

World Religion basis for peace-Baha'i's

WILMETTE, Ill. — World Religion Day will be observed nationally Sunday, Jan. 16. Theme for this year's observance is "World Religion — Basis for Universal and Lasting Peace." World Religion Day is sponsored annually by the U. S. Baha'i Community and is observed in over 5,000 American cities. Its purpose is to stress the oneness of all revealed religions, that religion has always been the source of unity and that world religion is the source of world unity.

Salvatore A. Pelle, Public Information Officer of the U. S. Baha'i Community, stated that Baha'u'llah, Prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith over 100 years ago, pointed out that to achieve unity and peace man must abandon his prejudices and learn to see himself as a citizen of the world. Religious, racial, political, economic and patriotic prejudices, Baha'u'llah indicated are the primary causes of disunity and war.

"The search for world peace," Pelle stated, "must begin with a spiritual search and be transformed into a religious experience. In the Baha'i Faith the power of the teachings of Baha'u'llah has transformed indi-

viduals and built communities consisting of members of many races, peoples, religions and creeds. They are

united by love for mankind into a fellowship that has conquered division, reconciled enmities, and dis-

pelled suspicions.

World peace beings first in our neighborhood, then in our city, then in our nation and finally in the world. Baha'u'llah stated that religion is the greatest of all means for establishing order and peace in the world and the weakening of true religion has been the cause of chaos and confusion.

The Baha'i Faith originated in Iran (then Persia) in 1844. Its teachings revolve around three basic principles — the oneness of God, of religion, and of mankind. Baha'is believe that in each age God sends a new prophet or messenger to renew religion and to provide the spiritual and social teachings for that age. The Faith has spread to over 313 countries and territories and in the United States it is established in over 14,000 cities and towns. The national headquarters for the Baha'i Faith is in Wilmette, Illinois (on Chicago's northshore) and the World Center of the Faith is on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land.