



VIETNAMESE UNIFIED BUDDHIST CONGREGATION

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- CANADA

**THE SEVENTH DHARMA RETREAT IN NORTH AMERICA**

*Your Help Is Needed!*

Homage to Sakya Muni Buddha, the Original Teacher of Ours

*Dear Most Venerable Masters, Venerables and the Respected Monastics*

*Dear Friends and Fellow Practitioners,*

*Whether the Buddha Dharma is survived and flourished in the world are due to the transmission of the monastic Sangha,*

*Whether Dharma places is developed are due to the bodhicitta exhortation of Lay practitioners*

From the time of Buddha's first sermon at Deer Park down to the present, the Dharma wheel has turned, spreading its nectar across the oceans and around our world. The Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Congregation in America and Canada has authorized the female monastics to organize the seventh North America Dharma Retreat. Six previous retreats were held in California, where so many Vietnamese Buddhists live today. This year, however, we have vowed to send a new Dharma breeze to our friends and fellow practitioners east of the Mississippi, and bring the retreat close to Chicago. The seventh annual retreat will be held at:

**Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore**

**Skokie Banquet & Conference Center**

**5300 W. Touhy Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077**

**Thursday July 20 to Sunday July 23, 2017**

The retreat offers a great opportunity for monastics and Buddhist followers from all states to meet, live and practice together, and since children will be on summer vacation, we hope that many families will join us in this retreat to learn the Buddha's teachings from the English-speaking dharma masters.

Organizing this retreat presents challenges, and we are grateful for the support and encouragement of the most venerable masters Thích Nguyên Siêu, Thích Thái Siêu, and Thích Minh Hạnh (the local resident dharma master). Still, we face considerable logistic and financial hurdles.

We expect about 100 monastics and 500 lay Buddhists to attend the retreat and have contracted with the hotel to reserve enough room for everyone. July is the height of tourist season, when hotel costs soar, but we have managed to keep lodging costs very economical — \$300 dollars for four nights and four days, for individuals. (For larger parties, second and additional guests will be charged \$200 for the stay, and children \$150.) The large scale of the retreat, however, means that registration fees alone will not cover the cost of renting ballrooms to serve as Buddha hall and seminar rooms. We also need to pay for sound and video systems, decorations, and lodging for monastics.

The organizing committee is in need of your help!

We know that we are not alone. No matter where we children of Lạc Hồng are living, we help each other's in our common activities and times of need.

The organizing committee looks forward to your generous support. All donations will be recorded and acknowledged at the retreat.

Please contact us at **(+1)317-545-1234** (An Lac Temple in Indiana)

or **(+1) 408-329-3199** (ven. Nguyên Thiện), email: **khoatubacmy@gmail.com**

May the venerable masters and dharma brothers and sisters' light of wisdom shine and bring help to beings seeking liberation from cyclic existence.

May all friends and fellow practitioners be in peace and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Homage to the Great Virtuous Bodhisattva Mahasattva.

America, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Chair of Committee



Bhiksuni. THÍCH NỮ NGUYÊN THIỆN