

Rabbi Polish, Speaker For Dialogue



Rabbi Daniel Polish, a distinguished theologian, philosopher, and man of letters, addressed the Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue Nov. 18 in All Saints Episcopal Church, Mobile. His topic was "The Theological Meaning of the State of Israel."

Rabbi Polish is Associate Executive Vice President for the Synagogue Council of America and director of its Washington office. He serves as rabbi at Beth Ami synagog, Potomac, Md. He was ordained at Hebrew Union, Cincinnati, in 1967, and holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees in Hebrew Letters as well as a Ph.D. in History of Religion from Harvard.

He had taught at Harvard and Tufts, and has lectured at Boston and Brandeis. Long interested in the ecumenical movement, he has written articles for both Jewish and Christian journals, and a libretto for a jazz oratorio.

The Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialog is a local group formed to bridge the chasm of misunderstanding and prejudice that exists on the part of both Christians and Jews, and to determine

the points of unity that are our common heritage.

Now in its sixth year, the program began with small groups meeting in private homes for "Dessert and Dialog." An effective learning experience for all who participate, it evolved into a series of lectures with guest speakers whose expertise in their fields is nationally recognized. Other celebrations such as Holocaust Remembrance Day and joint Chanukah-Christmas dinners, have proven equally useful or enjoyable.

The Mobile Jewish-Christian Dialog has served as pilot for similar groups throughout the country. In April this year local leaders conducted a workshop in Dallas at a national conference of Christians and Jews, explaining their plan for the dialog and the attendant Dialog Study Group.

The program's emphasis this year is on Israel, people, land and Torah (literature), as components of Jewry vital to the self-understanding of Christians and Jews alike. Still remaining are the annual Chanukah-Christmas party Dec. 14, and four lectures.

Lectures are open to the public. For more information call 438-1603.