

et cetera



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Betsy Romson (left) and Sue Porter sign a petition urging the diocese to table demolition plans for Holy Redeemer Church.

Coalition

Continued from Page 1
opponents are "creating an eyesore" for residents near Hudson and Clifford avenues.
"The church is literally falling apart, and to allow that to happen says to people around there that the neighborhood is falling apart," he observed.
Father Leone added that a diocesan study under the direction of Father John M. Mulligan, director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services, is also looking into alternative uses for the church, rectory and heating plant.
The other buildings near the church, the former Concordia Hall — now being used by the Ibero-American Action League — and the convent are no longer owned by the parish.
According to Father Leone, a prospective buyer for the church, school and heating plant appeared in late 1985, but the deal fell through when the buyer — Rochester ceiling contractor Joseph DeGeorge — expressed concern over the cost of repairing the edifice.

Father Leone believes that those now exploring other uses for the church will come to that same conclusion.
Those who want the building converted for alternative uses "could put up a much more efficient facility," he added.
According to the priest, the diocese recently solicited estimates on repairs needed to bring the school building up to code, finding that the effort would cost \$546,000.
Jim Yarrington, an associate with the Rochester firm Handler and Grosso, doesn't agree with Father Leone's assessment.
"The structure is very sound. With the openness of the church, there's a possibility to build three or four internal floors inside,"

said Yarrington, whose firm has done preservation work on such historical buildings as Rochester City Hall, St. Joseph's Church and park, and the Memorial Art Gallery.
Yarrington will be a panelist at a meeting Friends of Holy Redeemer have called for noon Friday, Dec. 11, at St. Mary's Church rectory in Rochester.
Yarrington said he first noticed Holy Redeemer Church when he took a Landmark Society tour of Rochester churches two years ago.
"It is a landmark, and we're against (the diocese) tearing it down and just making it a parking lot; that shows nothing," said Betsy Romson, a member of Friends of Holy Redeemer.
"The church is indicative of the city over 100 years ago," she added.

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