

et cetera

Demolition

Continued from Page 1
attorney said.

Kruk did say, however, that the diocese does not wish to engage in a legal battle over Holy Redeemer. "Any kind of court proceeding would be an unlikely last resort," he said.

According to Henry McCartney, executive director of the Landmark Society of Western New York, the society's Preservation Issues Committee was hesitant to challenge the diocese, voting to nominate the onion-domed building for landmark status only after the diocese rejected a January proposal to delay demolition. The proposal had entailed an offer from the landmark society for a nine-month purchase option on the church.

"We were reluctant to do this," McCartney said. "This is something we did not want to do, but our highest priority right now is to save the church."

According to Susan Porter, a spokeswoman for the Friends of Holy Redeemer, the group voted to support the request for landmark status at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 23. Friends of Holy Redeemer, in conjunction with the Landmark Society of Western New York, has been working to save the church since learning last fall that the diocese was seeking demolition bids.

McCartney said that the society is "looking at other approaches," but that the landmark application "gives us some assurance that demolition plans can't be made" for some time.

Diocesan officials, meanwhile, expressed frustration at the application bid.

"We feel that the action by Mr. Kruse and the landmark society disrespects the careful decision we came to," said Father John M. Mulligan, director of Urban Services for the

Rochester diocese. "I think it also calls into question any future relationship between the diocese and the landmark society."

The diocesan decision was issued to the landmark society in a letter hand-delivered to McCartney last week. In the letter, Father Mulligan wrote that the diocese was "impressed with the sincerity of (the landmark society's) offer to assist the parish and community, and the level of interest and initiative shown by your organization in connection with this matter. In the event a similar situation arises in the future, we may call on your expertise and assistance as we face the challenge of other aging church buildings."

Father William B. Leone, pastor of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier, said he was disheartened by the landmark society's action and is unsure how his parish will come up with the \$9,000 insurance payment on the church, which will come due if the battle drags on into the summer.

"I don't know how we're going to come up with the money," said Father Leone, when asked how the parish would make the July payment. "We've been working on this so long and to have this happen now is a frustrating experience. This action by the landmark society has made it impossible for a wrecker to get a permit (for demolition)."

Father Leone continued to stress that present parishioners of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis as well as most neighborhood residents would rather see the church razed than remain empty and unused. The church has been vacant since 1985.

"People who are parishioners now have a different view of it than (landmark society preservationists) do," the priest said, "but I don't think that emotion is going to carry the day for either side."

Father Mulligan said that diocesan officials working closely with the Holy Re-

deemer situation will attempt to involve more neighborhood residents in the effort to convince city officials that the diocese's decision was the only one it could make.

"I think we need to include more neighborhood people and include other parishes," the priest said. "We'll also ask what right (preservationists) have to intervene in these areas."

"We have to face up to the hearing,

prepare thoroughly and prove we made a well thought-out decision. We'll point out strongly that the landmark society effort is made up of folks not (residing) in the Hudson and Clifford areas," Father Mulligan said.

Father Leone agreed. "We need to be working with the people who come here," he said.

Clinic expands services into Erie County

Mark H. Fuller, formerly administrator of Genesee County Mental Health Clinic and now executive director of DePaul Mental Health Services in Rochester, will oversee a DePaul expansion project providing residential services to the Buffalo/Erie County area.



Based in Rochester, DePaul Mental Health Services will be expanding its community residence program to Erie County. The agency has been awarded two state contracts for more than \$1 million. The ultimate goal of the residential program is to prepare residents for independent living.

DePaul's community residence program, which began in 1979, provides a homelike atmosphere in which residents are given supervision, support and guidance. The agency currently operates six supervised facilities, five intensive supportive facilities and one supportive facility.

Fuller joined DePaul, an outpatient clinic

offering diagnostic and counseling services, in 1978. Under his direction several other programs have been developed, including a continuing treatment program, an adolescent group home program, and an expanded clinic program to include family and group counseling, case management and more.

DePaul, which has grown to be one of the largest of 185 United Way agencies in Monroe County, employs approximately 300 staff and provides services to 2,500 clients.

A native of Warsaw, Fuller, who holds a MBA from Rochester Institute Technology, lives in LeRoy with his wife Michele Rapone-Fuller and two children.

St. Joseph's issues pamphlet

St. Joseph's School, Gephardt Road, Penfield, has published a pamphlet entitled "Welcome to Saint Joseph's — Where Education Is More than Academics," in an effort to provide information about the school and its activities.

For information, or to obtain a copy of the pamphlet, call (716)586-6968.

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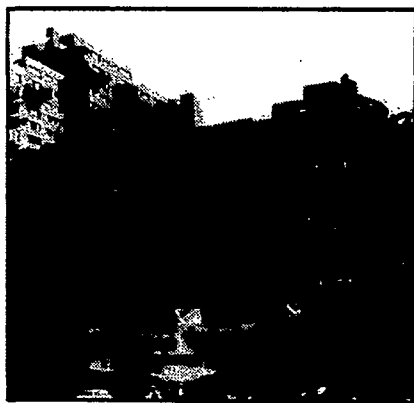
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