

*Dedicating the Merit
of our Practice to*

Guy Devault

Dharma Name: Chan Thanh Son

Born: January 9, 1954

Died: January 9, 2026

Dinh Quang Buddhist Temple
Springfield, Missouri, USA

January 18, 2026

1. Offering Incense

[All, spoken]

In gratitude, we offer this incense to all Buddhas
and Bodhisattvas throughout space and time.

May it be fragrant as Earth herself, reflecting our
careful efforts, our wholehearted awareness,
and the fruit of understanding, slowly ripening.

[Bell]

May we, and all beings,
be companions of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

May we awaken from forgetfulness
and realize our true home.

[Bell]

For the long-term fortune, welfare, and happiness
of such benefactors as our mothers,
fathers, others, and for ourselves,

We honor the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha
with these offerings.

[Bell]

2. General Merit Intentions

[All, sung, 3 times]

May all beings have happiness;
May they be free from suffering;
May they find the joy that has never known suffering;
May they be free from attachment, aversion, and hatred.

[Bell]

3. Special Merit Intentions: Guy Devault

Leader:

Friends, it is time to bring to mind **Guy Devault**, Dharma name **Chan Thanh Son**, who passed away on January 9, 2026, at the age of 72 years old. Let us send the energy of loving kindness and compassion to him. Let us enjoy our breathing for a moment, allowing him to be present with us now.

[Bell]

4. Paying Homage

[We bow when the small bell is invited. For those making a full prostration, we stand again when the small bell is awakened.]

[Leader]

I bow to the Buddha.

[All]

The one who shows me the way in life. Namo Buddhaya.

[Bell]

[Leader]

I bow to the Dharma.

[All]

The way of understanding and love. Namo Dharmaya.

[Bell]

[Leader]

I bow to the Sangha.

[All]

The community that lives in harmony and awareness.

Namo Sanghaya.

[Bell]

[The Leader will invite the small bell. Please offer one bow to the ancestor altar and be seated.]

5. Homage to the Buddha Mantra

Namo tassa bhagavato arahato samma sambuddhassa [3 times]

6. Sutra Opening Verse

[Leader]

The Dharma is deep and *lovely*.

We now have a chance to see, study, and to practice it.

We vow to realize its true meaning.

[Bell]

7. Prajnaparamita Sutra

(The Heart of Perfect Understanding)

[Leader]

Maha Prajna Paramita Hridaya Sutra

[All]

Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, when practicing deeply the Prajna Paramita, perceived that all five skandhas are empty and is saved from all suffering and distress.

Shariputra, form does not differ from emptiness; Emptiness does not differ from form.

That which is form is emptiness, that which is emptiness is form.

The same is true of feelings, perceptions, impulses, consciousness.

Shariputra, all dharmas are marked with emptiness.

They do not appear or disappear, are not tainted or pure, do not increase or decrease.

Therefore, in emptiness: no form,
no feelings, perceptions, impulses, consciousness.
No eyes, no ears, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind;
No color, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch;
No object of mind, no realm of eyes and so forth,
Until no realm of mind consciousness.
No ignorance and also no extinction of it, and so forth,
until no old age and death
and also no extinction of them.

No suffering, no origination, no stopping, no path,
no cognition, also no attainment
with nothing to attain.

The Bodhisattva depends on Prajna Paramita
And the mind is no hindrance.
Without any hindrance no fears exist.
Far apart from every perverted view,
one dwells in Nirvana.
In the three times, all Buddhas depend on Prajna Paramita
and attain Anuttara Samyak Sambodhi.

Therefore, know that Prajna Paramita
is the great transcendent mantra,
is the great bright mantra, is the utmost mantra,
is the supreme mantra,
Which is able to relieve all suffering and is true, not false.
So proclaim the Prajna Paramita mantra,
Proclaim the mantra which says:

Ga-te ga-te paraga-te, Parasamga-te bodhi svaha

[3 times] [Bell]

8. The Original Vow of the Pure Land

[Leader: Dharmākara Bodhisattva adopted the pure practices that had led to the establishment of the excellent lands of buddhas. When he had finished this task, he went to the Buddha and knelt down at his feet. The Buddha said to him, "You should proclaim this. Know that now is the right time. Encourage and delight the entire assembly. Hearing this, other bodhisattvas will practice this Dharma and so fulfill their innumerable great vows." The bhikshu replied:]

All:

"If, when we attain buddhahood,
sentient beings who sincerely and joyfully
entrust themselves to me, desire to be born in my land,
and think of me even ten times should not be born there,
may we not attain perfect enlightenment."

[The family makes the first tea offering and bows twice]

9. The Seven Buddhas' Mantra for Healing Karma (YOUTUBE)

Ly bà ly bà đế, cầu ha cầu ha đế, Đà ra ni đế,
ni ha ra đế, tỳ lê nĕ đĕ, ma ha dà đế,
chơn lăng càng đế, Ta Bà Ha. (3 times)

10. The Vow of Samatabhadra Bodhisattva

[Leader: “Inspired by Samantabhadra Bodhisattva’s vow, I bring my heart, wide with deep understanding, with loving faith in the Buddhas of the Three Times, as an offering to the Tathagatas everywhere. With sincerity, I make a humble request of the Buddhas and those who are about to enter nirvana: remain forever in the world, for the benefit and the welfare of all.”]

All:

We aspire to practice your vow to act
with the eyes and heart of compassion,
to bring joy to one person in the morning
and to ease the pain of one person in the afternoon.

[The family makes the rice offering and bows twice.]

11. The Transformation of Reality Mantra ([YOUTUBE](#))

Nam Mô tát phạ đát tha, nga đa, bà lô chỉ đế, Án,
tam bạt ra tam bạt ra hồng (3x)

12. The Nectar of Compassion Mantra

Nam Mô tô rô bà da, đát tha nga đa da, đát diệt tha Án,
tô rô, tô rô, bát ra tô rô, bát ra tô rô, ta bà ha (3x)

13. Universal Offering Mantra

Án, nga nga nâng tam bà phạ phiệt nhụt ra hồng (3x).

14. The Great Compassionate Vow of Avolokiteshvara Bodhisattva

[Leader: We pay homage to Avalokiteshvara: to your great vow always to be there for all beings, to your capacity to look deeply at the world with compassionate eyes, to listen deeply to understand and to relieve suffering, and with your holy willow branch, to sprinkle the nectar of compassion, cleansing our minds from all impurities. May all beings cultivate boundless love. Let no one do harm to anyone. Let no one put the life of anyone in danger, and let no one, out of anger, ill will, or for any other reason wish anyone harm. May the sick be healed. May the old be well taken care of, and may those who have passed away be reborn in the Pure Land.]

All:

*We aspire to learn your way of listening
in order to help relieve the suffering in the world.
You know how to listen in order to understand.*

[The family makes the second tea offering and bows twice.]

15. The Great Aspiration Vow of Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva

[Leader: Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva vowed that, throughout the future ages in all worlds where there are the three lower realms, he would rescue all suffering beings, causing them to leave the lower realms of hells, animals, and hungry ghosts. So he is called the Bodhisattva of Great Aspiration, vowing: "Through incalculable ages, Buddhas have guided me, so that I am able to attain inconceivable spiritual power and be replete with great wisdom. In innumerable worlds, I guide hundreds of thousands of myriads of millions of people across, causing them to revere and take refuge in the Triple Gem, leave samsara forever, and reach the bliss of nirvana. Only when the beings who undergo the ripened effects of wrongdoing have all become Buddhas will I myself attain perfect awakening."]

All:

*We aspire to learn your way so as to be present
where there is darkness, suffering,
oppression and despair,
so that we may bring light, hope, relief,
and liberation to those places.*

[The family makes the third tea offering and bows twice.]

16. From The Buddha Speaks the Amitabha Sutra

[Leader: Homage to Amitabha Buddha and the Western Pure Land. Guided by this Infinite Light, I vow to be reborn there and to cultivate the Pure Land of the here and now. I offer my sincere homage to Amitabha Buddha, the Great Compassionate Buddha of the Western Pure Land.]

All:

Namo Amita-bhaya Buddhaya (14x)
Namo Shakya-munaye Buddhaya (3x)
Namo Avalo-kitesh-varaya Bodhi-sattvaya (3x)
Namo Maha-sthama-prapta Bodhi-sattvaya (3x)
Namo Kshiti-garbhaya Bodhi-sattvaya (3x)
Namo Thanh-Tịnh Đại-Hải-Chúng Bồ-Tát (3x)

17. Eradicating All Karmic Obstacles and Attaining Rebirth in the Pure Land Mantra (YOUTUBE)

Nam Mô A di đà bà dạ, đà tha đà đà dạ; đà diệt dạ tha;
A di rị đô bà tỳ; A di rị đà tất đam bà tỳ;
A di rị đà tỳ ca lan đế; a di rị đà tỳ ca lan đà, đà di rị đà đà na;
Chỉ đà ca lệ ta bà ha (3x).

18. Meditation (as time allows)

19. Gatha on Impermanence

The morning is now ending: our lives are shorter.

Now we look carefully: what have we done?

Noble Sangha, with all of our heart,

let us be diligent.

Noble Sangha, with all of our heart,

engaging in the practice,

Let us live deeply, free from our afflictions,

aware of impermanence,

Let us live deeply, so that life does not drift away

without meaning.

20. Dedication of Merit

Remembering the compassionate Buddha Amitabha, we dedicate the merit of this practice to Guy Devault, whose Dharma name was Chan Thanh Son, and who passed away on January 9, 2026 at the age of 72. “To expound the dharma with this body is foremost. Its virtue returns to the ocean of reality. It is unfathomable. May we accept it with respect and gratitude.” (Dogen Zenji)

All:

May the mind become clear,

awaken to impermanence,

ripen with understanding,

and enjoy the Pure Land.

May the living be peaceful and happy

and the deceased be liberated.

May all sentient beings be freed from suffering,

diligently perform good deeds,

and soon attain Buddhahood.

21. Mantra of Amitabha Buddha

Namo A Di Da Phat (15x)

[*The family bows four times.*]

As we offer a Dharma song, everyone is invited to place a flower in Guy's honor in the arrangement on the altar.

Teresa will offer a song by Sister Chan Khong, personalized for Guy. As time allows, we will then sing together songs from the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh and/or the Plum Village tradition.

Đây là Tịnh Độ

Đây là tịnh độ,
tịnh độ là đây
Mỉm cười chánh niệm,
an trú hôm nay
But là lá chín,
Pháp là mây bay
Tăng thân khắp chốn,
quê hương nơi này

Thở vào hoa nở,
thở ra trúc lay
Tâm không ràng buộc,
tiêu dao tháng ngày.

Here is Pure Land

Here is Pure Land,
the Pure Land is here.
I smile in mindfulness
And dwell in the
present moment.
The Buddha is seen
in an autumn leaf,
The Dharma in
a floating cloud.
The Sangha body
is everywhere.
My true home is right here.
Breathing in,
flowers are blooming,
Breathing out, I am aware that
Bamboo is swaying,
my mind is clear
And I enjoy every moment.