

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rochester firm joins renovation team

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — LaBella Associates, P.C., a Rochester architectural company specializing in church renovation, will serve as the local firm for the planned Sacred Heart Cathedral renovation.

Robert A. Healy, vice-president of LaBella Associates, said he was notified of his firm's appointment May 16 in a letter from James F. Williamson, partner at Williamson Pounders Architects in Memphis, Tenn.

Williamson is the cathedral project's lead architect. Healy said LaBella Associates will carry out many of the project's on-site details, such as contractor bids and planning/zoning issues with city officials.

"We're here to support Jim Williamson," Healy said.

Already, LaBella Associates is gathering documents from Sacred Heart's archives in an effort to assemble the cathedral's architectural history. "We're

still in hopes of recovering other documents. Obviously, anything we can find is beneficial," Healy said.

Healy said his firm's involvement will increase "as we get into production." The renovation is due to take place in 2003 and 2004.

Healy, a parishioner of St. Louis in Pittsford, said he has attended several services at Sacred Heart over the years and remarked that numerous upgrades are in order. The cathedral's last major renovation was more than 50 years ago.

"It's a wonderful building, but it also needs to be maintained," Healy commented. He cited lighting, sound, handicap access and a gathering space as some of the chief areas to be addressed.

Regarding the more controversial changes being discussed, such as moving the tabernacle to a special devotional area, Healy deferred to Father Richard Vosko, an Albany diocesan priest who is serving as liturgical design consultant. "That's Dick's role. That's what he was hired for," Healy said.

Healy said that 75 percent of LaBella's projects are church renovations, most of them Catholic churches in the Rochester Diocese. Recent and ongoing projects include St. Catherine of Siena, Mendon; St. Patrick's, Victor (parish center); St. Louis, Pittsford; Church of the Assumption, Fairport; St. Theodore, Gates; St. Bridget, Rochester; and St. Anne, Rochester.

Healy acknowledged that LaBella Associates was also a candidate to be the Sacred Heart project's lead architect. Williamson was selected for that post in mid-March by cathedral and diocesan officials, as well as members of the Sacred Heart Renovation Committee. Healy noted that the decision was likely influenced by the fact that Williamson and Father Vosko have collaborated on other church projects, including cathedrals.

However, Healy said he sent a follow-up letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark stating that LaBella Associates would be still interested in a supporting role for the cathedral project.



Submitted photo

Sister Jean Marie Ledsoe

Woman with local ties makes first profession

Sister Jean Marie Ledsoe, of the Franciscan Sisters, Third Order Regular, of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, in Steubenville, Ohio, recently made her first profession of vows with three other women before Bishop Gilbert Sheldon of the Steubenville, Ohio, diocese. She is the daughter of Robert and Mary Ledsoe of Pittsford, parishioners at Fairport's St. John of Rochester.

The contemplative-active Franciscan community was officially established in the Diocese of Steubenville by Bishop Albert Ottenweller in 1988. It primarily emphasizes prayer and penance, and its members serve the poor, elderly and sick, and teach through various programs and parish missions.

"There is nothing I would rather do with my life," Sister Ledsoe remarked in a statement. She credited Mary for aiding her in her journey towards choosing the religious life.

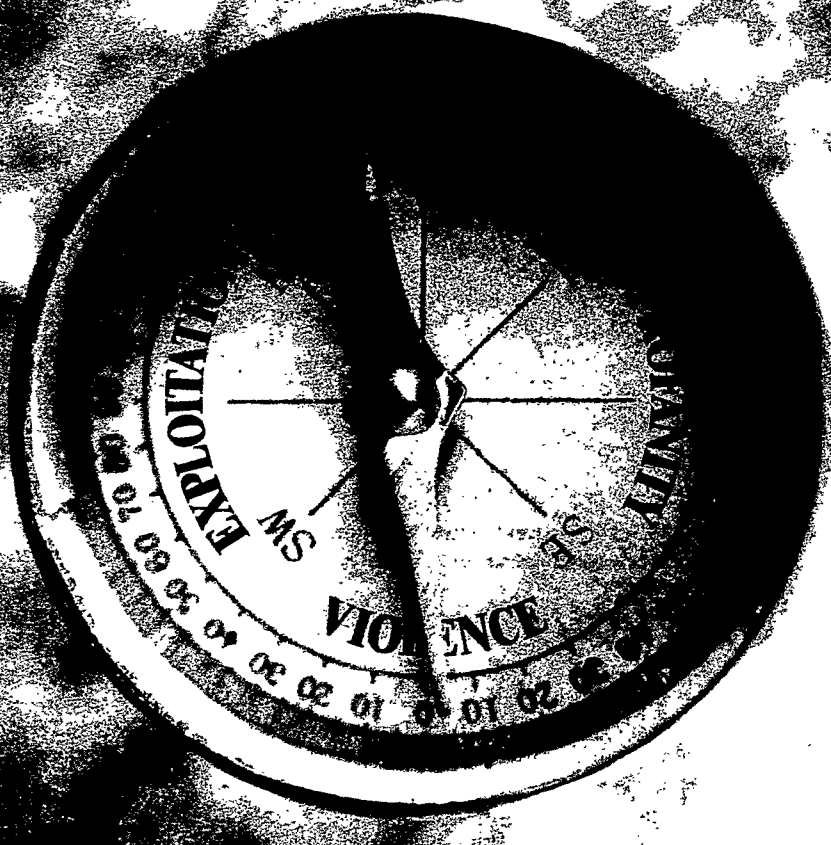
"In living out her messages, my life and priorities began to change," said Sister Ledsoe, who explained that she had fallen away from her Catholic faith in her early 20s.

Recognizing

★ Six students at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, received awards at the January-February Finger Lakes Scholastic Art Show in Bevier Gallery at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Seniors **Cecelia Hayes** and **Maureen Wood**, won Silver Keys in drawing; juniors **Ashley Amalfi**, a Silver Key in mixed media, and **Sarah Kessler**, a Silver Key in ceramics/glass; and sophomores, **Amanda Sweet**, honorable mention in drawing, and **Kelly Tallinger**, a Gold Key in print making.

★ In February, the HOPE (Helping One Person Excel) Youth Mentoring Program of Catholic Charities of Livingston County honored the following mentors for their volunteer work with area young people: **John Gibson**, **Joan Vallone**, **Erin Woodruff**, **Clare Cooper**, **Ron Hall**, **Colleen Buckley**, **Nancy** and **Bill Lissow**, **Evelyn** and **Carl Lutz**, **Andy Thompson**, **Peg VanHorn**, **Bob Wright**, **Steve Stephenson**, **Pat Megliore**, **Donna Flaherty**, **TJ Sparling**, **Nancy Jones**, **Jean Lentner**, **Sue Schedlbauer**, **Ned Holmes**, **Judy Patrick**, **Eric Mendel**, **Kat Nichols**, **Ryan Logue**, **Sandy Bugman** and **Richard DeAsis**.

Should
the Entertainment Industry
be your family's
moral compass?



Obviously Not!

Please support the Catholic Communication Campaign's upcoming parish collection
June 9-10 and let God's voice and yours be heard in the media.

Your Children Deserve Better and So Do You!



HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

Public Service Announcements • Documentaries • Educational Videos • Movie Reviews • Mass Time

Copyrights © 2000, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.