

《四十二章經》：佛言：「夫為道者，譬如一人與萬人戰……沙門學道應當堅持其心，精進勇銳，不畏前境，破滅眾魔，而得道果。」

萬佛聖城第十二屆沙彌先修班於6月21日，宣公上人涅槃15週年正日，在萬佛聖城的萬佛殿隆重開訓。五位善男子在諸佛菩薩、宣公上人、四眾弟子及親友們的祝福下，正式成為沙彌先修班的學員。臨近萬佛聖城的無畏寺有三位南傳比丘，也專程前來參加，令今年的開訓典禮增光不少。

為期半年的萬佛聖城沙彌先修班成立於1999年，目的為奠定學員出家的良好基礎。先修班的學員們受持八關齋戒並日中一食，與僧團同住在如來寺，就近接受僧眾的輔導。學員於先修班結業後，得申請剃度為沙彌。沙彌訓練期間表現良好者，得受具足戒成為比丘。

法界佛教總會兩位最資深的比丘，恆實法師及恆來法師代表宣公上人座下的僧團，主持先修班開訓典禮。典禮包括請師、懺悔、三皈依、傳授八關齋

戒等。最後兩位法師並為新學員開示。

實法師勸誡新學員應將以往向外馳求、追求五慾的習氣，轉為迴光返照、收攝六根，並開始以服務為導向的生活。實法師並提醒新學員們，萬佛聖城是他們接受訓練最佳的場所，因為在萬佛聖城他們隨時隨地都可親近三寶。來法師則鼓勵學員們說，諸佛菩薩皆為學員們歡喜並加持他們。他並告誡學員們，在修道的路上難免會遭遇到考驗及障礙，學員們應隨時提醒自己矢志修行的初發心。

五位新學員來自五個不同的國家：他們是馬來西亞的葉怡順(法名果順)、越南的陳錦明(親明)、台灣的余國柱(親柱)、美國的尹達偉(親偉)、及中國的平一帆(親順)。雖然來自世界不同的角落，學員們卻因具有出家修道的共同心念，而齊聚一堂，成為同參道友。

本屆先修班是歷年來學員人數最多的一屆(除第一屆也是五人外，其餘十年每年都至多二名。)也是最年輕的一屆，有四位學員未滿四十，其中二位更不到三十歲。這批新血輪的加入，相信不僅會帶給如來寺及萬佛聖城一番新氣象，更象徵正法在西方弘揚新紀元的開始。

萬佛聖城沙彌先修班開訓

Monastic Trainee Program Initiation Ceremony at CTTB

如來寺僧團 報導 Reported by the Sangha at Tathagata Monastery



The Buddha said, "People who cultivate the Way are like a soldier who goes into battle alone against ten thousand enemies... Shramanas who study the Way must make their minds resolute, and be vigorous, courageous, and valiant. Not fearing what lies ahead, they shall defeat the hordes of demons and obtain the fruition of the Way."

-The Sutra in Forty-two Sections

On June 21, 2010, the fifteenth anniversary of the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Nirvana, there was held, in the Buddha Hall at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the initiation ceremony of the 12th CTTB Monastic Trainee Program. Five good laymen blessed by Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, the Venerable Master Hua, and the fourfold assembly of CTTB, as well as by relatives and friends, formally entered the Trainee Program. The event was made more meaningful to the trainees by the presence of three Theravada monks from the nearby Abhayagiri Forest Monastery, who came not only to witness the ceremony but to lend their support.





The Monastic Trainee Program was first established in 1999. It is the first step for laymen aspiring to be DRBA monastics. Trainees observe the Eight Precepts and eat only one vegetarian meal a day before noon. During the six months that the program normally lasts, trainees live with and receive close guidance from the monks of Tathagata Monastery. This prepares them for their next stage of study and practice as novices. Those who successfully complete their novice training may apply to become Bhikshus—fully ordained monks.

The two most senior Bhikshus of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, Dharma Masters Heng Sure and Heng Lai, on behalf of the Sangha established by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, presided over the Initiation Ceremony for the Trainee Program. This ceremony consists of several parts: requesting masters, performing repentance, taking refuge with the Triple Jewel and receiving transmission of the Eight Precepts. In conclusion, impromptu instructional talks were given by both Rev. Heng Sure and Dharma Master Heng Lai.

In his talk, Rev. Heng Sure emphasized that this was the beginning of a transformation away from the world of outflows and the pursuit of individual desires toward a life of service and internal reflection, based on the gathering in of the six senses. The trainees were also reminded that CTTB provides an ideal environment for monastic training, since it is a place where they will be constantly reminded of the Dharma and surrounded by the Sangha, who will serve as their role models.

By way of encouragement to the trainees, Dharma Master Heng Lai remarked that the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas were present and were both delighted by them and supportive of their undertaking. He also reminded them that they would encounter tests and obstacles on their journey, urging them to maintain their resolve to cultivate as they go forth in their vows.

The five trainees, coming from various parts of the world, are: Yi-Soon Yap (Dharma name Guo Shun) from Malaysia; Tran Hong (Chin Ming) from Vietnam; Guo-Zhu She (Chin Zhu) from Taiwan; David Yin (Chin Wei) from the United States; and Yi-Fan Ping (Chin Shun) from China. Although of diverse backgrounds, they are united in their determination to cultivate the Way by renouncing the householder's life and joining the Monastic Order.

This 12th year of the Monastic Trainee Program for men at CTTB is particularly significant--not only are there more trainees than ever before (in the first year of the program there were also five, but in subsequent years, only two) but additionally most of the trainees are young: four of them under 40, two under 30. This infusion of young blood will certainly bring new energy to Tathagata Monastery and to CTTB. It could signify the dawn of a new era in the spreading of the orthodox Buddhistharm in the West.