

**THE CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE
TO THE CHURCH: A STUDY IN
RELIGIOUS NURTURE FOR
RECTORS AND TEACHERS**

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The Children's Challenge to the Church: A Study in Religious Nurture for Rectors and Teachers
by William E. Gardner

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WILLIAM E. GARDNER

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**THE CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE TO
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The
**Children's Challenge
to the Church**

A Study in Religious Nurture for Rectors
and Teachers

BY

REV. WILLIAM E. GARDNER

General Secretary of the General Board of Religious Education of
the Protestant Episcopal Church

PREPARED FOR
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SECOND EDITION

"Civility and religion center about the Child"
—Dr. Luther E. Gulick



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NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The successful application of some of the suggestions in this book has justified a second edition. From the many suggestions which have come to the writer, he has prepared some new pages entitled "The Teacher's Guide." These will be found in the Appendix, Page 119. They give in detail the work of each teacher for the five critical years when the pupil is between ten and fifteen.

W. E. G.

PREFACE

There are two parts to this book. The first part is a challenge to the clergy and Sunday School teachers, who under the guidance of the Holy Spirit have the future of the Church in their hands.

The Christian Nurture Course which forms the second part, is not another "system of lessons." It is the accumulated results of the experiments, discussions, and correspondence of many rectors, who, years ago, became dissatisfied with the conception of the Sunday School as a place where lessons only are taught. These men sought for the nurturing powers of the Church, confident that when found they would give joy to the child. They were rewarded. By the Christian Nurture Course the Sunday School has become to many rectors and teachers the Church organization, giving the highest joys in service.

The Christian Nurture Course seeks to show methods by which the Standard Curriculum may be applied. While in the main, the Course follows the Standard Curriculum of the General Board of Religious Education, it departs in some detail. The improvement of the Standard Curriculum can only be brought about by a careful testing of its recommendations and an experimentation which will lead to its improvement.

In parishes where the adoption of this Course is

The Children's Challenge to the Church

contemplated, every teacher should be provided with a copy of this book, and after careful reading the material should be discussed and plans made according to the directions given in "Requisites for Success," page 19.

If this book can become the basis for a better understanding between rectors, teachers, parents, and scholars, it will accomplish the supreme end for which it has been prepared.

The writer is indebted to a host of Sunday School teachers throughout the Church, who by correspondence and in conferences have given him suggestions and helps. He is particularly indebted to the Rev. Chas. H. Boynton, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Pedagogy in the General Theological Seminary, for many valuable suggestions; and to Rev. Carlton P. Mills, Educational Secretary of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Rev. Malcolm Taylor, Rector of St. Thomas' Church, Taunton, Mass., Rev. Phillips E. Osgood, Rector of the Church of Our Saviour, Roslindale, Mass., Rev. Herman Page, D.D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Chicago, Ill., Rev. Chas. H. Young, Rector of Christ Church, Chicago, Rev. Llewellyn N. Caley, Rector of St. Jude and Nativity, Philadelphia, Rev. Chas. S. Lewis, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Burlington, N. J., Rev. Wm. W. Smith, M.D., Secretary of the New York Sunday School Commission, Rev. Lester Bradner, Ph.D., Chairman of the Teacher Training Committee, and many others who have made contributions to the experiment which has been known as "The Christian Nurture Course."

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