

ST. LOUIS DEATHS

Rev. Dennis Brodeur

Health care ethicist

BY BETHANY PRANGE
Of the Post-Dispatch

The Rev. Dennis Brodeur, a world-renowned health care ethicist and senior vice president of stewardship for SSM Health Care, died Thursday (Jan. 1, 2004) of kidney and liver disease at his home in St. Louis. He was 52.

"He was a brilliant ethicist and theologian who was recognized nationally and internationally for his speaking and writing," said Sister Mary Jean Ryan, president and chief executive of SSM Health Care. "As a priest, he inspired all of us with his generosity, concern and compassion for others, especially people who are poor and disadvantaged."

Father Brodeur was born in Smithfield, R.I. He attended Our Lady of Providence Seminary. He earned degrees in theology and philosophy from the Catholic University of Leuven in Louvain, Belgium, where he received his doctorate in moral theology in 1976.

Father Brodeur was ordained as a diocesan priest of the Diocese of Rhode Island in 1977.

Father Brodeur taught at St. Am-

brose University in Davenport, Iowa, before he became associate director of the Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University. He taught at the university as an adjunct associate professor of health care ethics and health management and policy.

In 1985, Father Brodeur became director of health care ethics for SSM Health Care, with headquarters in Creve Coeur. He was promoted to senior vice president, stewardship, at SSM Health Care, which operates 21 hospitals in four states.

Father Brodeur published many papers on health care ethics. In 1997, the Post-Dispatch published a commentary he had written on how American society deals with death and the need to provide better treatment for terminally ill people.

Father Brodeur spoke around the world on the ethical concerns regarding pain management, genetic engineering, hospice care and the cost of health care. He also served on the boards of Catholic Health Partners in Cincinnati, the Midwest Bioethics Center in Kansas City and the National Perinatal Association.

Father Brodeur was chairman of the Theology and Ethics Committee of the Catholic Health Association from 1990 to 1992.

Father Brodeur adopted a son, Tony Watkins of St. Louis, and later enjoyed spending time with his

four grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday and Wednesday in Lincoln, R.I., and be followed by burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Cumberland, R.I. A memorial Mass is being planned Jan. 16 at Our Lady of Victories Con-

vent in Richmond Heights. A second memorial Mass will be celebrated Jan. 17 at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, 3860 North Highway 67. Times are pending.

In addition to his son and grandchildren, among survivors are his parents, Alfred and Therese Brodeur of Dighton, Mass.; four brothers, David Brodeur of North Attleboro, Mass., Daniel Brodeur of Dighton, Mass., Daryl Brodeur of Chepachet, R.I., and Alfred Brodeur of Davenport, Iowa; and three sisters, Christine Berger of Atlanta, Claudette Roberts of Lakeville, Mass., and Carol Cleary of Hopkinton, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, 1465 South Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63104.



Brodeur

Was a vice president for SSM Health Care