



Office of the General Director

May 2011

Dear Treasured Bodhisattvas of the LGBT Community,

Thank you for your participation and support in this year's exciting nationwide LGBT pride activities in your local communities! I am confident that your activities today will inspire and open the hearts of many, many people who may be filled with the depths of suffering and/or who may be searching for a philosophy that values our universal humanity. As a member of the SGI family, your shining, sincere dedication and commitment for the sake of spreading the peace of the land will affect hundreds and thousands of people; planting the seeds for an auspicious and significant first year as we kick off towards the SGI's 100th anniversary in 2030!

Buddhism's essential spirit is found in its value and compassion for humanity, in its value and compassion for every living entity. For example, when speaking of universal values, President Ikeda shares, **"...those values that support and encourage the full expression of our humanity. These are values that are appreciated by people everywhere and that enable us to recognize each other as part of the same human family, despite our differences--values as basic as love for one's children, the commendableness of effort, the worthiness of altruistic actions, the nobility of solidarity. Such values stem, ultimately, from the core value of respect for the dignity of human life"** (A Civilization Based on Dialogue, by Daisaku Ikeda and Tu Weiming).

Expressing these values in our everyday lives, it is important to be absolutely victorious in every aspect of life- with family, friends, at work and in your communities. In Sensei's previous messages to you, he continually speaks about the principal of "cherry, plum, peach and damson". He encourages us to illuminate our lives with Buddhahood, as well as the importance of challenging every situation with "lionhearted courage and energy". True victory lies in our day-to-day actions and our heart-to-heart bonds. As you may recall, Sensei also shares, **"It would be pointless for a plum blossom to try to remake itself as a cherry blossom, no matter how deeply the plum yearns to do so. The plum is happiest when it blooms as itself in full glory. How much of the color and wonder of life would be lost if it weren't for our differences."**

Let's continue to march toward the great revelation of Buddhist humanism! From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for your behind-the-scenes support and taking this opportunity to share Buddhism with your community and SGI family. Let's pray with the heart of a lion king and create the happiest of lives, continually developing ourselves as disciples of Sensei. Let's be completely accident-free and I'm sincerely praying for your good health, fortune and victory! Once again, thank you and congratulations!

Sincerely,

Danny Nagashima