



## DHARMA TEACHER ORDER

Volume 1 Issue 1

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### A Newsletter for all the Sanghas of the Dharma Teacher Order



Dear friends in the Dharma,  
Thanks to the effort of our friends from the four sanghas, we now have a newsletter. I hope that this means that we can communicate better, support each other, work together in our mission to practice and to share the

Dharma with those who are in need and to help others to transform suffering. May you all be well and joyful.

Metta,  
Thích Trí Hoằng

#### From the New York Sangha

On December 5-7, 2014, we held our third yearly Dharma Teacher Order Retreat at Thay's temple, Pháp Nguyễn Temple, in Pearland, Texas. In attendance were representatives from each sangha as well as Thay, Venerable Noble Silence and Sister Phap Nghiem. This yearly retreat is very important for the DTO, not only because we all get an opportunity to practice together, but because it is also a working retreat in which we go over the status of the DTO organization, classes and programs as well as map the direction for the coming year. In the retreat, we have meditation sessions in the mornings and evening while in the afternoon are the discussion sessions. The open detailed discussion and interaction between representatives from each

sangha with our monastic spiritual leadership are crucial for the growth of the DTO. This year we had an added bonus with the ordination on Sunday of three new Dharma teachers from the Miami sangha as well as a Zen monastic ceremony for Venerable Noble Silence. It was great to visit with Thay and enjoy the surroundings of Pháp Nguyễn Temple, especially to see the Big Buddha.

A full report on the deliberations of the retreat will be forthcoming to you via email within the next week.



This photo is from the December 2014 Retreat at at Chùa Pháp Nguyễn (Dharma Spring) in Pearland, Texas. In the photograph

from left to right are Thay, Brothers Fernando Camacho from the NY Sangha and Aaron Doyle from the CT sangha.

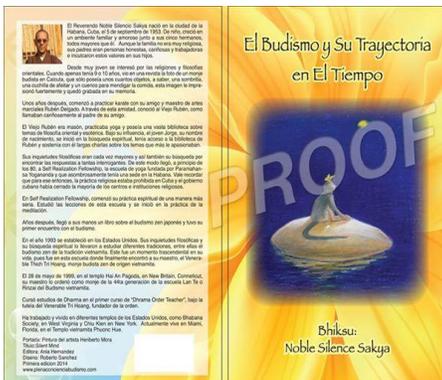
We are already starting to “gear up” for our Annual Three-Day Retreat which this year will be held at Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center in Ossining, New York and we will be sending in a deposit soon to confirm our reservation.

This year's retreat will be from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26, 2015.

Here's the link to Mariandale: <http://www.mariandale.org/> if you would like to find out more about this beautiful retreat center.

### From the Florida Sangha

Our teacher and brother Bhikkhu Noble Silence Sakya has written his first book: *El Budismo y su Trayectoria en El Tiempo*. It is an overview of basic ideas of Buddhism as well as how it has expanded to



most areas of the world. He included maps and illustrations to represent the different Buddhist traditions and their provenance. It has a wonderful

introduction by Venerable Thích Trí Hoàng, which stresses the gap this books fills in Spanish Buddhist literature. Keep a look out for the book which is coming to Amazon.com soon. Please join us in congratulating Noble Silence for this wonderful achievement: Felicidades a Noble por su primer libro publicado y... ¡Qué vengan muchos más!

### From the Connecticut Sangha

Celebrate With Us! - Robin Ryan, one of the members of the CT DTO Sangha, will be taking her Monastic Ordination Vows at Dae Yen Sa Temple in New Hartford, CT. Initially scheduled to take place in late January, the weather had other plans for Robin, and her ordination was snowed out! Which leaves plenty of time to let more people know of this wonderful event...At this time, there is a possibility that Robin's ordination will occur on, or near, The

Buddha's Birthday in May! We could not happier for Robin and the possibility of her entering into these vows on such an auspicious day. Robin is a beautiful presence in our Sangha and we could not be prouder that she is choosing to step deeper onto The Path in this way. We offer her many deep vows and many blessings as she continues her journey. Dae Yen Sa is a Korean Buddhist Temple, with a strong membership and is a location often frequented by our Sangha members. We would invite you all to attend and help celebrate this special occasion with us. The Sangha will be sure to notify you all when it has been rescheduled.



## A letter from a DTO Student to his Texas Sangha

Letter from Justin Lee

Greetings Dharma brothers and sisters and fellow DTO classmates. You are probably aware that there are several DTO classes taking place around the country, but you may not be aware that there are also three inmates in federal prison following the class. I was a member of Thay's congregation in Houston, TX. I began my prison sentence at FCI Seagoville in the Spring of 2012, shortly before the start of Year 1 of the DTO class. Thay encouraged my father to attend the class in Houston and encouraged me to read the books and follow along from prison.

Shortly before the class began, I met another Buddhist inmate here, Grady Tallent, who soon became my close friend and Dharma brother. Together, Grady and I followed along with Years 1 and 2 of DTO. This summer, another member of our prison sangha decided to join in, and now Mark Lasater is doing Year 3 with us. Mark will do Years 1 and 2 when the class repeats, and Grady and I intend to repeat the course with him to refresh and strengthen our knowledge.

The three of us at FCI Seagoville are also students of the Buddhist Correspondence Course that many of you are mentors for. The BCC is a much different course, but we feel it complements DTO very well. While DTO is an intensive, knowledge-based course, BCC is much more about putting the teachings to work in our daily lives.

Grady, Mark, and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our minister and teacher, Rev. Thich Tri Hoang for allowing us to participate in DTO. We would also like to thank my father, Jim Lee, for sending us the required books for the course. Finally, we wish to thank Sondra Kaighen for making us feel like part of the Houston group and providing us with the class schedule and discussion

questions. The three of us here are very fortunate to be part of this wonderful DTO community.

With much metta,  
Justin Lee

Dharma Spring, Pearland, welcomes Vinh Nguyen and Kenneth Easley, who took Refuge in January.

*Our first issue of the newsletter is a little tentative in nature and is only a sampling of what it can become in the future. We are hoping to make this publication into an ideal medium for support and sharing amongst the four sanghas. In this issue, we are just "testing the waters" and concentrating on entries that focus on sangha activities. Please accept the newsletter from that perspective and feel free to contact me, Janet Reale, serving as Editor, with any suggestions or submissions. You can reach me via email at JanReale@yahoo.com.*

