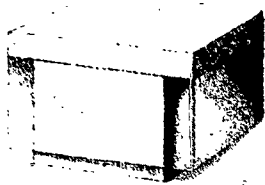


Altar



The altar was designed by architect James Williamson.

presbyterium, making that area — as well as the new Marian shrine, eucharistic chapel and reconciliation chapel — easily accessible to people with disabilities.

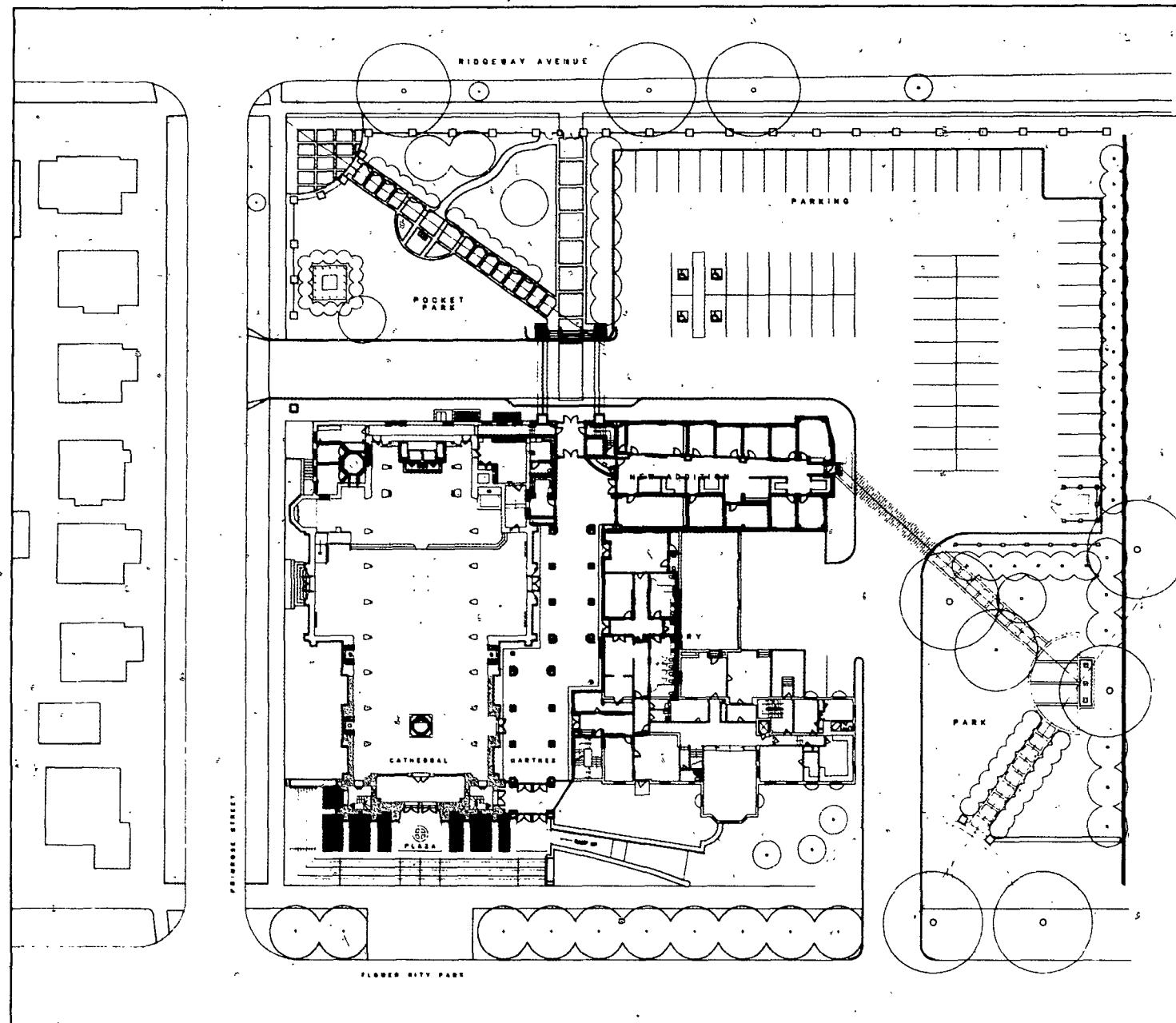
"We've done our best to make it barrier-free," Father Mulligan said.

The eucharistic chapel has been constructed on the west side of the cathedral and will house the tabernacle, which has a unique historical significance. The tabernacle originally stood in Rochester's St. Philip Neri Church, which caught fire on Feb. 20, 1967. Then-pastor Father George Weinmann entered the burning building in an attempt to save the Blessed Sacrament, followed by School Sister of Notre Dame Lilian Marie McLaughlin, who attempted to save him. Both perished, and they have been considered martyrs by many in the diocese.

Using astrological tables, artisans painted the ceiling of the eucharistic chapel to depict the night sky on March 3, 1868, when the Diocese of Rochester was officially founded. Three stained-glass windows from the west wall will stand behind the tabernacle. The windows are currently being refurbished, Father Mulligan said.

A short hallway adjacent to the eucharistic chapel leads to the reconciliation chapel. Across the presbyterium from the eucharistic chapel will be a Marian shrine. A statue of the Blessed Mother has been commissioned and will eventually stand in that spot, Father Mulligan said.

A newly constructed narthex runs along the east wall of the cathedral's worship space. The eastern ex-



Courtesy of LaBella Associates

Sacred Heart Cathedral's site plan.

terior wall of the cathedral and the western exterior wall of the rectory have become the interior walls of this narthex, Father Mulligan said. At the north end of the narthex there is a canopied entranceway from the parking lot, and the south end opens into a plaza. The new narthex is several times larger than the old narthex and will be very useful, Father Mulligan said.

In the summer, Mass processions might form in the plaza and proceed through the old narthex and down the center aisle, while in the winter processions might instead form in the new narthex, Father Mulligan speculated. This new gathering space can also be used for wedding and funeral processions, while small receptions or speaking events for about 70 peo-



Mike Blanck, a decorator for Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wis., touches up some of the grout paint Aug. 16.

ple could also be held there.

An area extending off the east end of the narthex will include offices for the combined staff of Sacred Heart, Holy Rosary and Most Precious Blood parishes, as well as a gift shop. Another area extending from the

east end of the narthex will include restrooms, a nursery, sacristy, storage space, the bishop's conference room and a hospitality room. The hospitality room can be used as a bride's room when weddings take place at the cathedral or as

a place for families to plan funerals, Father Mulligan said.

Parking will be added at the rear of the cathedral, and the building's exterior will be graced by two parks — one on the northwest corner and the other on the southeast corner. One of the parks will contain a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus while the other will contain a crucifixion scene. The parks will be open to the public, Father Mulligan said.

"Many cathedrals in Europe are surrounded by parks," he said. "I think the city also encouraged us very much to try to create some green space; some public park space. It was a combination of those two ideas. We wanted to create a real neighborhood presence and a welcoming presence."