several leading Christians to give it advice on its cultural policy.

**Feb. 23**—The first Sōka Gakkai chaplain was appointed to a prison. He will serve at Utsunomiya.

—The Union of Independent Buddhist

Religious Organizations, established in December, 1961, in Tokyo is reported to plan to enlarge its organization so as to encompass all similar religious bodies in the country.

**Feb. 21**—According to a report in the Chūgai Nippō 中外日報, Mr. Matsutarō Shōriki 正力松太郎, Director of Yomiuri Shimbun, is planning to promote Buddhist Sunday schools.

**Feb. 26**—Nearly eighty Christian leaders met in Osaka to form a council for the liberation of the outcast communities.

**Mar. 3**—The Committee for the Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Advent of Buddhism in U.S.A. (Bukkyō Tōzen Shichijūnen Kinen Kai 仏教東漸七十年記念会) started its work in Tokyo. Dr. Daisetz Suzuki 鈴木大拙 was elected chairman.

**Mar. 5**—Officials of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) met in Tokyo to confer on concrete measures for rescuing Buddhism from its present-day predicament.

—The National Christian Council of Japan (Nihon Kirisutokuyō Kyōgikai 日本基督教協議会) issued a statement condemning the renewal of nuclear tests by the United States.

—Risshō Kōsei Kai 立正佼成会 observed the 25th anniversary of its founding at its Tokyo headquarters.

**Mar. 6**—The Italian Ambassador to

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Japan presented Father Mario Marega S.D.B., with the decoration of "Cavaliere" from the Italian Government in recognition of his outstanding efforts towards promoting cultural relations between his country, Italy, and Japan.

**Mar. 10**—The Japan Buddhist Youth Association (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai 全日本仏教青年会) made a small scale study which indicated that Buddhist youth generally favor preserving the present status of the Emperor and are against giving official status to Ise and Yasukuni shrines.

**Mar. 14**—Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo has commissioned several persons of prominence, including Dr. Shinzō Koizumi 小泉信三, former president of Keio University, to study the possibility of giving the shrine an official status.

—Mr. Yoshio Ōtani 大谷敏雄, member of the Upper House, submitted a written inquiry to the Prime Minister asking to explain the official attitude of the government towards the day nursery facilities and kindergartens run by religious bodies.

**Mar. 18**—Fifteen Jesuit Scholastics (four Japanese, one American, one Columbian one Englishman, one Filipino, one Canadian, one Brazilian and five Spaniards) were ordained to the priesthood at St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo.

**Mar. 20**—Five hundred Protestant minis-

ters and laymen attended a conference in Hakone modelled after the Keswick Conferences in England.

**Mar. 21**—The Japan Protestant Bible Council (Nihon Protestantō Seisho Shin-kō Dōmei 日本プロテスタン聖書信仰同盟), expressed its opposition to what it regards as a trend toward a revival of State Shinto.

—His Eminence Peter Cardinal Doi departed for Rome.

—Mother Elizabeth Britt, President of the Sacred Heart Women's University, was decorated by the Japanese Government with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure.

**Mar. 26**—The National Christian Council of Japan (Nihon Kiristokyō Kyōgikai 日本基督教協議会) opened its 15th General Assembly, with some 100 delegates from seventeen member-organizations present.

**Mar. 27**—The Nagoya District Court decided that the top of Mt. Fuji belongs to the Sengen 浅間 Shrine in Fujinomiya. The government has filed an appeal.

—In reply to the inquiry of Mr. Yoshio Ōtani of March 14, the government declared that it does not intend to approve a special and favored status to the day nurseries and kindergartens run by religious bodies on the ground that these are not the "proper functions" of religious organizations.

—The Ministry of Education gave its

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official approval of the merger of the corporations of the two main Jōdo Sects.

✓ **Mar. 28**—The Socialist Party issued an exceptional order urging its local branches to regain party members and sympathizers who had become adherents of Sōka Gakkai.

—The Liberal Democratic Party started preparation of a draft of a lese-majesty law to be presented to the next session of the Diet.

**Mar. 30**—A record-breaking number of 10,139 applications were received for entrance into Sophia University (Jōchi Daigaku 上智大学) (Catholic). In the Faculty of Foreign Languages 3,254 students applied for 250 openings avail-

able. The newly opened Faculty of Science and Technology drew 910 applications for 300 vacancies.

—Between March 18 and 23 twelve diocesan priests, fifteen members of the Society of Jesus, and seven Sulpicians were ordained.

—Publication of the 1962-3 Japan Catholic Directory, was announced. It will be the most outstanding and comprehensive Catholic directory ever published in this country.

✓ **Mar. 31**—Sōka Gakkai, in consultation with the chief abbot of Taisekiji 大石寺 Temple, has decided to establish graveyards for its adherents.