

Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Held At Jewish Temple

Bishop John L. May and Rabbi Steve Jacobs shared in the kickoff of the third year of the local Catholic-Jewish Dialogue last Sunday evening at the Spring Hill Avenue Temple. About eighty persons of both faiths heard the main speaker, Paul Filben of Holy Family parish, discuss key issues facing Christian-Jewish relations.

Summarizing the first two year's dialogues, which were held in private homes for small group discussions, Filben said that personal knowledge and firm friendships had been achieved during those discussions of common faith-traditions and in preliminary explorations of anti-semitism, original

sin, abortion, and persecutions.

Calling for "real, forthright, and honest dialogue," Filben cited the need for facing irritating issues such as the Christian misconception of the Pharisee movement which in its purity originally moved Judaism in the direction that Jesus later moved, the "Deicide" issue and the belief that Judaism has lost all reason for existence after Christ established the Church.

Listed as the most troublesome issue was that of conversion and proselytization. Filben called for a dispassionate dialogue, free from war-engendering religious passions that have led people to question whether

religion is indeed the "good thing" we say it is--fomenting the wars of North Ireland, Lebanon, Uganda, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the Mideast cold war with Israel. He said that in these contexts, our "message of Peace on Earth, Good Will to men" appears to many as more a part of the problem than as a solution to it."

In a final note, the speaker pointed up the fact that Jews and Christians both have been unwilling to publicly live with the idea that Jesus was a Jew. But he quoted a German Jewish theologian, Franz Rosenzweig as saying, "What we must do is collaborate and prepare together the upcoming kingdom. At the end we will meet again and we together will meet the Messiah, and who knows... maybe He will have the face of Jesus of Nazareth and we'll see it then."