

## JyouSenji, Honmon Butsuryu Shu Temple

Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan



# THK's Seismic Isolation System Protects the Statue of Honmon Butsuryu Shu's Founder Enshrined at JyouSenji



Administrator  
Senshin Okamoto

### The statue in which the founder's spirit dwells

The core practice of Honmon Butsuryu Shu Buddhism is devotedly chanting the mantra *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo*, which is based on the teachings of Nichiren. The Lotus Sutra is at the foundation of our belief. This sutra contains 28 chapters, with the first half (chapters 1 through 14) being the Shakumon (reflection), and the second half (chapters 15 through 28) being the Honmon (true form). Our sect is called Honmon Butsuryu Shu (true teachings of the Buddha from the Honmon) because Nichiren identified eight chapters (chapters 15 through 22) of the Honmon as the primordial sutra that contains the mantra that will save those living in the Latter Day of the Law.

It is believed that our core practice of repeatedly chanting *Nam-myoho-renge-kyo* allows us to commune with spirits of heavenly beings and brings about blessings in a form we can see. It is a practice that anyone can do regardless of age or gender, and it does not require you to visit the shrines or temples located in each region. We presently have around 300 temples in Japan in addition to locations in the United States, Brazil, Australia, South Korea, and Taiwan, spreading our work and praying for happiness for all of human society.

Honmon Butsuryu Shu's main temple is Yuseiji in Kyoto, where a statue of Nichiren is enshrined. This statue is a symbol of Honmon Butsuryu Shu's teachings and an object of worship for many believers, and great care is taken in its preservation. Replicas of this statue are kept in temples all around Japan, including JyouSenji.



Statue enshrined at the center of the altar with a seismic isolation system installed

### THK's seismic isolation system protects our statue from earthquakes

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, many temples near the epicenters reported that their statues had moved or fallen over. Nichiren's spirit dwells in these statues, so they must be protected at all times, in every situation. Some temples reinforced and earthquake-proofed their buildings as a precaution against earthquakes, but at JyouSenji we decided to install a seismic isolation system when renovating our main temple (which houses the statue) and placed our order with a store that sells Buddhist articles. Fortunately, that store had already considered the idea of using a seismic isolation system, so the conversation went smoothly.

When selecting a company, we arrived at the decision to install THK's seismic isolation system based on an introduction from the construction company that performed the renovations, and also by hearing word from members of our faith who said that THK was a bearing manufacturer we could trust.

We originally wanted to install a seismic isolation system for the entire altar, but the salesperson we worked with provided us with a lot of advice, informing us that they could provide a compact product sized for the statue's pedestal and suggesting that we add a steel plate because the wooden statue weighed very little. We decided to go with their suggestions.

We have a lot of believers who come to worship and many monks who work at our temple. I feel very reassured knowing that our statue is being protected by THK's seismic isolation system. Several other temples are already planning on installing seismic isolation systems for their statues. In the future, I hope that the use of seismic isolation systems will spread to the statues enshrined in temples in every country around the world.