

DIOCESAN NEWS

Diocese names cathedral committee

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The Diocese of Rochester has announced the members of a 19-member committee for the proposed renovation of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The committee is made up of Sacred Heart parishioners, members of other diocesan parishes, and diocesan officials. They convened Feb. 28 for the first time, at Sacred Heart.

"I'm most grateful and appreciative of the fact that these generous and caring people have decided to lend their time and talent to our diocesan church," Bishop Matthew H. Clark said in a statement dated March 2.

"Besides their obvious love for the (c)hurch, and our (c)athedral, they bring with them wonderful gifts of expertise and enthusiasm," added the bishop, who also attended the Feb. 28 meeting. "In meeting with them for the first time, I was deeply moved by their sincere commitment to the Sacred Heart community and their desire to provide a more meaningful and participatory worship experience for those celebrating Mass at our Cathedral."

These were Bishop Clark's first public comments on the renovation project, which was announced last fall as a means of honoring his 25th anniversary as Rochester's bishop in 2004.

Serving as the committee's general co-chairs are Barbara Kelley, a parishioner of St. Mary Parish in Rochester; and Michele Reichlmayr, a parishioner of Sacred Heart.

Kelley is former chair of the diocesan communications and development committees; was co-chair of the 1999-2000 Thanks Giving Appeal; and is in her sixth year on the Stewardship Council. She is vice-president of corporate communications for Bausch and Lomb Inc.

Reichlmayr, a 30-year member of Sacred Heart Parish, is a former parish council member. She serves as a charismatic minister and belongs to the social ministry committee. She is a nurse with Via Health Home Care.

Other Sacred Heart parishioners serving on the renovation committee members are Nick Harding, Patricia Saxe, Ricardo Ramirez, Patrick Connelly, Bob and Mary Stevenson, Mark Hare, and Dennis Lohouse.

"They're going to bring a collaborative, open mind. I've seen every one of them and they've shown they're able to work as a team," Reichlmayr said.

Committee members from other parts of the diocese are David Miller, parishioner, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brighton; Sister Chris Treichel, OFM, pastoral associate, Sacred Heart, Auburn; Lori Osgood, music director/liturgy coordinator, Holy Ghost, Gates; Charlotte Bruney, pastoral administrator, St. Vincent de Paul, Churchville; Father Peter Clifford, pastor, St. Michael's, Newark; and Doug Mandelaro, parishioner, St. Joseph, Penfield.

Ex-officio members include Fathers John Mulligan and Joseph Hart, diocesan vicars general; and Joan Workmaster, diocesan director of liturgy.

The renovation committee was finalized after prospective members received written invitations from Bishop Clark and phone invitations from Father Mulligan, who is also the pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Richard Vosko, a priest of the Albany Diocese, is the project's liturgical design consultant. He attended the Feb. 28 meeting as well.

Each of the core committee's seven sub-committees is led by representatives from inside and outside Sacred Heart. Sub-committee co-chairs are: architect selection/construction review - Harding and Miller; arts and furnishings - Saxe and Sister Treichel; music and instruments - Ramirez and Osgood; prayer and worship - Connelly and Bruney; hospitality and logistics - the Stevensons and Father Clifford; publicity and communications - Hare and Mandelaro; fundraising - Lohouse and a coalition of diocesan officials.

Potential areas for renovation include Sacred Heart's altar; sound system; lighting and wiring; heating, ventilation and air conditioning; baptismal area; penance areas; handicap access; social gathering space; lavatories; bishop's chair; and floor plan.

According to Reichlmayr, at least some of these areas will be renovated even though it's not yet certain how comprehensive the project will be.

"I wouldn't say it's not going to happen. There are too many issues," she said, citing the lack of a welcome area, a lavatory

in the church, adequate lighting and good acoustics, as examples.

Reichlmayr and Kelley emphasized that there is no predetermined plan, which is why the committee was formed in the first place.

"We've got a blueprint. It doesn't have any of the blanks filled in yet, but that's our job," Kelley said.

"It's not been decided. We, as a group, have to come up with a consensus," added Reichlmayr.

Because this is the diocesan cathedral, the co-chairs said it was essential to form a geographically diverse committee. "This is the mother church. This is not just our (parish) community," Reichlmayr said.

"Obviously the building, if you will, is the home and center of the parish - but also the home and center of the diocese," Kelley said. "It should be seen as a model for all churches and parishes in the diocese."

However, the current church building was dedicated in 1927 - making it older than many other churches in the diocese - and hasn't had a major renovation in more than 50 years.

"I think we share the obligation and sensitivity toward preserving the beauty and heritage, while at the same time updating what needs to be fixed," Kelley said.

Acknowledging that a faction of Sacred Heart parishioners is actively protesting the planned renovation, Reichlmayr commented, "I think they're going to have to listen."

"We ask that people be patient, because

Social ministry event set in Finger Lakes

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes will present its 15th Annual Social Ministry Day from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Presbyterian Church on Park Place in Geneva. The theme will be "Nourishing the Jubilee Spirit."

Father Curt Cadorette, a Maryknoll Missioner and John Henry Newman Associate Professor of Roman Catholic Studies at the University of Rochester, will deliver the keynote address, "Jubilee: Reaffirming the Covenant."

Interactive workshops are titled, "Jubilee Spirituality Continued," "Proclaiming Jubilee with the Two Feet of Social Ministry," and "Well-fare to Work: A Jubilee Call."

Participation is open to people of all faiths interested in learning about social justice issues and how individuals and groups can work to bring about change. The registration fee of \$10 includes materials and snacks. To register, call Scarlett Emerson, 315/789-2686, ext. 327.

it certainly is a process," Kelley added. "I hope that people can also assume our good will and good intentions."

The co-chairs noted that the public will have the chance to express its input when Father Vosko returns to the Rochester Diocese May 7-9 for open meetings about the renovation. At least one meeting is to take place at Sacred Heart.

Obituary

Sister Oberst; taught for nine years at Holy Redeemer

Sister Martha Mary Oberst, SSND, who taught for nine years at the former Holy Redeemer School in Rochester, died Feb. 2, 2001, at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Motherhouse in Baltimore, Md., following a lengthy illness. She was 84.

Sister Oberst was a native of Camden, N.J. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1937 and professed her final vows in 1943. She taught for 37 years, including a stint as a kindergarten teacher

at Holy Redeemer School from 1945 to 1954. She also taught in Baltimore, Cambridge, Mass.; and Forestville, Md. In addition, Sister Oberst served as a pastoral minister to the sick in Florida before retiring five years ago.

Sister Oberst's funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 6 at the SSND motherhouse in Baltimore. She is survived by a nephew, as well as grandnieces and grand-nephews.

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