

Jewish-Christian Dialog Moves Into Fourth Year

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1978

The Mobile Jewish-Christian Interfaith Dialog inaugurated its fourth year-long program Sunday, September 24 with a jointly

attended Catholic Eucharist celebration in Holy Family Church.

The Mass was followed by a meeting at which Fa-

ther Albert S. Foley, S.J., director of the Human Relations Center at Spring Hill College, presented a discussion of "The Etiquette of Jewish-Christian Dialog."

Father John Robinson, pastor of Holy Family, celebrated a special mid-afternoon Mass for the occasion. As it progressed, the Mass was explained by Dr. Aiden Licari, professor at the University of South Alabama.

The Holy Family choir and music ministry presented a selection of Catholic devotional hymns, featuring those based on Hebrew folk melodies.

Father Foley discussed some of the forms and rules that are acceptable in interreligious dialog. These emerged from the three-year experience of the Mobile

dialog, as well as from his 25 years of conducting interreligious discussions in the Human Relations Workshops and Institutes he has directed in New York, California, Texas, Florida and Alabama.

He described the dialog as an orderly and friendly interchange of views by persons of different faiths in an atmosphere of courtesy and respect: "It is a special effort on the part of the participants to communicate with one another not for the purpose of confounding, convincing, confusing, or converting others but for the simple purpose of understanding each other in the framework of faith and religious commitment."

He suggested eight guidelines for a code of

appropriate etiquette:

1. Opening prayers should be carefully selected so as to be inoffensive to all participants.

2. Special care should be observed in the use of jokes and-or humorous anecdotes in an interfaith setting.

3. Courtesy titles and appropriate expressions must be used in reference to the sacred personages and features of each faith.

4. Interfaith courtesy requires respect for other participants' beliefs, values and religious customs.

5. Respect for the individual's freedom of conscience and for what he or she holds in good faith should be emphasized and fostered.

6. Dialog does not authorize the minimizing of differences found in the opposite

Christian-Jew Dialogue Slated

Jews and Christians of the Mobile area begin a fourth year of interreligious dialogue Sept. 24. A special liturgy will be celebrated at Holy Family Catholic Church, followed by a presentation by Father Steve Foley, S.J., on "The Etiquette of Jewish-Christian Dialogue."

For the 1978-79 season, several widely acclaimed speakers will address themselves to specific topics designed to encourage dialogue. "Trinity", "Resurrection", and "Intertestamental Literature" are examples of some of the subjects to be discussed.

Participants in the dialogue will have an opportunity not only to discuss these and other topics with the speakers but also to engage in small group dialogues in private homes during the series.

Anyone interested in further information may call Mr. or Mrs. Paul Filben at 438-1603 or 343-0709, no later than Sept. 8.

faith in the interests of agreement on a least common denominator or on only those elements held in common by both faiths.

7. Exposition of basic beliefs should be done in a positive and affirmative way not in a negative, attacking or unfavorably contrasting manner.

8. Special care must be taken to avoid the laying on of a load of guilt for past intergroup hostilities, wars and-or persecutions.

At the end of the discussion a special award was given by Catholic co-chairman, Paul and Mary Filben, to Mrs. Isabel Segal, the Jewish co-chairperson, for her labors on behalf of the dialog. It was a plaque with the inscription from the prophet Michah (6) saying that the Lord requires us to "Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly before your God".