

Religious awards made

By ROYCE HARRISON
Press Staff Reporter

Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, archbishop of the Mobile Catholic Archdiocese, and two Mobile women who have co-chaired the largest Jewish-Christian dialogue in the United States since its inception here received respective

honors this morning as religious leader and religious lay leaders of the year at the 14th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

THE DUAL LEADERS of the six-year-old Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue are

Mary Filben and Isabel G. Siegal.

Those who presented all three awards — the Rev. Leo T. Brannon, the Rev. Tim Deasy and Norman Cox — recounted some of the contributions each recipient has made as leaders in the Mobile community.

Leadership also was the theme of the message delivered by retired U.S. Air Force Col. Nimrod McNair, the main speaker.

The Atlanta businessman reminded his audience of 500 of pressing social problems the nation faces, including a rising divorce rate, violent crime and declining morality.

AMERICA'S PROBLEMS don't stem so much from a lack of leaders, McNair said, as from misplaced leadership.

"One cannot look back over the last few decades and help but conclude that we have lost our purpose," McNair said. Minutes later, he concluded, "When man does not have an ultimate purpose in life that will carry him all the way, his purpose will be inadequate."

The one purpose which will carry any human all the way, he continued, is a commitment to attain closeness to the character of the sole God of the universe.

In one of many anecdotes, McNair said someone once told him justice will not truly be served unless it is of the character of God. "I submit to you that's what's wrong with our legislation. It's man's best effort," he said, not God's.

The same holds true throughout the social structure, and the cure for social ills is for individuals to put their faith and trust in God, he said.

THE BREAKFAST, held in the Mobile Hilton, was sponsored jointly by the Mobile Jaycees, the Christian Business Men's Committee of Mobile and the city commission.

In introducing the first award recipient, Norman Cox noted Mrs. Filben and her husband, Paul, were instrumental in organizing Fish, a 24-hour answering service by volunteers.

Mrs. Filben is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, an honorary member of Spring Hill Avenue Temple, a member of the Bishops Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Commission and has served on the Area Interfaith Disaster Committee.

Mrs. Siegal has served as vice president of the Birmingham Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, president of the Women's Organization at the Spring Hill Avenue Temple and is chairman of the library committee at St. Paul's Episcopal Day School.



HONORED — Archbishop Lipscomb and two lay religious leaders received awards during the 14th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Nov. 21 in the Mobile Hilton. In photo, from left: Jorge Subirats, co-chairman of the breakfast; Archbishop Lipscomb, honored as "Religious Leader of the Year" because of his contributions to religious and civic harmony; Mobile's

Mayor Robert B. Doyle, Jr.; Isabel Siegal and Mary Filben (honored jointly for their work with Mobile's Jewish-Christian Dialogue); and Mark Guthrie, Mobile Jaycees Chaplain. Principal speaker was Col. Nimrod McNair, U.S.A.F. (retired), an unabashed "born again" Christian. (See page 7 for further information on Mobile's Jewish-Christian Dialogue.)



HONORED FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP — Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, left, newly ordained archbishop of the Mobile Catholic Archdiocese, Friday was named Religious Leader of the Year at the 14th annual Mobile Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Twin Religious Lay Leader of the Year awards were presented to the two women who have co-chaired the Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue since its inception: Mary Filben, third from left, and Isabel G.

Siegal, fourth. Mayor Robert Doyle, second from left, thanked the Mobile Jaycees for organizing the breakfast. The Rev. T. Leo Brannon, third from right, pastor of Ashland Place United Methodist Church; the Rev. Tim Deasy, second from right, pastor of Little Flower Catholic Church, and Norman Cox, president of the Paterson Co., composed the religious awards committee. (Mobile Press Register photo by J.P. Schaffner)

To the public

I congratulate Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb on being named "Religious Leader of the Year" at the 14th annual Mobile Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, an event organized by the Mobile Jaycees.

At the same time, I commend Isabel G. Siegal and Mary Filben on receiving "Religious Lay Leader of the Year" awards at the breakfast ceremony.

Civically yours,

M.O. Beale

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Dear Sir:

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for commending us when we received the Religious Lay Leaders Award for 1980, an honor announced at the 14th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast By the Mobile Jaycees.

To have the importance of dialogue between our Jewish and Christian communities recognized is most gratifying. It is also gratifying to us to have our Mobile Jewish Christian Dialogue recognized as unique both nationally and internationally.

Sincerely,

Mary Filben,
Isabel Siegal,
P.O. Box 759,
Mobile, Ala.