

# 星 康一 (Koichi Hoshi)



## Profile

The 23<sup>rd</sup> generation chief priest of “Jodo Shu Ryugen-ji Temple.”

Born in Osaka. After graduating from the Faculty of Economics at Oita University, he worked for two years at a major department store in Tokyo. He then trained at a temple in Kyoto and returned to Ryugen-ji Temple as a monk at the age of 25. In 2006, he became the 23<sup>rd</sup> chief priest.

### ■What we value:

- Keeping the door wide open to everyone
- Doing our best

### ■What you can learn and do:

- Visit the main hall and three-story pagoda
- Buddhist sutra copying

### ■Sights to see and flavors to savor:

- National Treasure Usuki Stone Buddha
- Seigetsuan's Buddhist vegetarian cuisine

### ■My “SDGs×#〇〇”

- # Preserving traditional architecture for the future

## The Scenery and Atmosphere I Wish to Pass on to Future Generations

One of the sceneries of Usuki that everyone thinks of is the three-story pagoda of Ryugen-ji Temple. The view of the pagoda visible beyond the road lined with shops and houses seems to symbolize the town's coexistence of past and present in harmony.

Mr. Koichi Hoshi is the 23<sup>rd</sup> chief priest of Ryugen-ji Temple. Although he was born in Osaka, this temple is his mother's family temple, and the previous chief priest was his grandfather. “It's a temple that I've been familiar with since I was a child, but I feel the weight of responsibility now that I'm the chief priest,” Says Hoshi. He has visited many houses for Buddhist ceremonies and has been allowed to pray as much as he can. “It's natural for me as a chief priest,” he laughs, but his reputation has grown and the number of temple supporters has increased by more than 100 households in just over 10 years. In a regional city where the population is declining and people are leaving temples, it is not easy to increase the number of supporters.

However, the temple is in crisis now. The three-story pagoda is damaged to the extent that early major repairs are necessary. “We repaired it 50 years ago, but in recent years the damage has become more noticeable. I hope to repair or renovate it with the support of everyone such as by fundraising and preserving the three-story pagoda for future generations,” says Hoshi. Many people feel close to this pagoda regardless of religion or sect. It's a familiar view of the town. Behind it is the figure of a chief priest who works hard to maintain this scenery.



There are only two wooden three-story pagodas from the Edo period that exist in Kyushu.



You can also experience copying sutras. The mind calms down naturally.



The main hall has a solemn atmosphere.

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