

# Cathedral renovation progresses

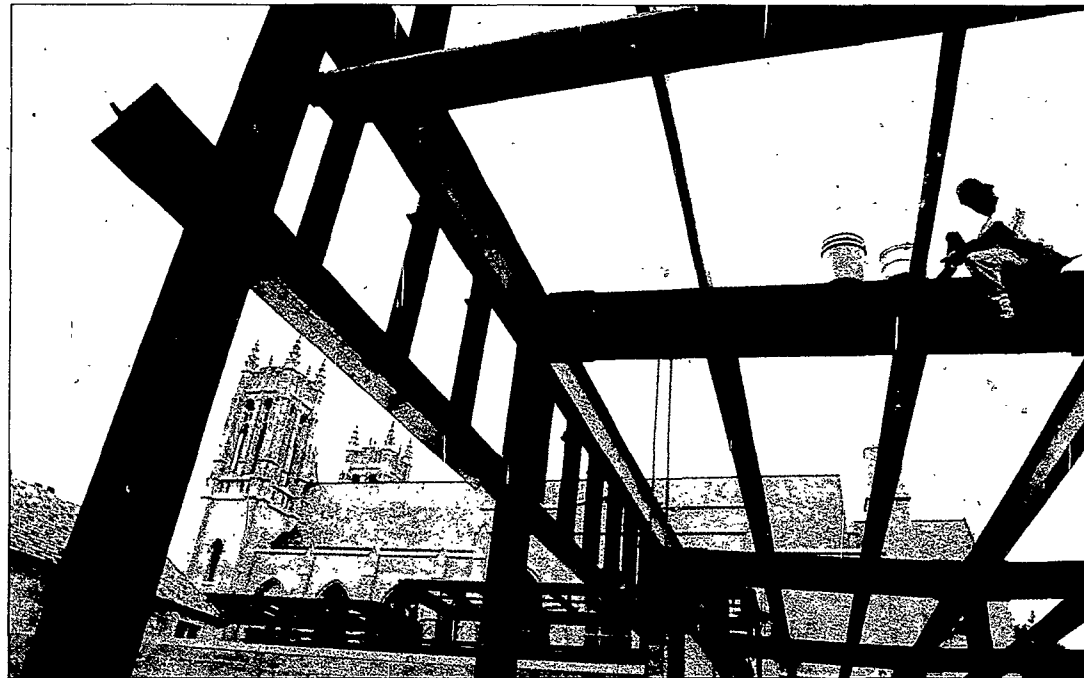


John Cormier, a painter for Rochester's Profita Inc., paints one of the new lighting fixtures at Sacred Heart Cathedral Sept. 13. Painting of the walls and ceiling was completed by Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wis.

ROCHESTER — Sacred Heart Cathedral is scheduled to reopen in January or February after being closed for renovations since June 29, 2003. Since that time, much has happened behind the construction fence surrounding the cathedral's perimeter.

The renovation project is approximately 65 percent complete, according to Father John Mulligan, pastor, who said a fair amount of the work finished so far has taken place inside the nave, where worshippers gather for Mass.

Before the renovations started, four confessionals were located along the side walls of the nave. They have since been removed, and three recessed shrines — which are awaiting final



During construction in late July, a worker straddles the steel frame of the new parish-center addition on the cathedral's east side.

painting — have taken their places. One shrine will be devoted to St. John Fisher, patron saint of the Diocese of Rochester; one will be devoted to St. Joseph; and one will be used as an ambry, housing the sacred oils used to celebrate sacraments. The vessels used to hold the holy oils will be made by Steuben Glass in Corning. A doorway leading to the nave from the newly constructed narthex, or gathering space, was built in place of the fourth confessional. Confessions will now be heard in a new reconciliation chapel.

All of the church's pews have been removed and will be replaced with wooden, upholstered chairs. Having chairs rather than pews allows for more flexibility,

Story by Jennifer Burke • Photos by Mike Crupi