

Catholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

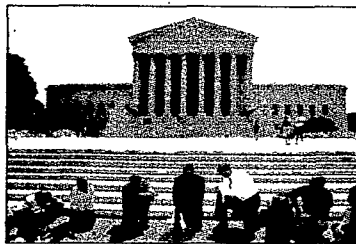
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Father Joseph W. Marcoux, parochial vicar, stands at the center of the crowd outside Sacred Heart Cathedral Sunday, June 29, during an after-Mass reception. Hundreds of people participated in the 10 a.m. Mass and leave-taking ritual, to be joined at the reception by a small group of protesters who flanked the gathering with signs opposing cathedral renovations.

An end and a beginning

Cathedral closes doors; major work begins in fall

ROCHESTER — Sacred Heart Cathedral was nearly filled to capacity Sunday morning, June 29, as hundreds of people participated in the cathedral's last Mass before the start of renovation work.

The 10 a.m. liturgy featured the baptism of a baby and the renewal of wedding vows by a parish couple celebrating their 50th anniversary. During the service, Father John Mulligan, pastor, noted that the baptism of Julianna Jorja Morales called to mind the 13,960 other

people baptized at Sacred Heart over the years, and that the renewal of Ed and Rosemary Hahn's marriage vows recalled the 5,229 weddings that had taken place there.

Prior to both ceremonies, Father Mulligan also noted that the baptism and the renewal of vows symbolized the journey all Christians make throughout their lives.

"Today marks another aspect of our journey of this Christian community as we take leave of this building in anticipation of returning to it prepared for what the future will bring," he said.

The Mass also featured a "leave-taking

ritual" entailing the removal of such symbolic and sacramental objects as the Book of Gospels and the altar cloth. Father Mulligan said that during the renovation, the objects will be stored at Sacred Heart's rectory; neighboring Holy Rosary and Most Precious Blood parishes; and at the diocese's archives at the Pastoral Center in Gates. Parishioners will be attending Masses at both Holy Rosary and Most Precious Blood parishes during the renovation, he said, and the 5 p.m. Mass that day at Most Precious Blood was celebrated with the processional cross from Sacred Heart.

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Story by Rob Cullivan • Photos by Karin von Voigtlander