

# Birth's Morality Splits Clergymen

By COLIN McENROE

Connecticut's clergy began issuing a series of moral and theological reactions to the birth of Louise Brown the first baby ever conceived outside the mother's womb, and opinions seemed fairly well divided.

"Approval cannot be given to scientific procedures for the production of a child in artificial fashion," the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Roman Catholic bishop of Bridgeport said in a statement Thursday.

Curtis said the "personal conjugal union of marriage is the only proper setting to share God's active creation of a human child."

The Rev. Edmund S. Nadolny, communications director for the Archdiocese of Hartford, said the circumstances of Louise Brown's birth Tuesday make the event somewhat less difficult to reconcile with Catholic teaching. Since the parents were married and the gestation took place within the womb of the mother, Nadolny said the position of the church on the event might be difficult to state until further study is done.

"But the possibilities for abuse are overwhelming," Nadolny said. He said the techniques used also could be used to commit acts clearly forbidden by the church.

Orthodox Rabbi Isaac Avigdor of United Synagogues of Greater Hartford said his religion opposes test tube births. Avigdor said the technique "tries to replace nature." He said Orthodox Judaism opposes attempts to "do away with natural procedures or the divine order."

Reform Rabbi Marc Brownstein of Newington said he sees nothing in the teachings of Judaism that would forbid the technique used in the conception of Louise Brown.

The Rev. Richard Nolan, an Episcopal priest from Litchfield who has completed work in medical ethics as a research fellow at Yale University, said the Brown birth "strikes me as a very beautiful example of man intervening in creation in a very loving and caring way."

Nolan said he is more concerned with the quality of life an infant will have.