October 3, 1939.

Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, D.D.,
Minister, The Marble Collegiate Church,
5th Avenue at 29th Street,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Peale:

I note that The Marble Collegiate Church will, on October 11th, celebrate the 85th anniversary of its dedication. You have advised me that your church organization was established on Manhattan Island in 1628 by the Dutch settlers. It is remarkable that for 311 years not a Sunday has passed without a service being conducted by your church organization. Only eight years before, history tells us, the church of the Pilgrim fathers was established at Plymouth, Mass.

It is encouraging and inspirational to many of us in these dark days to know of such a long record of religious service as that which has been rendered by your church organization. I am convinced that the greatest safeguard to democracy is a sincere recognition by its people of the eternal truths on which all true religion is based. By religion, I do not, however, mean merely lip service or mere conformance with the external forms of religion. I envision a national and personal spirituality that recognizes the universal fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

My congratulations to you and to your congregation and my best wishes for a successful anniversary.

Yours very sincerely,