

# Baha'i Set Race Amity Day, June 9

WILMETTE, Ill. — Race Amity Day as an annual national observance has been inaugurated by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States for the "promotion of higher standards of inter-racial relationship."

To be observed each year on the second Sunday in June, Race Amity Day will this year, on June 9, call for special activity in all 1,500 localities in the nation where Baha'is now reside.

Although problems of race have long been with America, they have now become dangerously acute and complex, the Assembly asserted in its initiatory statement. "What is of vital concern for the well-being of one segment of the human race is now of vital concern for all. Inter-racial relationships today are no longer a matter of domestic concern, but have become of much consequence in distant lands."

"We see no way for the solution of our own nation's problem, or even for the establishment of abiding world peace until there is recognition of the unity of the human race, and spiritually motivated actions growing out of this recognition," the Assembly continued. "If we are to follow a bold, decisive, sincere and wise course, we must first cleanse hearts, our own included, of prejudice and racial animosity which are so contrary to the will of God."

The first race amity convention between the colored and white races held in this country and probably in the world was sponsored by Baha'is in Washington, D.C., in May, 1921. For three days the meeting attracted the attention and participation of social leaders, statesmen, educational leaders, business men, artists and musicians of both races.

There has been a continual evolution of inter-racial activity throughout Baha'i communities since that time and adherence to a policy of no racial separation within all Baha'i groups. One of the purposes of the present Ten-Year, world-wide Spiritual Crusade in which Baha'is are engaged is the promotion of inter-racial amity. "The oneness of mankind in all its implications of religious and racial unity is the pivot around which the teachings of the Baha'i World Faith revolve," the Assembly explained.