

May 2005

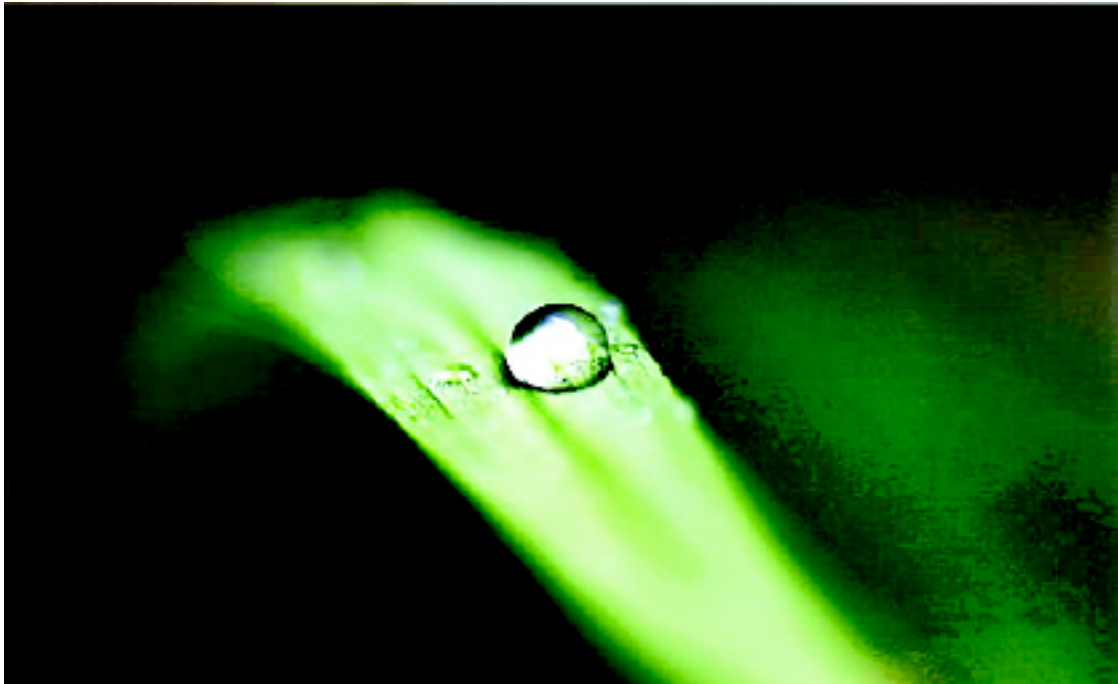
Newsletter from Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District

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Invisible world... nobody notices or cares about this small world... Everyday there are scenes we can hardly look at on TV or the terrible news we instinctively cover our ears with hands. Such shocking news goes by but time flies even in such a small world as in this photo. Is it too much matter of course to watch it or are we too busy to notice it? We are moving around so busily as if we take away someone's time. We have an illusion that only human beings require time so as we should "never stop."

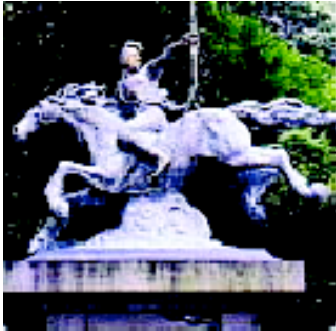
This dew will slip down the leaf soon, pause at the end of the leaf briefly, and the earth will absorb it slowly. This tiny drama is occurring incessantly everywhere. When we see this moment, we notice something. We cannot see it unless we pause to see it. We don't want to be pressed by the time but want to submit ourselves to it. We feel a desire and a jealousy to go back to the world of nature. If we walk on a familiar road to get away from the busy world, we can come to see what we don't see. If we focus on seeing the tiny world, we are amazed to feel how slowly the time goes by and how happy we are to feel it.

Do you know the word of "lenience and speed of waza"? There are the three elements that we must not forget of the kata of Karatedo we practice every day. These are "leniency and speed of waza", "expansion of body",

Gifu prefecture and to the selected players from Shoto Federation for the final victory of all Japan.

We will keep on reporting on the various events and results of the championship in our future editions.

To Appreciate the Program of Gifu Match



Players read the program before the match and check the opponents with sigh and relief. Do you know a number of imaginative ideas are embedded in the program by Mr. Tanaka, chief director?

Many people remember the cover of the 4th championship in 2003 had the "Statue of Nobunaga Oda" (from Gifu Park) and that of the 5th in 2004 had the "Statue of Taisuke Itagaki" (from the same park). Mr. Tanaka plans for the 6th match in 2005 to have Yusozan Gokokushiji (commonly known as Obusa Kannon) for the cover of the program.

In fact Mr. Tanaka chooses the subject and takes photos for the cover. He goes out for the spot and clicks the shutter by himself. Frankly speaking, Gifu is relatively unknown nationally with an exception of cormorant fishing. With a slight amount of insight in the history however we are amazed many a historic site are preserved and that there are a lot of past events that ourselves don't know. Deeply impressed by Mr. Tanaka's local patriotism, we also would like to have historical fieldwork in our city "Gifu". We are going to hold "Tokai Kita-Shin-etsu Karatedo Match" in upcoming July. We look forward to knowing our opponents in the program as well as to appreciating the photography on the cover.

History of Yusozan Gokokushiji

Emperor Shomu erected Todai-ji Temple in Nara to rule his country by Buddhism for the Tempyo era. He made a plan to build a chain of Kokubunji (Kin Komyo Shitenno Gokokushiji) throughout the country. He dispatched a messenger to look for a master craftsman of Buddhist image on erecting a great statue of Buddha (Dai biru shanabutu) as the principal image of Todai-ji Temple.



Kinmaro, an apprentice to a priest, that the messenger met, was serving a cow with water at the shore of Nagara River in Obusa of Mino district. He

made a Buddha with soil and showed it to the messenger who was surprised at the workmanship of Kinmaro and took him to the capital of Nara.

Kinmaro played many important roles in casting a great statue of Buddha and finally accomplished a splendid statue.

At the time of the memorial service of eye opening of the great statue of Buddha, auspicious purple clouds hung, and a rice bowl fell from the sky and a voice was audible as "This is the bowl that Shaka used when asking for alms". Emperor Shomu granted this bowl to Kinmaro as a reward. He had this bowl and returned to Mino. He erected a temple and deified the Senjukannon (Kannon-with-One-Thousand-Arms) for the principal idol and offered the rice bowl in this temple. This was an opening of Gogokushiji.

Emperor Shomu had the first Gokokushiji built with Gyogi Bosatsu (Bodhisattva) at his behest in 746. The temple estate then was Nagara, Shima and Hino with magnificent 7 large buildings and 33 towers.

The flames of war by Nobunaga Oda destroyed it in Tensho era. It was re-erected however by priest Ryokei with Senju Kannon (Kannon-with-One-Thousand-Arms) built in as the principal image in the first year of Genbun era. Priest Ryokyo built two-leveled Okuno-in in the 5th year of Houreki era, and priest Ryoun added Nioumon in the 12th year of the same era. The current denomination is Koyasan Shingon. There is a beautiful garden spread in the precincts. We can reserve and enjoy fine vegetarian foods viewing the panorama of the garden.

Place: 194-1 Obusa, Nagara, Gifu city

Opening Hours: 9:00-17:00

Contact: 058-231-3539

Access: Gifu Bus for Obusa at JR Gifu Railroad Station or Meitetsu Gifu Railroad Station; 30 minutes till the stop of Obusa; 1-minute walk from bus stop.

Parking available