

DEATHS

Officer Ronald J. Siver

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 23 for Officer Ronald J. Siver, a member of the Rochester Police Dept. who died at the age of 29 while on duty Sunday, Aug. 19, 1984.

The rites were held at St. Anne's Church, where Officer Siver and his wife were active parishioners. Presiding at the concelebrated Mass was Msgr. William Roche, pastor.

Father Louis Vasile, secretary to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, a Siver family friend, last week shared the following diary reflections:

Monday, 7 a.m., Aug. 20, Sacred Heart Cathedral: The music goes on and the news begins. I know it's Monday, but I'm not sure I'm ready for the week. By the time the news is done, I realize that the name I have been hearing is one I have heard somewhere before.

The name is Ronald Siver, a 29-year-old city police officer who died on Sunday, in the line of duty.

At the time you're reading this, most people in Monroe County

and heard and know the name, the story and the pain.

I thought I would be good to share with you some of the people I met Monday through Thursday, Aug. 24.

Monday, 5 p.m., Ronald Siver home: I met Dale Siver about three and a half years ago. Dale is Ron's brother, one of six.

At that time, Dale was preparing for marriage at St. Lawrence Church. As the time drew closer, Dale told me about his family and particularly about his best man, Ron.

Ron was more than Dale's best man, he was his best friend, his alter ego.

Where Ron was, Dale was not far behind. In fact, they were 11 months apart. It was for Dale that I wanted to be at the Siver's residence on Monday.

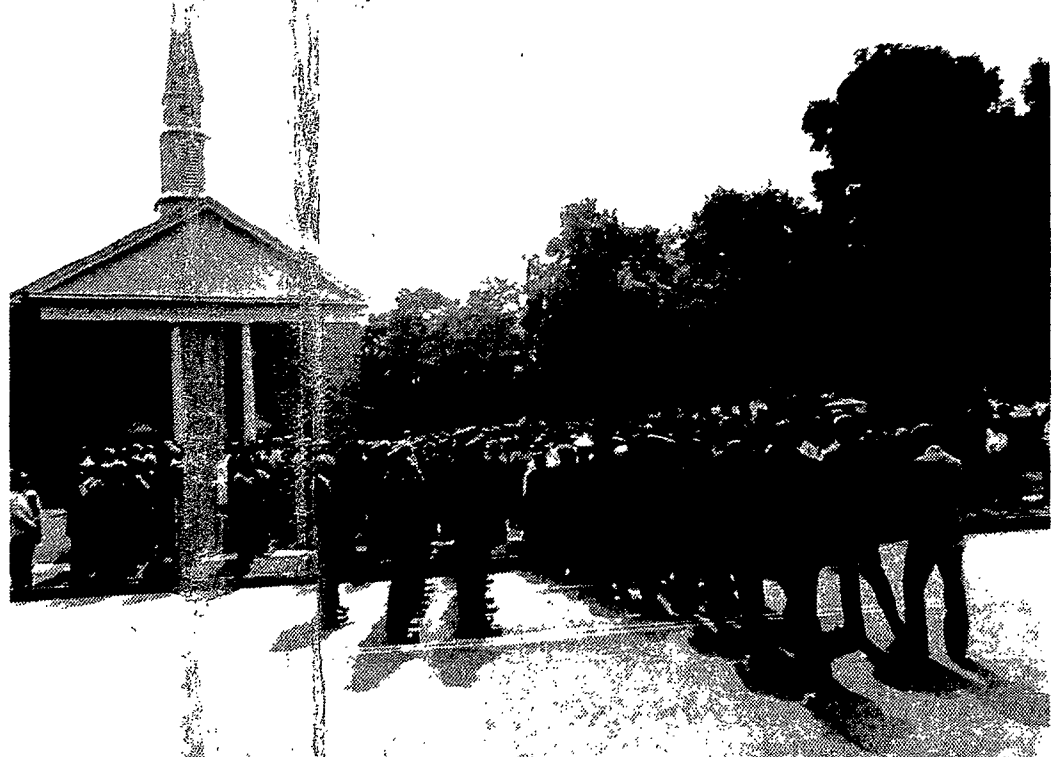
I had met Ron at the wedding, and the Siver family was one not easily forgotten.

Seven boys and a girl (they had lost another through cancer 12 years ago) have been closely bonded by Jim and Gert, who are the parents, and it certainly showed in the family's sense of life.

Dale, his family, and all who were at the home on Monday were most gracious in their hospitality.

The silence and the pain could not be taken away, but the strength that came from the family made it bearable to tell the story.

Tuesday, Wednesday, the funeral home: One would have to be from another planet not to know of the need of the



Representatives from various state law enforcement agencies line the walk outside St. Ann's Church for the Siver funeral.

family for consolation and sensitivity.

The community turned out in great numbers on both days. But most impressive were the police officers, men and women, who came, stood in long lines and prayed.

The long lines of uniforms and the faces will live long in my memory; the young and old, the rookies and veterans together, paying their respects together, some who knew him well, others less, and some who only knew that he was one of them.

The tears, the quiet whispers, the embraces — humanity struggling with what was most difficult to comprehend.

Thursday, the funeral: The rain and the sun seemed to play randomly. At one time the sun was visible, then the rain, then the sun, never

quite making up its mind.

His brothers were pall bearers, two of them read, and his sister brought up the gifts. His wife, her family, his parents, hundreds of police officers and public officials, priests and sisters all gathered at St. Anne's on Mount Hope.

Once again the Easter candle was ever present, the liturgy proclaimed hope, the resurrection the theme. The tragedy was not ignored, but certainly not centered upon.

The center of all this attention was the gift of life, the reverence for all of life.

At the funeral, it was especially marked by the commitment of our public safety officers, our police men and women, who risk the very thing most precious

to each of us, life itself. To risk one's life for anyone at any time is the highest act of love.

On Aug. 19, love triumphed, on Aug. 24, love was celebrated.

Today, each of us is better because of Ron Siver and his example. To all who are police officers — peace officers, in this diocese, in the state, in the country, and on this planet, thank you for that risk. Thank you for Ron Siver.

Officer Siver is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ann (Reiss); his parents, James W. and Gertrude E. Siver of Dexter; six brothers, James Jr. of Florida, Dale of Rochester, Thomas of Watertown, Donald of Rochester, Gerald of Long Island, and Andrew of Dexter; a sister, Martha of Dexter; several sisters- and brothers-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.



A flag outside the church flies at half-mast as police officials keep a patient vigil during the funeral Mass.

Pope Warns on Danger of Nuclear Winter

By John Thavis

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II on Aug. 19 urged an international meeting of scientists to help free the world from the grave risks of new nuclear weapons and the catastrophic "nuclear winter" their use could bring.

Auditions Scheduled

The Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra, directed by Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, is now accepting new members for the 1984-85 concert season.

Placement auditions have been scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 5-6. Interested singers and instrumentalists are invited to call 381-8683 or 223-9006 for further information.

The papal message, signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli "in the pope's name," called on the experts to help build the mutual trust and respect which would lead to peace.

The scientists, including representatives from the United States, the Soviet Union and China, began their week-long seminar on nuclear war in Erice, Sicily, on Aug. 20.

"The theme of nuclear winter and the new defense systems calls attention once again to the many grave consequences to which the use of nuclear weapons exposes all humanity," said the message to Antonio Zichichi, president of the seminar.

"It is his (Pope John Paul's) hope that this gathering will further the mutual respect and confidence between peoples, upon which peace must be built," the message said.

The message said the Erice conference, which has met every year since 1981, offered a chance to consider the impact of the nuclear arms build-up on food production, social development and culture.

"May this experience of active collaboration likewise contribute to a deeper understanding of the interconnections between the problems which confront humanity today," the message said, "and help awaken

within the community of nations a lively sense of man's dignity, his common future and spiritual destiny."

In the past, the Erice conference has resulted in commitments by participating scientists to conduct experiments which would gauge the effects of nuclear warfare. Last year, the scientists agreed to collaborate on a computerized study of such effects.

The "nuclear winter" to which the pope referred is one such possible effect being

studied by the Erice conference. The position by some experts is that the rapid cooling of the earth's temperature following nuclear warfare would have catastrophic results.

The U.S. delegation to the conference is headed by Joseph Knox, a physicist at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California.

Speaking at his noon Angelus blessing Aug. 19, the pope did not speak specifically of the Erice meet-

ing, but he offered a prayer that humanity would be guided down "the road of salvation."

"The Church asks for the divine mercy of providence for the nations and for all humanity so that, protected from the many-formed evil that threatens them, they may find the road of salvation: the road of justice and peace," the pope told several thousand people gathered at the papal summer residence at Castelgandolfo, 15 miles south of Rome.

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