



CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

Vol. 104 No. 39

Thursday, July 1, 1993

75¢

16 pages



Twin celebration

Fathers Richard (left) and Robert Beligotti are among 15 diocesan priests marking their anniversaries of ordination this year. Pages 6 and 7.



Kelie McCann

Bishop Matthew H. Clark June 27 presided at the first Mass inside St. Jude the Apostle's newly dedicated church, 4100 Lyell Road. In comparison to Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Jude's features a more open design.

Vatican II left its mark on liturgical spaces

If clothes make the person, then it seems that the church building makes the churchgoer. At least, architects and Catholic liturgical experts seem to think so.

Both groups agree that where you worship deeply affects how you worship and how you view God. Since the 1960s, the church's leaders have emphasized that contemporary liturgies and the spaces in which they take place should emphasize that the Lord resides in the community as well as in the Eucharist.

"The implications of a Vatican II liturgy will never be realized as long as it continues to be constricted by Vatican I church building," wrote Father Richard Vosko, a nationally renowned liturgical consultant in his book, *Through the Eye of a Rose Window: A Perspective on the Environment for Worship*.

Vosko's beliefs are also embodied in the 1978 U.S. bishops' document on "Environment and Art in Catholic Worship."

"The liturgical space ... does not seek to impress, or even less, to dominate, but its clear aim is to facilitate the public worship and common prayer of the faith community," the bishops wrote.

The diocesan guidelines for construction and/or renovation of worship space highlight such concepts. Ideally, new and renovated churches should include the following features:

- A "gathering space" just inside of a main entry area to the worship area where all participants can enter and mingle prior to the service.

Story by
Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

- A visible baptismal font either at the entrance to the church or in the worship area where the font will not distract churchgoers from the action at the altar. The font should be large enough to immerse infants and adults.

- A worship area that seats the congregation — preferably on movable benches and chairs — around the altar, ambo, and priest's chair in a three-sided fashion.

Sunday, June 27, presented a unique opportunity for students of church architecture to examine the vast changes that have marked construction of Catholic worship space in the 20th century.

In the late morning, the faithful of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish marked the 150th anniversary of their Rochester parish by celebrating inside and outside their church, built in the grand basilica form in this century's first decade (also see related article on page 14).

Illuminated by sunlight that flows through amber windows, the church's interior is replete with numerous paintings of saints and biblical figures, and other features of elaborate ornamentation that pay homage to the high altar with its two flanking altars. The church's apse features 10 statues, and the altar area still boasts



S. John Willdn/Staff photographer

Ss. Peter and Paul Church, which was built in 1843, was Rochester's fourth Roman Catholic Church. Parishioners of the Lombard-Romanesque church held their 150th anniversary gala June 27.

communion railings.

"Many people who worship here have devotions to particular saints," said Barbara Classen, pastoral associate. She noted that a church such as Ss. Peter and Paul — with its side altars and statues — encourages "private prayer."

In many ways, Ss. Peter and Paul, though far more beautiful than many old churches in the city, nonetheless represents a typical pre-Vatican II church as de-

scribed by Father Vosko.

"It had a rectangular hall filled with pews, the main altar was at one end, the choir loft was at the other end, a rail separated the sanctuary from the nave, stations of the cross and statues hung on the walls, the baptistry was secluded and the air smelled of incense and candles," he wrote.

Later that day, in suburban Gates, members of St. Jude the
Continued on page 14