

DIOCESAN NEWS

College to buy land from Sisters of St. Joseph

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant Editor

The Sisters of St. Joseph have agreed to sell 73 acres of their land in Pittsford, including the motherhouse, infirmary and other buildings, with proceeds to help the congregation provide for its members and their ministries. The purchase, by neighboring Nazareth College, will enable the college to expand, nearly doubling its size.

The two organizations recently agreed on particulars of the sale, which is yet to be finalized. Nazareth's board accepted the proposal April 4, and the sisters' leadership team voted to accept the plan April 5. The purchase price was not disclosed.

"This represents years of discussion and

months of negotiation," said Karen Rohr, director of public relations at Nazareth. "We are very excited about it and doubly so since this really takes care of the future needs of our campus. Most importantly it takes care of the needs of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who founded this college and made it what it is today."

Nazareth's campus currently encompasses about 75 acres. Its graduate and undergraduate enrollment is 2,900, marking an increase of nearly 30 percent since 1992. And applications for the fall are up 29 percent over last year at this time, Rohr said, describing enrollment patterns as "phenomenal growth, double and triple over what other colleges are experiencing."

Meanwhile, the Sisters of St. Joseph

community has been decreasing in numbers for years, and needs resources not only to care for its 401 members, but also to continue its missions — including a foster program for newborns with addictions, St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, schools and its spirituality center.

"We feel very strongly that being able to divest ourselves of this property, a big property, frees us to continue our mission of service," commented Sister Janice Morgan, congregational president. "It also will provide for our members."

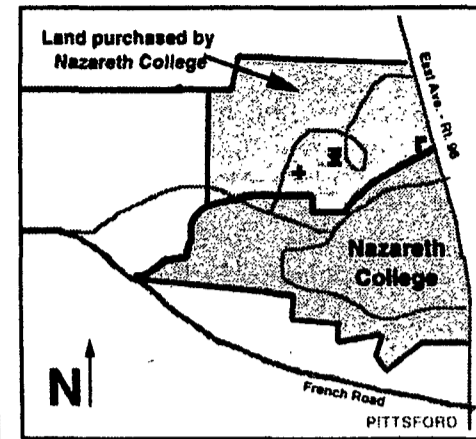
"These are very exciting times but at the same time it is bittersweet, because we are leaving a place we've known all these years," Sister Morgan said, noting the five-story motherhouse had been built in 1927. It was designed in English Tudor Gothic style by architect James P. Flynn, of pressed brick trimmed with white stone, and has a front tower 125 feet high. The outer entrance displays carved stone pillars and niches.

The first four floors contain living quarters. Administrative offices, two local communities of sisters, assisted living quarters, the archives and library, and Cornerstone Crafts shop also are in the motherhouse.

About 85 sisters now live in the motherhouse and 75 in the infirmary, which is also home to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and five other priests.

"We hope to build a new living facility," Sister Morgan said, explaining that it would include the infirmary. "The details have not been worked out. What we are doing is conducting a feasibility study for our remaining property closest to French Road."

The study also would determine where to move such ministries as the sisters' Cornerstone Crafts shop and conferences hosted for outside groups. Sister Morgan



said the congregation hopes such ministries can continue, "but you need to say to yourself, 'What can we let go of?'"

The sale includes a boiler house, garages and a house at 4141 East Ave. in which eight sisters are living.

The land being sold borders East Avenue. Sister Morgan said that the sisters will retain about 58-60 acres of land, all between East Avenue and French Road. They still own a house on French Road, used for the Daystar ministry for newborns with drug and alcohol addictions; their barn and currently unused farmland; and a building at 110 French Road, which is rented by the Rochester Foundation for Persons with Brain Injury.

Rohr said the college has considered using the motherhouse for academic classrooms, administrative offices and lecture halls, and that the infirmary could be converted into a student residence. Nazareth has 914 students currently living on campus and cannot take any more until it expands, she said. But studies of the buildings will be undertaken first, she added.

Nazareth has no plans to change the facade of the motherhouse, Rohr said.

Parish, village in legal battle over church expansion plans

By Rob Cullivan
Staff Writer

PITTSFORD — St. Louis Parish, 64 S. Main St., is suing the Village of Pittsford, claiming its Zoning Board of Appeals improperly rejected the church's plans to expand its facilities and parking lot.

The church since has submitted to the board a revised plan that scales back a proposed extension of the church and does not include parking space expansion. The new plan also includes various incentives for parishioners to walk to Mass or carpool.

But the parish still plans to pursue its case against the village in New York State Supreme Court where both parties are slated to appear April 27. Parish representatives say the lawsuit is necessary because the parish would have to wait a year to submit a new application if the board opted to reject the church's revised plan. The board is slated to consider the revised plan April 24.

St. Louis developed its renovation plan in response to the Diocese of Rochester's Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium process, under which the parish will eventually have only one full-time priest, according to Father James A. Schwartz, pastor. Two retired priests currently assist him in serving the parish. However, he said the planning process directs parishes to set its number of Masses according to the number of full-time priests made available by the diocese, with each full-time priest saying no more than three Masses per weekend. Since St. Louis cannot count on the availability of retired priests to say extra Masses, he said, the parish wants to eliminate two of its six already crowded weekend Masses.

To accommodate the expected increase in worshippers at the four remaining Masses, the original plan called for a 128-seat addition that would increase the church's

seating capacity to 608 people, he said. Additionally, the parish planned to relocate seating for its choir; expand its parking lot; add two classrooms to its school; create an enclosed passageway between the church and the parish hall; and create a 100-person meeting area that would be larger than an existing conference room that accommodates 30 people. Ideally, he said, construction would begin after Easter 2001.

But the village Zoning Board of Appeals, led by chairwoman Mary Bodem, voted 5-0 Feb. 28 to reject the parish's plan. Bodem said the board had many concerns including the possibility of increased traffic and the renovations' overall effect on the character of the village.

The parish had 30 days to appeal the decision of the board, which is a quasi-judicial body. The parish applied for a 30-day extension because it feared that if the revised plan was rejected after expiration of the 30-day appeal period, it would have to wait a year to make a new application. But the village's Board of Trustees declined March 23 to grant an extension. Subsequently, the parish decided to sue the village, claiming, in part, that the Zoning Board of Appeals treated St. Louis as if were a new use with no existing structures, ignoring a special use permit granted in 1964.

Jane Jezsu, whose house borders the St. Louis playground, said she and other area homeowners don't want to see the church expand, noting they have to live with the existing traffic created by the church.

"I really think they've reached the saturation point," she said. "When you expand the buildings, you make more room for more people to be there."

However, Father Schwartz said the parish is not trying to attract more people by renovating.

"What it's going to do is provide for the parishioners we have," he said.

Homecoming tour



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

John Curran directs a tour of Ss. Peter and Paul Church during the parish homecoming April 9. "It took 18 years to stop the locomotive of negativity," said Curran, who manages the PriceLess Clothing ministry at the parish. Parishioners "made the decision to be a vibrant neighborhood church rather than a dying one ... and through stewardship and partnership, the church now has a future," observed Curran. He said the once-dwindling parish now includes children who attend Mass and will form the future of the church.

MUSIC OF HOLY WEEK 2000

PASSION (Palm) SUNDAY
April 16
11:30 AM Blessing of Palms, Passion Narrative, Eucharist
Choral music - Gregorian Chant: *Hosanna filio David, Christus factus est*; Hymn: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, Bach/Shaw: *O Sacred Heart*; Lotti: *Miserere*.
Organ music - Karg-Elert: *Praise the Lord with Drums & Symbols*. (OTHER MASSES AT 5:15 PM ON SAT., 8:00 & 9:30 AM ON SUN.)

HOLY THURSDAY,
April 20
7:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
Choral music - Widor: *Kyrie, Gloria*; Gregorian Chant *Mass XVII: Sanctus, Agnus Dei*; Durufle: *Ubi Caritas*; Messiaen: *O Sacrum Convivium*; Gregorian Chant: *Adoro Te Devote*; *Pange Lingua*; Hymn: *Lift High the Cross*.
Organ music - Alain: *Dorian Choral*; Edmundson: *Pange Lingua*.
9:00 PM Adoration until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY
April 21
3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Choral music - Gregorian Chant: *Christus Factus Est, Reproaches*; Lotti: *Miserere*; Dubois: *Adoramus Te*; Hymns: *O Sacred Head, Were You There, Sing My Tongue*.
7:30 PM Feast of Sorrows featuring *Air de Cour* performing Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater* with Contralto Allyn Van Dusen and *Musica Spei* performing works of Victoria, Lassus, Gesualdo and others.

HOLY SATURDAY
April 22
7:30 PM The Easter Vigil
Choral music - Gregorian Chant: *Exultet, Solemn Alleluia, Vidi Aquam*; Widor: *Gloria Sanctus, Agnus Dei*; Dupre: *Laudate Dominum*; Hymns: *Come Down O Love Divine, Jesus Christ is Risen Today*.
Organ music - Karg-Elert: *Praise the Lord with Drums & Symbols*.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 23
11:30 AM Festive Easter Eucharist
Choral music - Gregorian Chant: *Victimae Paschali, Vidi Aquam, O Sons & Daughters*; Widor: *Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei*; Dupre: *Laudate Dominum*.
Organ music: Stanley: *Trumpet Tune in D*; Peeters: *O Filii et Filiae*; Karg-Elert: *Praise the Lord with Drums & Symbols*. (OTHER EASTER MASSES AT 8:00 AM AND 9:30 AM)

Saint Anne Church

1600 Mt. Hope Avenue • Rochester, NY 14620-4598

Brink Bush, Organist

Daniel Brondel, Choirmaster