

Rabbi Cutler Leaves For New Assignment

THE CATHOLIC WEEK



By Anna B. Crow

Rabbi Irwin Cutler of the Dauphin Street Synagogue, left Mobile last week for La Costa, Calif., which is north of San Diego, to start a new congregation.

"I don't have a building, but the pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton, Father Fred Frolek, has given us permission to use the parish center. We will have services there for one year, until we are able to secure a building," said Rabbi Cutler. "I held my first service there two weeks ago and was deeply touched when I saw the flowers with a card reading, 'Congratulations from Father Frolek.'"

The rabbi leaves the bay area with mixed emotions, after his three-year tenure. "In all my 20 years in the rabbinate, I have never encountered such beautiful community relations. It has been a most gratifying involvement with all the community and religious," reminisced Rabbi Cutler. "However, my family values are very strong, and my children all live in California."

Rabbi Cutler has been involved in many ecumenical ventures; such as, the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Study Group he formulated during the past year. These groups made a comparative study of religions, including the architect and symbolism found in the churches. In

celebration of the festival of the Tabernacle (Sukkos), he was instrumental in overseeing members of the Synagogue Sunday School collect food and donate it to needy families through Catholic Social Services.

In commenting on the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Series, which is beginning its sixth year in Mobile, Rabbi Cutler felt that through "an exchange of understanding of ideas from one group to

another, we are able to relate better."

"All religious expressions in my mind are the same, we just have different ways of bringing them about," observed the rabbi.

He served as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Area Interfaith Disaster Service (AIDS), whose inception was brought about following Hurricane Frederic. The committee was responsible for the solici-

tion of funds and procurement of volunteer workers.

"The construction crews will probably continue for another five or six months to get the people back to normal," noted Rabbi Cutler.

His involvement in ecumenical and interfaith work prompted Rabbi Cutler to express his gratification for the "great opportunity to be included — the values and attitudes of the priests and religious of the community helped broaden my view."



RABBI LEAVES MOBILE — Rabbi Irwin Cutler (at left, above) paid farewell visit to Archbishop-elect Lipscomb Aug. 15. He is leaving Mobile's Dauphin Street Synagogue, for a new synagogue being established in La Costa, Cal.