

DIOCESAN NEWS

Woman hopes to see cathedral as landmark

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

A parishioner of Sacred Heart Cathedral has petitioned the City of Rochester to have the building designated as a landmark, in the hopes of averting some of the cathedral renovation plans by the Diocese of Rochester.

Mary Strobino Giorgi is scheduled to appear before the Rochester Preservation Board on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Giorgi said her case will likely be heard between 6:30 and 7 p.m. The meeting, to be held at City Hall, is open to the public.

Michael Tedesco, diocesan director of communications, said a representative of the diocese will attend the Oct. 2 hearing — most likely Father John Mulligan, diocesan vicar general, who is pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Giorgi is a lifelong parishioner of Sacred Heart. Although she is listed as the sole petitioner, Giorgi said she has received considerable support from the Sacred Heart Preservation Committee, of which she is a member.

"This is a final effort to keep the church as it is. I feel this is worth a try," she said.

Father Daniel Condon, diocesan chancellor, said the city notified the diocese — the cathedral's owner of record, in this instance — of Giorgi's petition on Aug. 22. Father Condon said the diocese responded by telling the city that it does not consent to the petition.

Father Condon, along with Eric Patchke, diocesan manager of buildings and properties, said this reply is consistent with their advisories whenever a church is being considered for landmark status.

"This has been the ongoing opinion of our attorneys," Patchke said. "The

concern is the loss of control of use of your property. If you get landmark status, you have others telling you what you can do and can't do."

Landmark status can be accorded locally — as well as at state and national levels — if buildings have historical, architectural or cultural significance. If Sacred Heart Cathedral were to be designated a landmark, the building could be subject to review by the Rochester Preservation Board for any non-maintenance exterior work.

Giorgi said she doesn't necessarily disagree that Sacred Heart, which was built in 1927, should undergo such renovations as adding upgraded bathroom facilities and access for the handicapped. "Those things are one thing. But when they break through the cathedral wall ..." she said, referring to plans to cut a hole in the building's wall to construct a new glass-enclosed atrium near the church entrance.

Giorgi said she has asked Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Father Mulligan, in writing, to consider building a new cathedral elsewhere in the diocese.

"I just feel that it is a magnificent church for our city. I respect the bishop, but I feel I have a longer connection to the place," Giorgi said. "Emotionally, nobody likes to see changes of things they've loved throughout their life."

Tedesco said the cathedral renovation project is slated to begin in the spring of 2003 and would take approximately one year to complete. He said the renovation committee's plans strive "to preserve as much as possible the historic nature of the cathedral."

However, he added, "Sacred Heart was not built as a cathedral. The mother church of our diocese ought to be a model for all, and be in the spirit of Vatican II."

Domestic violence programs offered

In recognition of National Domestic Violence Month in October, the Diocese of Rochester will offer a number of training programs and healing services.

The following training programs will be offered:

- Tuesday, Oct. 8: "Domestic Violence Hiding in Your Pews: An Ecumenical Response," 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Church, 302 St. Catherine Circle, Ithaca. Presented by Heather Campbell, education director for the Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women, and Suzanne Schnittman, coordinator of the diocesan office of Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence. The program offers opportunities to learn how the Tompkins County agency and the communities surrounding it support area churches in their work with families affected by domestic violence, as well as ecumenical networking with other churches to share resources. The basic myths surrounding domestic violence will be presented. Registration is \$10.

- Tuesday, Oct. 8: "Toddlers to Teens: Tools for Parenting in a Violent World," 7-9 p.m., St. Mary Church/Marian Center, 224 Franklin St., Elmira. Sponsored by the Southern Tier Task Force on Youth Violence. Presented by Dr. Rachel Bryant, a licensed psychologist in private practice in the Southern Tier and author of a weekly parenting column in the Elmira *Star-Gazette*. The program includes opportunities to examine the foundations of violence, then present ways to address it at each age level. The question, "What can we glean from church teachings to clarify the message and strengthen our families?" will be discussed. The program is free.

- Wednesday, Oct. 9: "Dispelling the Myths of Domestic Violence: Case Studies, Community Response, and New Ways to Strengthen Families," 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester. Presented by Dr. Susan Horwitz of the University of Rochester, and Sister of St. Joseph Sheila Briody, D.Min., of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center. Participants will examine parish case studies with experts who work on community responses and family strengthening. New tactics will be learned to engage the community, bring issues to the pews and re-examine troubled families with new eyes. Registration is \$10.

The following healing services, all co-sponsored by the Diocesan Women's Commission, have also been scheduled:

- Sunday, Oct. 6: Holy Name of Jesus Church, 15 St. Martin's Way (off Bonesteel St.), Greece, 3 p.m. The bilingual prayer service is being offered in cooperation with St. Michael Church, Rochester.

- Monday, Oct. 7: Immaculate Conception Church, 113 N. Geneva St., Ithaca, 7 p.m. The interfaith service is co-sponsored by the Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women.

- Thursday, Oct. 10: St. Mary Church, 40 Elizabeth St., Dansville, 7 p.m.

To register for the training programs, contact St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry at 585/271-3657, e-mail bjplonsky@stbernards.edu or visit www.stbernards.edu.

For more information regarding the healing services, contact Suzanne Schnittman at 585/328-3210, ext. 354, or e-mail schnittman@dor.org.



Karin von Voigtlander/Staff photographer

Renewing vows

The Diocese of Rochester honored couples celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50 or more years of marriage with a Wedding Jubilee Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester Sept. 22. Above, Jeannie Ferranti looks up tearfully at her husband of 25 years, Stephen, as they renew their wedding vows. The Ferrantis are parishioners at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. At right, Bishop Matthew H. Clark congratulates the couples who participated in the Mass.



Courier to sport new look

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Beginning with next week's issue, the *Catholic Courier* will become, literally, a much more colorful publication.

Regular use of color photographs, re-ordering of editorial content and a change in the newspaper's size are key components of the *Courier's* first major redesign in approximately 10 years.

According to Karen M. Franz, general manager and editor, the new-look *Courier* is part of a strategic plan that will, in the spring of 2003, see the newspaper's circulation nearly triple from its current total of 44,000 to approximately 120,000. The latter figure represents the households of all registered parishioners in the diocese.

These changes are part of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's desire "to get the *Catholic Courier* on every kitchen table in the diocese," Franz said. Also by spring, the strategic plan calls for an extensive overhaul of the *Courier's* Web site (www.catholiccourier.com), including daily updates and vastly expanded content.

The redesigned newspaper will be broken down into three sections each week:

- News & Analysis, which will mix stories written by the *Courier* staff with national and international pieces provided by Catholic News Service.

- Faith & Family, which will be largely devoted to family-oriented features.

- Commentary, in which columns and letters to the editor will be integrated to fill the back pages. Currently, columns and letters appear on separate pages.

The *Courier's* regular content — columns, including Bishop Clark's "Along the Way," as well as features targeting teens, young children, parents, seniors and young adults — will remain intact.

"We're keeping all the features. They may look different or be in a different order, but they're all still there," said the *Courier's* Graphics Manager Kim Parks, who designed the new-look *Courier*. She added that the newspaper will also continue printing numerous special theme editions during the year.

Color photos will become a staple of the *Courier's* updated version, both in editorial content and in advertisements. Franz



said most photos will appear in color, while black-and-white photos will still be used when deemed appropriate. Up to this point, Parks

said, the newspaper has only used color about four times per year.

"I think the color just makes it look better. It makes the photographs look so nice that people will want to read about them," Parks said.

As of Oct. 3 the depth of *Courier* pages also will be reduced from 17 inches to 12.5 inches. This smaller format, Parks and Franz said, is more reader friendly.

"Obviously, stories will be a little shorter. This will tie in with peoples' busy schedules, not having time to read long stories," Franz said.

Parks added that the compact size will be simpler for readers to physically handle. Another key feature of the redesign, she said, is a type style that has proven to be easier on the eyes.

Overall, Franz said, the updated *Courier* offers "a much more contemporary look. It's a little bolder; it's not as conservative." Franz, who is part of the 10-member *Courier* strategic planning committee, said the committee hopes to draw more younger readers with the new design.

Although the newspaper will retain its Thursday publishing date, it is switching printers from Wayuga Community Newspapers in Red Creek to Democrat and Chronicle Commercial Printing in Gates. Franz expressed gratitude to Angelo and Christopher Palermo and their staff at Wayuga for regularly going above and beyond the call of duty in printing the *Courier* for many years, but explained that Wayuga's presses would not have the capacity to handle the higher weekly volume of copies come springtime. She added that the switch in printers is being made now so technical aspects of the change can be addressed before the jump in circulation occurs.