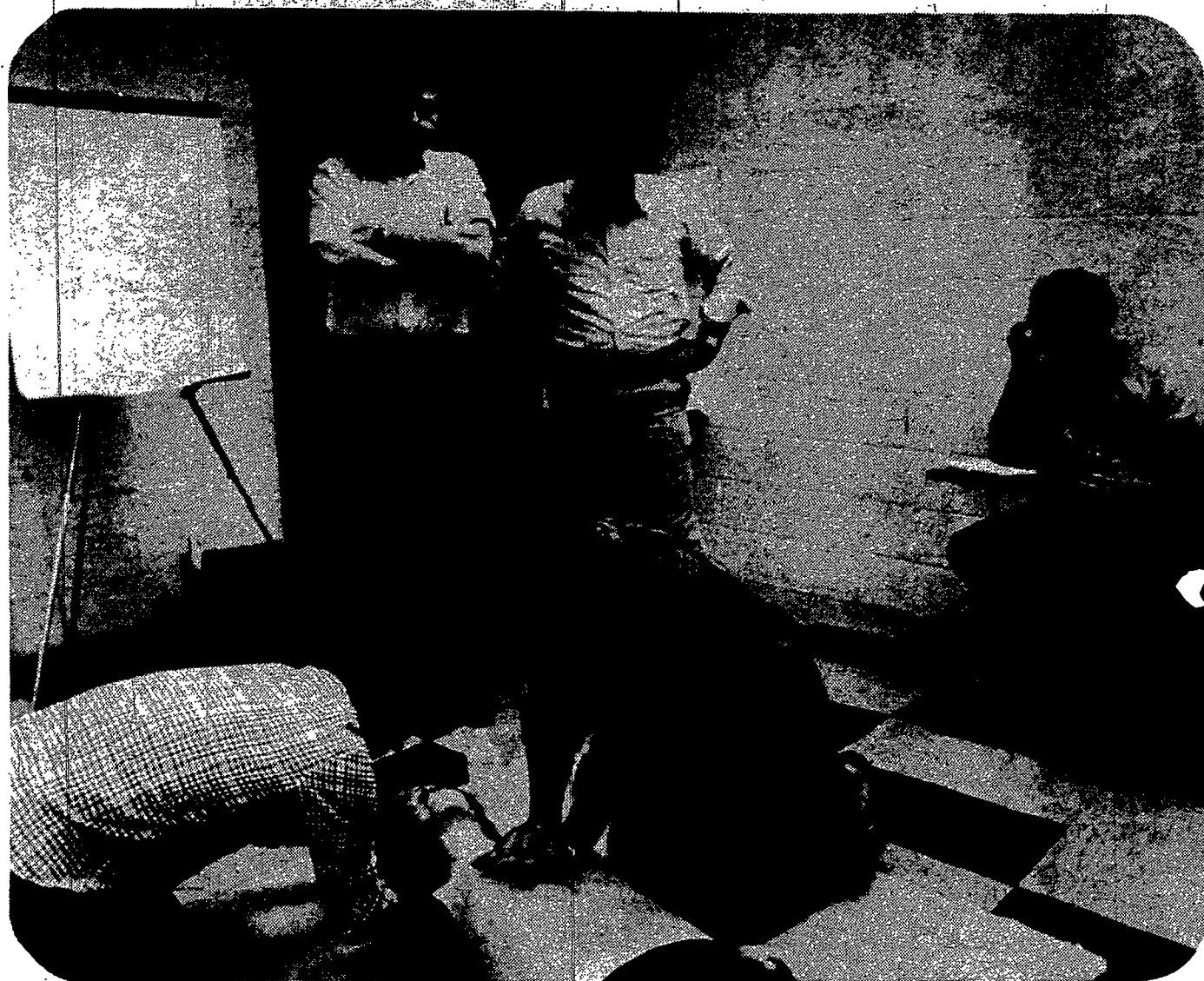


The five men in the class of 1979 share the distinction that for each of them the priesthood is a second calling.

Photos

By Susan McKinney



Part of the deacons' training involves learning first aid for heart attack victims.

Also, in 1972, he made a Cursillo, which, "re-initiated me into the teachings of the Church," and at that point began to consider a life of ministry.

A stint at Becket Hall and the influence of the rector decided the issue, he said.

His father died a month and a half before he was ordained a deacon. "He was a kind of spiritual guy," he said. "Kind of leaves a lump in my throat."

As for future ministry, "I'll ride the storm of any assignment," he said. But he would like social ministry, especially helping the rural poor.

Timothy Horan manages to make his story sound like a pattern of knocking at back doors. In the first place he has a history degree from St. Michael's University in Toronto; and, newly-diplomaed, he first had to decide whether to go back to his home in Akron, O., or come to Rochester, where some of his friends lived. He decided to "let her ride" and came to Rochester. His first job was at a local lumber company.

He couldn't find a job teaching history, so he took a

part-time job teaching religion. "I believed in God," he said, "that he was in the sunset, river, trees. But I started to realize that God was more because the kids I was teaching were more."

He said that he took courses, finally got a degree in religious education and, "began to learn that Christ is real — really real. Not something to reflect on in better moments."

After that realization, he took a job at Our Lady of Mercy High School; and, in 1974, with the encouragement of friends, he entered the seminary, and "met these idiots," his classmates.

As to the future, "I don't want to call any shots about where my life goes. I'll go where I'm needed. I'm not totally passive, I'd just like some input. That's all."

Sometime back Robert Werth figured "it either had to be marriage or priesthood." "In terms of lifestyle I was foundering in the single life," he said.

He is a social worker by education and profession, who was, in 1973, already very involved in Church

activities and who "had reached my limits as a layperson."

It all started, he explained, when he was studying for his master's degree in Florida. He started going to Mass on his days off. "I can remember even then at the Masses thinking I might become a priest," he said.

He nevertheless pursued a career as a social worker. During the Vietnam War he was drafted, and successfully pleaded for an allied medical profession deferment, he said.

He subsequently worked for two children's homes; and, once he had paid off his college loans and completed his certification for social work, entered the seminary in 1974.

Of his priestly ministry, he said, "I'll go where they send me; but I do think my talent lies in the core of the city. I enjoy working with people. I think you have to sit at their table before you can ever invite them to the Lord's table." He also stated that "The Church is the only institution left that is going to make an impact on our society."



The deacons regularly meet with the supervisor of the diocesan intern program, Father Edward Steinkirchner.