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JOURNAL CLAIMS BOX IS CONNECTED TO JESUS

The November/December issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* reports findings by paleographer André Lemaire of the Sorbonne University that an ancient bone box could be the "first-ever archaeological discovery to corroborate Biblical references to Jesus."

The journal reports that Lemaire has verified authenticity of the box's inscription, which reads, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." The box, known as an ossuary, has been dated to approximately 63 A.D., the journal reports.

Father Joseph Fitzmyer, a Bible professor at Catholic University of America, told the Associated Press that the appearance on the box of all three names is striking. "But," he added, "the big problem is, you have to show me the Jesus in this text is Jesus of Nazareth, and nobody can show that."

BROOKLYN ABUSE SUIT SEEKS \$300 MILLION

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — Michael Dowd filed a \$300 million lawsuit against the Brooklyn Diocese in state Supreme Court Oct. 15.

The suit claims 13 Brooklyn diocesan priests abused at least 43 children between 1960 and 1984, and that the diocese tried to hide abuse by transferring priests from parish to parish. Although Bishop Thomas V. Daily did not come to the Brooklyn Diocese until 1990, the suit names him as a defendant along with the diocese. Msgr. Otto Garcia, vicar general, is also named in the suit.

FILIPINO BISHOPS ASK FOR PRAYERS, JUSTICE

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato, president of the Philippine bishops' conference, appealed Oct. 18 for prayers and justice after bombings in southern Mindanao. Two bombs exploded Oct. 17 in department stores in Zamboanga City, about 530 miles southeast of Manila. The bombings killed seven and wounded more than 150. Experts later defused bombs in four other Zamboanga establishments. Another bomb ripped through a bus in Manila Oct. 18, killing at least three people and injuring 20 others.

Cathedral plans displayed

Proposed renovations draw praise, queries

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Sacred Heart Cathedral parishioners reacted with questions, glowing praise and cost concerns during an Oct. 20 presentation on proposed renovations to their church.

Members of the cathedral renovation committee were on hand after the 9:30 a.m. Mass for an informal session in the rectory's lower level to explain computer-generated renderings of the proposed renovations. Most of the renderings, which were mounted on easels, were annotated with quotations from various church documents, explaining the reasoning behind the changes proposed.

This was the second such presentation at Sacred Heart in the past month. Similar presentations took place during the past few weeks at the cathedral's sister parishes in the Flower City Park/Lexington pastoral planning group, Most Precious Blood and Holy Rosary.

Renovation committee members said the presentations were designed to garner feedback on the proposed renovations from parishioners of the three churches. The committee is expected to begin discussions next month about the final look of the renovated cathedral. Construction work is slated to begin in spring of 2003 and to be completed in time for Bishop Matthew H. Clark's 25th anniversary in June 2004. The proposed renovations are designed to improve the lighting, sound system and infrastructure of the cathedral, and to update its interior to bring it in line with the church's post-Vatican II liturgical reform.

In terms of the cathedral's final look, the renderings were about "80 percent accurate," according to Father John Mulligan, Sacred Heart pastor and a vicar general of the Diocese of Rochester. He and members of the renovation committee repeatedly emphasized that the renderings give an overall picture of the direction in which the renovation process is moving, but contain details that may be changed in the final design. For example, Father Mulligan said, the renderings show chairs in place of the current pews. Many parishioners wondered if kneelers would be attached to the chairs, and Father Mulligan noted that they would.

The renderings included pictures of the altar and ambo (pulpit) in a



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Under planned renovations, Sacred Heart Cathedral's altar will be relocated.

more central position in the church; a new organ on the wall behind the current sanctuary; a eucharistic reservation chapel, with seating, on one side of the church; the conversion of current confessionals into shrines (new reconciliation chapels will be built); a large baptismal font that could be used for immersion baptisms; and a gathering space that would be built between the church and the rectory.

Michele Reichlmayr, co-chairwoman of the renovation committee, said she and committee members still have much to discuss, including the appearance of the baptismal font and of certain furnishings. The committee must also discuss what will be done with the current altar's marble, she said.

A number of parishioners remarked that the proposed renovations seemed far less controversial than what they had expected, given the controversy that has swirled around them. Renovation opponents have protested on a number of occasions, and recently lost a battle to have the City of Rochester declare the cathedral a landmark. Landmark designation would have forced the Diocese of Rochester to get approval from the city for many of the proposed renovations.

Vin Latus, who began attending Sacred Heart a month ago with his wife, Christine, and their three children, looked at the renderings and said he "was OK with everything they've done here."

"I was surprised," he said. "It doesn't look like anything that drastic to me. ... I think the spirit of the original design of the church is

coming through in the renovations."

Ralph Williams, a 30-year parishioner, said he supported some of the proposed renovations, such as repairing the roof, upgrading the sound system, creating a gathering space and making the cathedral more accessible to people with handicaps. However, he questioned the need to make such other changes as installing a large baptismal font, and wondered whether the diocese should be spending some of its money elsewhere.

"There's so many other things we could do to help other people," he said, citing, for example, expansion of the church's ministry to the homeless.

Mark Robbins, a parishioner for the past 25 years, said the proposed renovations looked "gorgeous."

"If these pictures are true to life, there'll be much more light in the cathedral," he said. "I think the setting for worship will be much more proper than it is now. I'm kind of excited about coming to Mass in this church."

CORRECTION

A story on page 12 of the Oct. 10 *Catholic Courier* incorrectly identified the late son of Albert and Dorothy Ann Piccoli. Michael Piccoli, who was a former president of the men's club at Holy Rosary Church in Rochester, died of cancer in 2001.