

# Expanded space to mark narthex

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Worshippers and visitors to the renovated Sacred Heart Cathedral will enter the edifice through a new narthex, or entrance area, that will be dramatically expanded in size compared to the current entrance area, according to Father John Mulligan, pastor and a vicar general of the Diocese of Rochester.

The new narthex will be able to seat 75 people at tables for sit-down receptions or seat as many as 250 people for presentations, he said.

"The current narthex of the cathedral is woefully inadequate," Father Mulligan added. "Twenty people crowd the existing narthex. Several (liturgical) processions into the cathedral in the course of a year involve upwards of 100 people. If it is raining or snowing or windy or cold ... this means that about 90 people are out in the elements waiting to move into the cathedral."

The new narthex will serve as a



fourth in a series  
**Cathedral Renaissance**

liturgical space, Father Mulligan said, noting that the blessing of palms on Palm Sunday will take place in the

narthex and that wedding and funeral processions will form there as well.

The narthex also will be used as the site for informal receptions following such events as weddings, funerals, baccalaureates and ordinations, he said. The narthex may also be used for coffee hours, he said, noting that a small kitchen located off the space will be available for such functions.

Expanding and relocating the narthex is a crucial part of the cathedral renovation, Father Mulligan said.

"In addition to its liturgical and social functions, the narthex also is



Courtesy of the Diocese of Rochester

This artist's conception suggests what the new narthex in Sacred Heart Cathedral may look like.

the link between the cathedral and its necessary amenities — restrooms, hospitality room, nursery, sacristy, parish offices, warming kitchen, and storage, handicapped entrance, and the elevator to the rectory hall and basement storage," he said.

Father Mulligan added that the new narthex may also be the site of a small religious-articles shop, and will host various displays.

James F. Williamson, a partner in Williamson Pounders Architects PC, the principal architectural firm for the cathedral project, said the new narthex will be a "space big enough and generous enough so that it can be used for a number of

things."

He said the narthex will be two stories high, and will feature high windows that will allow lots of natural light into the area.

"In addition to its function as liturgical space, the narthex will also provide barrier-free social space critical to the cathedral function, as hospitality is one of the main functions of this 'mother church of the diocese,'" Father Mulligan said.

Father Mulligan said the new, larger narthex will enhance cathedral security because a receptionist will be on hand in the narthex to welcome visitors daily.

"It will certainly be well-used space," Father Mulligan said.

Mom's  
partly  
paralyzed  
and  
needs help  
feeding herself.

But I work full time.

Eldersource can help. We have the people and the answers for any older adult care issue you face. Call us.

325-2800

eldersource

www.eldersource.org

since 1895

**MARRION MONUMENTS**

476 State St. (Corner Jay)  
546-4450  
Large Indoor Display  
www.marrionmonuments.com

**FREE GIFT\***  
with this ad & selection

\*While supply lasts

## Senior In Home Care

### Available Services:

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Light Housekeeping
- Bed, Laundry & Linens
- Transportation for Errands
- Morning, Afternoon and Evening Care
- Weekdays & Weekends

**Assisting Angels**

585-235-8244