

Preface

The Zenkoji Scholarship Society for Priestly Study Abroad has full four years of history since its foundation.

In the second issue of this magazine, I stated:

“On January 15, we held a meeting of the preparatory committee for the foundation of “The Zenkoji Scholarship Society for Priestly Study Abroad”, and decided to send priests to study abroad in the spring of the following year. The future development of the religious world depends solely on the cultivation of men of ability and character. May the operations of the Scholarship Society Contribute to the world peace and the progress of mankind.”

Four years have passed since then. Under the protection of Buddha, the Society operations have been in favorable progress, successfully sending a total of 13 priests abroad for study in three stages during the past four years, the first stage commencing in 1985. Happily, this project was given an opportunity to make an appearance on an international stage. On the 8th last December, the auspicious day when Buddha attained religious enlightenment, and at the Franco-Japanese seminar held at College de France, Paris, I delivered a passionate speech for one hour and a half under the title, “In Search of A New Route for

Religious Education — The Wake of 15 Years of The Missions". Nearly whole of the text of the speech was published on the newspaper "Chugai Nippo" and, later, an article titled "Instructions of An Embodiment of The Ideal" was contributed by Professor Anzai of Jochi University to appear on the same newspaper. This fact, among others, indicates how the management of this temple is highly appreciated at home and abroad. And I am keenly aware that it entirely owes to the benevolent sustainment of every one of the supporters of the temple. At the seminar, I said to the audience, "At the threshold of this project, I, from the bottom of my heart, beseeched the supporters of the temple, 'Out of every one meal you take, please save one mouthful of rice for the propagation of Buddhism'. I firmly believe that 'where the wheel of Buddhism runs, the wheel of foods runs'. If it is the Buddha's protection, the supporters of the temple then are really Buddhas themselves. Rev. Hozan once told, 'Deeply respect your supporters as if they were Buddha'. This Rev. Hozan's precept has been the spiritual backbone of all my Buddhist practices that have developed Zenkoji as it is and that have made the big project of sending priests to study abroad viable." No sooner than I had uttered the last word, a storm of applause appreciated me.