



13 from BCA and Canada Ordained

A total of thirteen candidates from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) took part in the Tokudo ordination ceremony that was conducted on November 14, 2014, becoming ordained priests of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Tokudo sessions, which are eleven days of training, arranged for candidates from overseas are held infrequently with the previous session being held two years ago in 2012. In preparation for the Tokudo session in Japan, candidates were required to take part in a three-part seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center (Berkeley, CA) with the first session beginning last year, learning about the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu, rituals, and liturgy.



(front, L-R) Irene Goto, Laverne Imori, Karen Mukai, Toshie Mori, Ellen Crane, Carmella Javellana, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya; (back) Yuhachiro Mori, Tadao Koyama, Keith Kato, Vonn Magnin, Robert Gubenco

Candidates arrived in Japan for the session beginning November 4, during which they joined the Japanese participants at the Nishiyama training facility. Session lectures were conducted in English and the group was assisted by the Hongwanji International Department.

Assisting the resident minister at New York Buddhist Church as a Minister’s Assistant is Cheryl Ikemiya (67) who commented, “Our temple is located just outside of Manhattan. We have a lot of non-*nikkei** who come to our temple regularly. With people of various religious backgrounds visiting our temple, as an ordained priest, I would like to share with them our teaching of Jodo Shinshu so that they can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of it.”

Tadao Koyama (25), a Minister’s Assistant at Buddhist Church of Florin shared, “I simply used to put my hands together and recite the Nembutsu. But with my grandfather’s passing, hearing about the teaching of Amida Buddha from the temple minister I came to understand the teaching and gained the will to live. I would like to study at the Institute of Buddhist Studies and fulfill my dream of becoming a minister.”

**Nikkei*: person/s of Japanese descent

(Hongwanji Journal, December 1, 2014, p.3)

People



Carmella Javellana

From BCA, came to Japan to become Tokudo ordained

Married to Rev. Jerry Hirano (Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, resident minister). Psychiatrist. Ordained during the November 2014 Tokudo session, with her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm, Javellana shared the following: “From today, I will walk side-by-side with my husband as an ordained priest and would like to help propagate the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Having received tonsure (shaving of one’s head), I wanted to expose my true self without any accessories. I was first introduced to Jodo Shinshu when I married Jerry and I thought “This is it! This is my way of life! In treating patients, I apply Buddhist and in particular, Shinshu

teachings and periodically invite patients to the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

We all laugh, cry and have problems to face. As ignorant beings, It is not only “you,” but “I” as well, carrying the same burdens. So in sharing in my patients’ problems, they are able to feel a sense of comfort. Above all, I am now able to be at peace.”

(Hongwanji Journal, December 1, 2014, p.8)