



Lipscomb

## Catholic leader to join Lutherans in recalling Reformation era



Haffly

Roman Catholicism's spiritual leader for south Alabama will speak in a local Lutheran service commemorating the 16th-century Protestant Reformation.

**ARCHBISHOP-ELECT** Oscar H. Lipscomb of the Mobile Catholic Diocese will speak at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 1801 Government St. Sunday at 4 p.m.

The Rev. Paul R. Haffly, pastor of the local Lutheran church, called the service "a highly significant and historic milestone" in ecumenical relations in the Mobile area. The service is open to persons of all faiths.

The service particularly will focus on the 450th anniversary of the signing of the Augsburg Confession, "a first major theological document to come out of the 16th-century Reformation era," said Haffly.

**THE AUGSBURG** Confession, which is considered a cornerstone of Lutheran belief, has been a focal document for dialogue between Roman Catholics and Lutherans in many parts of the world in recent times, according to Haffly.

Here is a summary of how the Augsburg Confession came into being:

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who is considered perhaps the last emperor to attempt to unify an empire embracing the entire Christian world, was presented the confession in 1530 in the city of Augsburg, then an imperial free city in the Holy Roman Empire and now a city in West Germany.

The occasion was a meeting of the diet, or the council consisting of princes, nobles and representatives of cities of the Holy Roman Empire.

**AMONG THOSE** who presented the confession to the emperor were Lutheran princes. Chief author of the document was Philipp Melancthon, a colleague of Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation.

One purpose of the confession was to provide a statement of Lutheran theology that would be acceptable to the Roman Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire. However, the document failed to bring about an accord between the two religious bodies.

The observance of Reformation Sunday in the Mobile church will mark the beginning of seven weeks of activities in celebration of the congregation's 50th anniversary.

**SOME EVENTS** planned include:

■ Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. — A sermon by the Rev. Thomas Walker, senior pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Mobile.

■ Nov. 23 at 11 a.m. — A sermon by Dr. H. George Anderson, president of Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary in Columbia, S.C., and national Lutheran representative for Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue.

■ Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. — A talk by the Rev. Gerald Troutman of Atlanta, who is bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.