

**SGI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**Most Valuable Are Those Who Work for Peace**

*SGI President Ikeda sent the following message to a gongyo meeting at the San Francisco Ikeda Auditorium commemorating the opening of the Linus Pauling exhibition, Sept. 20.*

My dear friends of San Francisco, whom I trust and love from the bottom of my heart! Congratulations on this commemorative meeting, held in bright spirits and with high hopes!

I feel a profound connection to each of you, vibrantly active in this proud city from which the kosen-rufu movement in America began. I know how hard you have worked, exerting yourselves selflessly for the sake of Buddhism, to contribute to the well-being of society and of all those around you. I would like to take this occasion to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to each of you; I am confident that the brilliantly successful opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition symbolizes your victory, based on the principle that the teachings of Buddhism promote the flourishing of society. I thank all those who have prayed for the success of this exhibition and who have exerted themselves so completely in the preparations for it.

I clearly remember the words of Dr. Pauling, which he shared with me as if to convey a message far into the future. No one, he said, is more valuable than those who work for peace. The Soka Gakkai is taking a pioneering role in this struggle and should continue to advance, he said, fearing nothing.

The members of San Francisco have taken the lead for the entire SGI-USA organization, rising above all obstacles, creating through your courageous actions an ever-expanding solidarity of peace and happiness.

I have heard that the pioneer members of San Francisco, who contributed so much in those days, are in high spirits and are enjoying good health. I also understand that the members of the men's and women's divisions are showing powerful actual proof in their lives. Most heartening of all, however, is the remarkable growth of the young people, the members of the youth division.

There is a well-known passage from the Gosho: "A person of wisdom is not one who practices Buddhism apart from worldly affairs" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 6, p. 142).

Each victory that you have is a victory for your entire family, a victory for your community and for the whole of American society. Thus I hope that you will each be responsible citizens as you win over yourselves and contribute to society. I hope that each of you will win, without fail, in your lives.

I further hope that you will continue to demonstrate a model of harmonious unity for the entire world as you advance, proudly and confidently, toward the realization of kosen-rufu.

I would like to close this message of congratulations wishing all of you, precious Bodhisattvas of the Earth, lives filled with good health, profound satisfaction and victory.

May there be glory without limit to San Francisco! May there be happiness to all of my beloved friends!

**WT**