Hearing focuses on environment

Parking, traffic cited as primary concerns for cathedral project

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — Speakers voiced a range of compliments and concerns regarding planned renovations of Sacred Heart Cathedral during a public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement for the project. The hearing took place Aug. 7 at Rochester's City Hall.

More than 20 people attended the hearing before the four-member Rochester Environmental Commission. The hearing was required as part of New York's State Environmental Quality Review process.

Some speakers praised the renovation's potential to improve the neighborhood's overall look and atmosphere. Others said they opposed the renovations as costly, unnecessary and contributing to possible increased traffic congestion. Parking was a topic addressed by both supporters and opponents of the renovation project.

Bernie Herring, a Sacred Heart parishioner who lives next door to the cathedral on Flower City Park, praised the planned renovations. In particular, he welcomed a proposed 114-space parking lot behind the cathedral on land currently occupied by houses owned by the diocese. The diocese also proposed as an alternative in the draft statement the possibility of scaling back the lot's size to build a one-third acre park designed to mitigate the lot's impact on the surrounding area.

"A well-designed and well-maintained parking lot will be a nice addition to the neighborhood," Herring said.

On the other hand, Ruth DeBoard, an in-home child-care provider who lives behind the cathedral on Ridgeway Avenue, said she was concerned that a new parking lot would worsen traffic congestion in an area in which many children live. She said her daughter and one of the children for whom she cares are asthmatic, and that she worries construction activity could create respiratory problems for them.

Written comments from the public on the environmental impact of renovations are being taken until Aug. 22. Final approval or rejection of the renovation site plan by city zoning authorities may come this fall after a public hearing, according to Dorraine Laudisi, senior city planner.

Meanwhile, renovation opponents have asked that New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Lunn annul the city planning commission's two 4-3 votes on June 24, which denied landmark status for the cathedral's exterior and interior. In May, Lunn ruled that the commission had to re-examine its October 2002 vote denying landmark status for the cathedral. Lunn's ruling came in response to a petition filed by the Sacred Heart Preservation Committee, the same group that filed the new petition.

In a petition filed July 11, the Sacred Heart Preservation Committee argued that the planning commission failed in June to comply with the city's landmark ordinance as well as Lunn's May ruling. Attorneys for all sides are slated to present arguments regarding the petition in court at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 28.

Mr. Dominic's

Smoke-free, dining room
(off street parking available)
Delicious appetizers, soups, veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken, fish, and homemade pasta

10% Senior Discount
on regular priced dinners with this ad !

Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11-2
Dinners Daily
- from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Open on Memorial Day!!

4699 Lake Ave.
(585) 865-4630
www.mrdominics.com
Gift Certificates Available

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 114 No. 44, August 14, 2003
Published weekly except the first Thursday in January and 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: 1136 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, 585/529-9530. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.

Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Apartment opening

A blessing and ribbon cutting for St. Andrew's Apartments, located on the campus of the diocesan Pastoral Center in Gates, took place Aug. 6. The facility is for adults with special needs and was built by Providence Housing Development Corp. After the blessing, a ribbon in front of the building was cut by Dennis Ryan (left), executive deputy commissioner of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal; state Sen. Joe Robach; Bishop Matthew H. Clark; Maggie Bringewatt, executive director of Providence Housing; Ralph Esposito, Town of Gates supervisor; and Joan A. Dallis, vice president, community development upstate, HSBC Bank USA.

Habitat plans to 'build on faith'

ROCHESTER — Habitat for Humanity will hold a "Building on Faith" week Sept. 14-20, during which volunteers from area churches will work to build several houses on Fulton Avenue.

The week kicks off Sept. 14 with a 3 p.m. ecumenical service at St. Michael's Church, 869 N. Clinton Ave. Liturgical dancers from Immaculate Conception Parish and the John Marshall High School Urban Steel Band are scheduled to perform, and Mayor Bill Johnson is scheduled to speak. A reception follows the service at 4 p.m.

During the remainder of the week, volunteers will work on one of five houses being built on Fulton Avenue.

Habitat's goal is to enlist the help of volunteers from 10 different area churches. Each church would need to provide a group of six volunteers willing to put in a full day's work on one of the building projects.

Churches interested in providing volunteers may call Diane Davis at 585/546-1470.

Sacred Heart items to be auctioned

An auction of pews, cabinetry and wooden doors from Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Becker's Moving and Storage Warehouse, 1523 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester.

There will be a noon inspection of items, followed by a 1 p.m. auction.

For information, call 585/458-5480.

Master Carpenter/Skilled Painter
Over 25 Years of Beautifying Homes in the NY Area
• Expert General Carpentry • Unique Outdoor Decks
• Quality Kitchen Renovations • Unused Basements Finished
• Faux Finish Painting • Wallpaper Borders Hung
J.J. CLARKE CONSTRUCTION
You've tried the rest now go with the best!
Call for estimates: 585-248-2692

Cat

Jerry Filteau/C

WASHINGTC
spokesman for
bishops said A
Episcopal Churc
to confirm an op
recognize that s
munities bless s
sent "new ecum
Catholic-Anglic
Bishop Stephe
ton, Calif., chair
bishops' Commi
and Interreligio
Catholic Church
"to prayerful a
however diffic
challenges.
He said the E
"reflect a depar
mon understand
and purpose of h
the morality of h
as found in sacre
Christian traditi
"As such, they
cations in the se
unity and for the
eral Anglican-R
logue in the Unit
The Episcopal

Retro

Mike Latona/Cat

Domenic and
tried marriage c
success, and we
their next step w
"We wanted to
and didn't know h
In 1996 the M
Retrouvaille we
gram's emphasis
and feelings with
"gave us a gl
Domenic said.
The Maiolas ha
involvement with
are now in their
program's coord
cese of Roches
weekends are h
times per year in
the next weeken
12-14 at the Rama
son Road, Roches
Retrouvaille is
covery." The pro
by Catholics in M
came to the Unite
though founde
Retrouvaille is op
couples as well. C
ready divorced fr
wish to try again
"It has less to d