

金山聖寺舉行皈依儀式

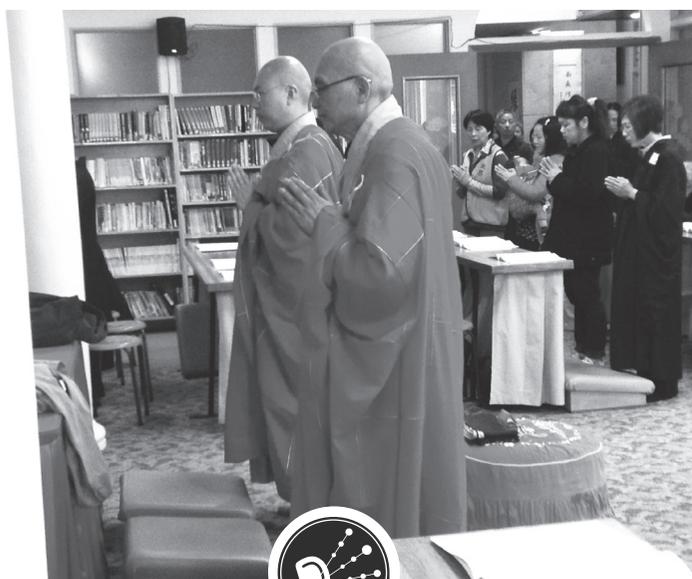
Ceremony for Taking the Refuge and Precepts at Gold Mountain Monastery

伊桂文

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位於舊金山中國城的金山聖寺，於2016年4月10日，為21位善信舉行皈依儀式。這批加入佛門的新血輪，從96歲的老居士，到1歲的小娃娃都有。這是金山聖寺自1995年宣公上人入涅槃至今，首次舉行皈依儀式。

這批新皈依的善信，大都因容易暈車，或行動不便，多年來一直未曾到萬佛聖城參加皈依儀式。96歲的李養在上人住世時，即已常到金山聖寺參加法會。多年來總以「佛在心中，眾善奉行」為座右銘，從未認真考慮皈依佛門。今年因緣終於成熟，將法師的開示聽進心裡，下定決心報名皈依，做一名真正的佛弟子。

李養居士精神豐燦，家住四樓，每天都步行上下樓，腿力強勁。但畢竟年事已高，又容易暈車，法師特別為她向法界佛教總會申請，就在金山聖寺皈依，並由柏克萊寺派比丘近佛法師與近合法師前來主持皈依儀式。

由於因緣殊勝，金山聖寺將此難得的機會開放給其他

Twenty-one people took refuge with the Triple Jewel on April 10, 2016 at Gold Mountain Monastery located in Chinatown, San Francisco. The ages of this new group of Buddhists covers a spectrum from a 96-year-old woman to a one-year-old infant. This is the first Taking Refuge Ceremony held at Gold Mountain Monastery since Venerable Master Hua entered Nirvana in 1995.

Many of the people who took refuge had difficulty, (some due to illness), traveling to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for such a ceremony. Yang Lee, the 96-year-old laywoman, has been coming to the Gold Mountain Monastery for Dharma Assemblies ever since Venerable Master Hua was alive. However, she never thought about taking refuge with the Triple Jewel. Her motto has been: "The Buddha is in my heart and I do all good deeds." However, the causes and conditions for her to take refuge finally ripened this year. She listened



居士報名。結果反應熱烈，很快就有二十多人報名，超乎預期。近佛法師在皈依儀式中指出，人身難得，皈依就是睜眼投胎，走上光明的道路。他勉勵高齡佛子要多念佛，這是最簡單易行的法門。

皈依儀式後，並有17人受戒。近合法師講述了一則真實故事：一個終日憂愁煩惱的人，在受戒後終於安心，因為他知道只要跟隨佛陀的教誨，將戒律應用於日常生活中，往生時一定有很好的歸宿。近合法師希望因緣成熟時，未受戒者也能認真考慮受戒。當天皈依與受戒儀式圓滿後，大家都露出開心的笑容，現場一片法喜充滿。❀

to the Dharma Master's lecture and remembered the instructional words. She finally resolved to sign up for taking the refuge and becoming a real Buddhist disciple.

Laywoman Lee is healthy and is physically fit with strong legs. She lives on the fourth floor of a building and climbs up and down the stairs every day. However, because of her age she easily gets carsick. A Dharma Master applied on her behalf to take refuge at Gold Mountain Monastery. The application was approved by the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and Bhikshus Jin Fo and Jin He came from Berkeley Buddhist Monastery to preside over this ceremony.

Since the causes and conditions were supreme and rare, Gold Mountain Monastery opened up the opportunity for other laypeople. People responded with enthusiasm; over twenty people signed up to take refuge. During the ceremony, Dharma Master Jin Fo said that it is difficult to be born a human and taking refuge is equivalent to being reborn with one's open eyes and walking on a bright path. He encouraged the senior Buddhists to recite Amitabha Buddha's name more because it is the simplest Dharma practice.

Seventeen of the people who took refuge also took the precepts that day. Dharma Master Jin He recalled a true account of an afflicted person who finally took the precepts and realized that as long as he followed the Buddha's teachings and used the precepts in his daily life, he was doing something that would create a good rebirth. This way, he eventually stopped worrying and developed a peaceful mind. Dharma Master Jin He hoped that when the time is right, all of those who had not taken the precepts would carefully think about it.

When the ceremony for taking refuge and precepts was complete, everyone smiled happily and the Buddha Hall was filled with Dharma joy.

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