

## HOW TO USE THE KAKOCHO (DEATH REGISTER)

Among the Silent Prayers of our magnificent Gongyo is the Fifth Prayer which is the Memorial Prayer for the Deceased (*Kannen Eko*). This prayer should be done in the following order:

### HOW TO RING THE BELL THROUGHOUT THE MEMORIAL PRAYER

**1. Doing the Memorial Prayer for successive high priests recorded in death register**

Express silently “gratitude for the blessings, and be thankful for the virtues on the memorial day of the high priest(s) of the head temple who passed away that day and for his generation. Namumyohorengekyo.”

Ring the bell once.

(If it is the month and day of a person’s death, then you will express “gratitude for the blessings, and thankful for the virtue on the anniversary of the day of death.”)

The Memorial Prayer for successive high priests should be in the following order in the chart below. You should start from the oldest high priests in numerical order. You will ring the bell once for each priest. (*On the 24<sup>th</sup> the oldest high priest would be the 12<sup>th</sup> high priest*)

<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>				
<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N A M U M Ō H Ō R E N G E K Y Ō</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
52 <sup>ND</sup> Nichiden Shonin	12 <sup>th</sup> Nitchin Shonin		24 <sup>th</sup> Nichiei Shonin	61 <sup>st</sup> Nichiryu Shonin
Of The Head Temple	Of The Head Temple		Of The Head Temple	Of The Head Temple

## **2. Doing Memorial Prayer for religious persecutions (*hōnan*) noted in the death register**

Express silently “gratitude for the blessings, and be thankful for the virtue of the Tatsunokuchi Persecution on September 12th, 8<sup>th</sup> year of Bunei (1271) against, Nichiren Ddaishonin, the founder of our religion, Namumyōhōrengekyō.”

Ring the bell once.

## **3. Doing Memorial Prayer for persons on the memorial day (including parents of Nichiren Daishonin)**

Express silently a Memorial Prayer for person(s) X (on the day of the month of that person’s death--Shotsuki meinichiki), Namumyōhōrengekyō.”

Ring the bell once for each person on that date.

## **4. ‘Do Memorial Pray as stated in the sutra book.**

“ I pray that all my deceased relatives, all deceased Nichiren Shoshu believers, including all who practiced without Gohonzon seeking Gohonzon in their heart, for all bodhisattvas, as well as all others who have passed away, and all spirits of the deceased, that they may attain Buddhahood through the power of Namumyōhōrengekyō.”

Ring the bell one time and when you finish the Memorial Prayer recite daimoku three times.

5. Repeat silently: *May the impartial benefits of Myōhōrengekyō spread equally, to the farthest reaches of the universe so that I, together with all other existence, may attain the tranquil state of enlightened life.*

- ❖ **Every day at the time of evening gongyo, open the page for the next day in the Kakocho.**  
(In this case express, “gratitude for the blessings, and be thankful for the day before a memorial day, and also be grateful for the blessings, and thankful for the virtue for a memorial service.)
- ❖ *Shotsuki meinichiki* is the day of death but not the month of death. (Not the anniversary of death.)
- ❖ *Meinichi* is the day and month of death.
- ❖ Let’s hold a memorial service at the temple with a stupa on the actual memorial day of your relative or friend.

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