

Majestic Baha'i Temple Dedicated Near Chicago

WILMETTE, Ill.—The hopes and prayers of 50 years culminated for Baha'is of the world last Saturday when their majestic House of Worship, first Baha'i Temple of the Western world, was publicly dedicated here in the Chicago suburb of Wilmette.

The service of consecration, concluding a message of dedication presented by Ruhyyih Khanum, personal representative of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, guardian and world head of the Faith was repeated at hourly intervals.

The words of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith and selections from the sacred writings of the world's great revealed religions, including the Scriptures of the Old Testament, New Testament and the Qu'ran were read and chanted. In addition, there was music by the Northwestern University A Capella Choir.

For the Baha'is of the world, the dedication was a sacred occasion. It was 50 years ago that plans were first formulated by a handful of the early believers in the then-new-to-America Baha'i Faith.

Participating in the program of dedication in addition to Ruhyyah Khanum, were many officials of the Faith from foreign lands

sion, as well as some of the leaders who reside in this country.

The Baha'i Temple stands at the corner of Sheridan Road and Linden ave., Wilmette, on Route 42. Its great white dome of delicate lace design towers high above Lake Michigan and has long been a beacon light for aviators flying into Chicago.

It has been completed at a cost of \$2,600,000. Its architecture is said to be a blending of the designs of the past, into a unified nine-sided whole.

The structure has been likened to the famous Taj Mahal for its originality and beauty. George Gray Bernard, the great sculptor-model at the Kevorkian Art Galleries in New York in 1921, is reported to have remarked: "It is the most beautiful design I have ever seen. I want to see it built."