Ceremony of Placing the First Stone for the Nunnery

Today, at the ceremony of placing the first stone for the nunnery, we monastic sisters of the Clarity Hamlet of Deer Park Monastery respectfully present ourselves to the spiritual and land ancestors with our utmost gratitude and humility. Please be our witness to our sincere sharing and aspirations:

We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and practice on this magnificent and sacred land these past nine years. The energy of the spiritual and land ancestors of this place have helped us to mature in the wonderful teachings of the Buddha and to share effective practices with many people in society. We are very grateful to you, and we try to study and practice diligently in order to be worthy of your support and trust in us.

Respected ancestors, during the past nine years, because there were other urgent needs that took priority, our sisters have had to live in two separate quarters. Many rooms are made-shift, and thus we have to endure the scorching heat of the summer and the cutting cold of the winter. Our dream has long been to have an appropriate nunnery, so that we may live and practice together in one place. Now, the conditions seem to be all sufficient, and we ask for your permission to place the first stone of the nunnery on this piece of land.

We vow to love each other as sisters in a spiritual family, helping one another to develop our talents and taking refuge in one another in order to transform our shortcomings. We vow to take good care of each other, practicing loving speech and deep listening so that our sisterhood continues to deepen in harmony and solidarity. We also aspire to live a life of simplicity, knowing that we have enough, to respect and to protect the land, the plants and the animals with whom we live. Please help us to protect this sacred land, so that not only we, but many people in society and the future generations have a place to come back to and take refuge.

Humbly yours,

Sisters of Clarity Hamlet