

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## Tribute

The body of Rochester Officer Ronald J. Siver is taken from St. Anne's Church following services as state, county and city policemen salute. Officer Siver, a scuba diver, died in the line of duty searching for a body in Irondequoit Bay. Story, other photos, Page 12.

## New Abortion Method: Lethal Heart Injection

Atlanta (NC) -- A new abortion method, developed in Atlanta, injects an adult dose of the drug digoxin directly into a fetus' heart, causing it to stop and killing the baby in the womb.

The method has been used almost 600 times in an Atlanta hospital and has cut down the number of live births following abortions, according to Dr. James Waters, former medical director of Midtown Hospital in Atlanta, where the method was developed.

Waters presented a report on the method Aug. 16 at a two-day conference sponsored by the Emory University Planned Parenthood program and held at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. The method was being used for late second-trimester abortions (20 to 24 weeks gestation).

Waters was released from Midtown Hospital in early August for undisclosed reasons.

Waters said the hospital has no reported cases of live births since 1983, when the method was introduced. For the three years prior to that, the hospital recorded a total of 14 attempted abortions which resulted in live births.

Thomas Allibone, administrator of the Midtown Hospital, refused to confirm or deny that the procedure, called digoxin induction abortion, was currently being used.

"If it is, I won't say yes. If it isn't I won't say no. We're not going to give any more definitive information," Allibone told The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"Dr. Waters was working on (the procedure) on an experimental basis," said Allibone, who refused to disclose why Waters had been released.

Allibone, who said the Emory Uni-

versity seminar was given without the knowledge of Midtown Hospital, also refused to discuss whether or not women who received digoxin induction abortions were aware they were taking part in an experimental procedure and gave their consent.

Waters presented statistics which compared the effectiveness of 203 cases of digoxin induction abortion with an equal number of saline induction abortions, where a salt solution is injected into the amniotic sac, killing the fetus and inducing labor.

He said the new method was safer for women than saline induction and was completely successful at killing the baby before delivery.

Waters said other methods of abortion used during the late stages of pregnancy sometimes result in live births.

The live birth baby in saline abortions has already been exposed to a "very toxic medication which severely depresses them and damages them," Waters said.

The report also showed fewer post-abortion complications with digoxin induction.

In saline abortions, 47.5 percent of 203 cases were "incomplete," meaning the placenta was not discharged and had to be removed. In digoxin induction cases, only 26.6 were incomplete.

Waters said he learned the procedure from an unidentified doctor in Kansas.

Normally, digoxin is used to correct and control abnormal heartbeats and heart failure in adults and children. According to the 1984 Physicians Desk Reference, it is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use to treat heart failure and to correct dangerous variation in the heart rate.

## Back to School for 16 Seminarians

By Terrance J. Brennan  
Sixteen diocesan seminarians, including four men new to the program, have returned to their respective institutions for the 1984-85 academic year, according to Father Thomas Valenti, diocesan director of vocations and seminarians.

Under revised diocesan guidelines, all 16 partake in programs of theology -- one at the American College at Louvain, Belgium; seven at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahwah, N.J.; and eight at the Catholic University Theological College in Washington, D.C.

New to the theologate program are Thomas Agness of Corpus Christi, Rochester; Michael Brown of St. Pius Tenth, Rochester; George Dermody of St. Lucy's, Retsof; and William Roedel of St. Michael's, Rochester. Brown will attend Immaculate Conception Seminary in New Jersey. Agness, Dermody and Roedel will go to the Theological College in Washington.

Gary Tyman of St. Francis, Phelps returns for his fourth year of studies at Louvain.

Returning to New Jersey are Paul Bonacci of St. Mary's, Waterloo; Timothy Brown of St. Pius Tenth, Rochester; Edward Giannino of Holy Family, Auburn; John Hayes of the RIT Campus Parish; James Jaeger of St. Mary's, Canandaigua; and Michael McHale of St. Patrick's, Corning.

Returning to Washington are Frank Barone of St. Paul's, Honeoye Falls; Lyle Biddle of St. Joachim, Canisteo; Kevin Foy of Holy

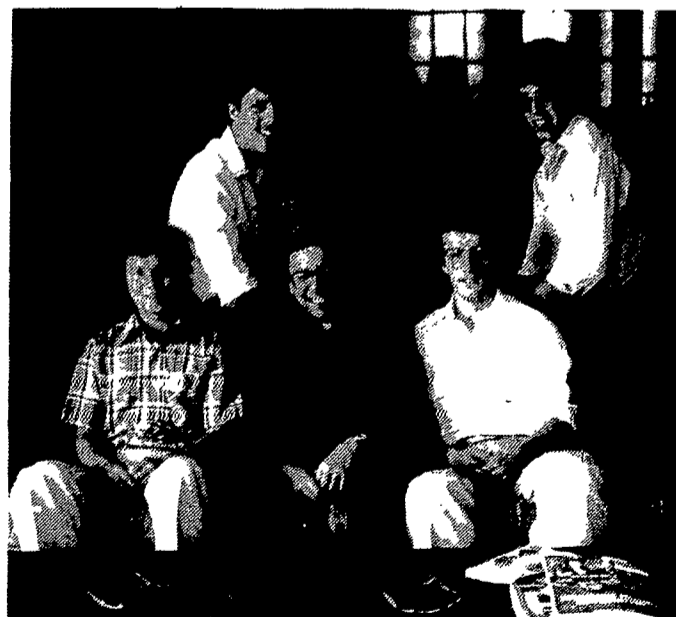
Cross, Rochester; Peter Johnson of Blessed Sacrament, Rochester; and James Mooney of St. Ann's, Hornell.

On Friday, Aug. 24, Bishop Matthew H. Clark hosted the annual summer gathering of the seminarians at the Sacred Heart Cathedral rectory. "This gives the seminarians a chance to meet with the bishop before the school year," Father Valenti said.

Earlier that day, Father Valenti had an orientation meeting with the four new seminarians to explain diocesan policies regarding the program.

After dinner, the four joined their colleagues in the Cathedral for Mass, after which Bishop Clark expressed his gratitude to the seminarians for their commitment. A reception followed in the rectory.

In addition to this gathering, the bishop annually meets two other times with his seminarians during the academic year -- at Christmas, and at the annual conference with diocesan



Father Thomas Valenti, center, diocesan director of vocations and seminarians, with first year theologians, from left, Thomas Agness, William Roedel, George Dermody and Michael Brown.

priests in February at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua.

"These meetings are major opportunities for the bishop and his seminarians to get to

know each other," Father Valenti said. "The bishop takes a great personal interest in each man, his progress and preparation for the ordained ministry."

## Faith Today

"Faith Today," the highly esteemed religious education supplement published by the Courier-Journal, resumes this week and may be found in the center of this edition.

"Faith Today" is produced by National Catholic News Service in Washington, D.C. and features a "Food for Thought" section to generate discussions of other materials in each week's presentation, which include regular material on Scripture, a children's story, and a list of suggested resources for parents and catechists.

"Faith Today" is published weekly through the school year.