

## GREETING

By His Eminence  
Metropolitan Emmanuel of France  
Ecumenical Patriarchate  
President of the Conference of European Churches

On the Occasion of the Myochikai 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations  
(October 12, 2010)

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It is a joy and honor for me to offer the congratulations of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on this festive and historic 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myochikai. I am addressing you today on behalf of the numerous visitors and guests here from the international community.

The original concept by the Rev. Mitsu Miyamoto in 1950 and the ongoing commitment of the Myochikai members over decades attest to the profound impact of a religious worldview and a spiritual discipline for the peace of our planet and especially for the future of our children.

Your consistent vision and goal has been to promote global peace and nuclear disarmament through both meditation and action. More recently, you have focused your contemplation and attention to the admirable work of the Arigatou Foundation, which seeks to embrace and nurture children – in their physical, mental and emotional health – in cooperation with agencies of the United Nations, most notably for the sake of healing the diverse wounds of refugee populations throughout the world. And ten years ago, you

established an interfaith and international association for youth in the Global Network of Religions for Children. Indeed, today's event officially launches the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children in Japan.

More importantly and more profoundly, as members of this distinguished religious organization, all of you intend and strive to bring about a spiritual transformation of our society in particular and our world in general by – what is called in my own Orthodox Christian tradition – “a better change” within your heart, mind and soul. For there is no question that we can only bring healing to the world around us if we first bring holiness to the world inside us. Very much in line with your own Buddhist scriptures and teachings, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian mystic rightly observed: “Find peace in your own heart and thousands will find peace beside you.”

For those who wonder or doubt whether religion can prove a powerful ally in efforts to address issues of social justice, they need only look for evidence in the history and activity of Myochikai and the Arigatou Foundation, under the current leadership of the Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto. Your organization provides inspiration for members of all religions to contribute to the eradication of poverty, to provide a balance in a world of globalization, to combat fundamentalism and racism, as well as to develop religious tolerance in a world of conflict. This is why today everyone acknowledges that the faith communities are arguably the most pervasive and powerful force on earth. For not only does religion play a pivotal role in people's personal lives, but religions play a critical role as forces of social and global mobilization on a variety of levels.

May your vision continue to bear fruit. May your efforts continue to be blessed. And may the world continue to feel the results of your compassion and care.