

# NEWS

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## Through generous gifts, dream of a world-class organ for diocese's Mother Church becomes reality

ROCHESTER, New York (Sept. 12) Roman Catholic Bishop of Rochester Matthew H. Clark tonight will formally dedicate a nearly 40-foot tall, 25,000-pound tracker organ in a ceremony expected to draw hundreds of people to the Mother Church of the Diocese, Sacred Heart Cathedral on Flower City Park.

To be called the "Halloran-All Saints Organ" and built by the renowned craftsman Paul Fritts of Washington state, the instrument was made possible by three generous gifts, one from the estate of the late Rev. Emmett Halloran (see insert) and two additional gifts by parties wishing to remain anonymous.

The public is welcome to attend the 7:30 p.m. ceremony, which will feature several choirs and an organ concert with sacred music. A reception in the Narthex will follow.

The organ, assembled in Fritts' Washington state studio, was taken apart and carefully packed in boxes, and arrived June 8, 2008, in moving vans. More than 50 parish volunteers helped unload boxes and pipes under the watchful eye of Fritts and his associates, who have spent the past summer assembling the mammoth organ and tuning it to perfection.

"It is with great excitement and gratitude that I dedicate our new tracker organ tonight," Bishop Clark said. "The organ, built so lovingly by Paul Fritts, is an important addition not only to the Cathedral, but our larger community, home to the Eastman School of Music and its well-regarded organ program and with which we have worked

### THREE GENEROUS GIFTS

The Halloran-All Saints Organ takes its name from those generous individuals who provided the funds to bring this instrument into existence.

**Rev. Emmett J. Halloran**, pastor, professor and founding rector of King's Preparatory School, was a life-long lover of music. A priest of the Diocese of Rochester for almost 54 years before his death in 2004, Father Emmett lived simply. His bequest surprised his brother priests, not with his generosity, which was legendary, but with the size of his gift, which was sufficient to provide one-half the cost of a new world-class organ.

**The remaining funds** come from two anonymous gifts. The first, from the Rochester area, comes from a donor who, on several previous occasions, has made substantial gifts to benefit the ongoing ministry of the Diocese of Rochester. This particular gift was made to honor those buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

**In like fashion**, an anonymous donor from the Auburn area has contributed funds sufficient to complete this cathedral organ project in honor of those buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, near Owasco Lake.

closely. As well, we hope it is a clear sign, along with other improvements here, of our investment in a city neighborhood we believe in, one that we hope the newly renovated Cathedral will help flourish.”

The Bishop added, “The Cathedral is the Mother Church of our diocese, seat of the bishop, a place where some 25,000 or more people annually come for worship, for priest and deacon ordinations, confirmations, weddings and funerals and so many other important events. We truly believe this organ is an addition worthy of its importance in our life as a Christian community. Made possible only through generous gifts, this instrument, we pray, will not only enhance our worship, but be a powerful and inspiring instrument of prayer through which we can truly honor God and ask God’s help for the whole world.”

**Other resources:**

- **Paul Fritts** website: [frittsorgan.com](http://frittsorgan.com)
- **Cathedral website:** [www.cathedralcommunity.org](http://www.cathedralcommunity.org)
- **The Eastman School of Music,** [esm.rochester.edu/](http://esm.rochester.edu/)