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Roy G. Ross
International Council of Religious Education

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OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Representing 40 Denominations and 174 State, City, and Provincial Councils

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August 29 1947

Hon. Louis P. Gagne
Mayor of the City of Lewiston
Lewiston, Maine

My dear Mayor Gagne:

The churches in your city again this year will join with thousands of other churches and communities throughout the nation in the annual observance of Religious Education Week from Sunday, September 28, through Sunday, October 5.

In your own city this observance is being sponsored by the International Council of Religious Education, whose president is the Honorable Harold E. Stassen and whose first vice president is Mr. James L. Kraft.

The importance of religious education can hardly be overstressed. Leaders all over our country who are concerned with the welfare of our children and youth, on whom the future of us all depends, believe wholeheartedly that the church schools have a significant role to play. Prominent men and women have already given us their personal endorsement to the work of religious education in general and to Religious Education Week in particular. This year's theme, "Faith Is the Victory -- Spiritual Bases for One World," is particularly significant in the light of contemporary conditions. An enclosed folder gives further information.

In order that the celebration of this week, which in many communities is observed jointly with our Catholic and Jewish friends, may be as widely supported as possible, we seek the cooperation of our civic, state, and national leaders in backing up the efforts of our organization and of hundreds of denominations and councils of churches which are with us sponsoring this seventeenth Religious Education Week. Already President Truman has sent us a letter strongly endorsing the special observance of this week, a copy of the letter being enclosed.

As in former years, we are asking the Mayors of our cities to issue proclamations, setting this week in their respective cities for special emphasis on religious education.

JOIN 10,000 LAY CHURCH SCHOOL WORKERS AT THE

International Sunday School Convention - DES MOINES, IOWA - JULY 23-27, 1947

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If proclamations are prohibited by law, we are asking them to issue statements of endorsement. Last year over 100 Mayors acknowledged the importance of the church's work by issuing proclamations or statements.

A sample proclamation is enclosed. It is for whatever use you may wish to make of it. If your time schedule permits, we will be grateful for a proclamation of your own phrasing.

It would be most helpful if your secretary would send me word, as soon as convenient, regarding your decision in this matter, telling me of the form which your endorsement will take. A copy of your proclamation or news statement to the press will also be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Roy G. Ross
General Secretary

RGR:HG
Enclosures