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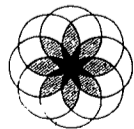
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Cathedral

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about any such attempt to pursue an injunction. However, he said, "It is safe to say we are monitoring the situation in Milwaukee right now."

While renovation opponents in Milwaukee and Rochester are seeking Vatican intervention, other U.S. Catholic cathedrals are being renovated or restored without comparable controversy.

One is St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minn.

The \$35 million project at St. Paul's, which lays claim to being the fourth-largest cathedral in the country, focuses on the exterior, however.

This spring workers began to replace the building's 85-year-old, 100,000-square-foot copper roof, clean its granite exterior walls and tuck-point its 42 miles of mortar joints.

In Covington, Ky., the 105-year-old Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is undergoing a \$4.7 million refurbishment that will enlarge the sanctuary area, move the altar closer to the people, expand seating capacity and make the sanctuary more accessible to the handicapped.

Air-conditioning will be installed in the church and its heating, electrical, lighting, sound, security and protection systems will be upgraded.

A frequent point of controversy in many cathedral renovations in recent decades has been a decision to move the tabernacle from the old high altar to a distinct Blessed Sacrament chapel.

The Milwaukee renovation includes the creation of a Blessed Sacrament chapel and such a chapel has been discussed as part of what may be done in Rochester.

Opponents of moving the tabernacle, however, must confront the official revised Ceremonial of Bishops, a 1984 liturgical book published by the Vatican.

Specifically aimed at liturgical matters pertaining to bishops, it has a separate chapter of norms for cathedrals. Paragraph 49 says, "It is recommended that the tabernacle, in accordance with a very ancient tradition in cathedral churches, should be located in a chapel separate from the main body of the church."

Tim Fitzgerald, acting communications director of the Covington Diocese, said the cathedral there has had a distinct Blessed

Sacrament chapel from the beginning and the tabernacle will remain there.

At a recent national conference in Chicago on church environment and art, Chicago fund-raiser Valerie Cavin described education as an important component in getting people to buy in on a project.

"Some parishioners will not give if they don't understand why the interior should be arranged a certain way. ... In a renovation situation, it's often 'Don't touch my church,'" she said. "This is really a teachable moment."

The biggest cathedral project currently going on in the United States is the new Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles.

While the Los Angeles cathedral is a new building, the public battle over disposal of the old one, St. Vibiana's, lasted several years.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony originally planned in 1995 to raze St. Vibiana's and build its replacement on the site. The Los Angeles Conservancy, calling the old cathedral a historic cultural monument, led the fight to preserve it, obtaining court injunctions against its demolition.

Cardinal Mahony found a new site in 1996 and began a massive project, totaling about \$160 million, that includes the new cathedral, a 2.5-acre plaza in front, a new cathedral residence, an office and conference center, a 150-foot bell tower and an underground parking garage. The new cathedral will seat 3,000 and the plaza will hold up to 6,000.

A number of other dioceses are currently engaged in cathedral restorations or renovations or are planning them. Among them are:

- The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis, dedicated as a parish church in 1938 and designated as the cathedral in 1971. Renovation work began in July 2000.

- St. Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs, Colo., where renovation of the cathedral's interior and exterior is part of a larger plan that includes a new parish office building and renovation of diocesan offices.

- Historic San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, where the restoration is part of a \$15 million San Fernando City Center project that also includes construction of a new cathedral center and a \$3 million community center.

Dad, doctors say faith helped Muslim mother of septuplets

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A strong faith helped a Muslim woman cope with the problems of giving birth to seven children simultaneously, said her husband and her doctors.

The woman was told of the possibility of destroying some of the fetuses to help the others survive but never considered the option, said Dr. Mutahar Fauzia, her personal physician.

"My patient is a Muslim and didn't be-

lieve in taking the lives of babies," said Fauzia.

"The mother is in a very comfortable state of mind. God is going to help. That's it in a nutshell," she said a day after the five boys and two girls were born.

The septuplets were born July 12 at Jesuit-run Georgetown University Hospital in Washington. They are the third known set of septuplets in the United States to survive birth.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 112 No. 41, July 19, 2001

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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