

Mrs. Lueken Moves Vigil To Fair's Vatican Pavilion

By THOMAS COLLINS

Barred by court order from the "sacred ground" in Bayside Hills, Veronica Lueken and about 250 of her followers yesterday transferred their vigil to the Virgin Mary to the site of the Vatican Pavilion of the 1964-65 World's Fair.

It was the first time in five years that Mrs. Lueken, the 52-year old Bayside housewife who claims to speak directly and often with the Virgin Mary, conducted her weekly meeting away from St. Robert Bellarmine's Church at 66-15 213th St.

"It is sheer providence that we are here on the holy place once blessed by Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI," Mrs. Lueken said after her two-hour prayer session in the current Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. "The crowds will soon multiply beyond our dreams, and we are happy to follow the instructions of the Holy Lady."

Countersuits between Mrs. Lueken's followers and the Bayside Hills Civic Association were dropped last week in an agreement reached before Jamaica Supreme Court Justice Joseph J. Kunzeman. The homeowners promised not to harass Mrs. Lueken if she ceased conducting the weekly vigils on the public streets and malls near St. Robert's.

5-Year Vigil

For the past five years, Bayside Hills homeowners had watched in anger as up to 1,500 pilgrims seeking a vision of the Virgin Mary flocked to the church site where Mrs. Lueken claims she had the first of her many visions of the Virgin Mary.

A week ago, Mrs. Lueken said had a vision of the Virgin



News photo by Anthony Casale

Followers of Veronica Lueken gather around statue of Virgin Mary on site of Vatican Pavilion on World's Fair grounds.

Mary and was instructed to move her vigils elsewhere. She said this vision made possible the agreement reached in court.

Yesterday, within a few hundred feet of the World's Fair Unisphere, the peaceful atmosphere was in marked contrast to the raucous and heavily policed vigils held in recent months in Bayside Hills.

During the World's Fair, Mi-

chelangelo's masterpiece, the Pieta, was displayed inside the Vatican Pavilion which was blessed by Pope Paul VI, who said, "We welcome all visitors." The pavilion site is now marked by a benchlike marble resting place called an exedra.

Chant Rosary

Yesterday the smiling pilgrims phased their white statue of the virgin on the exedra, then prayed and chanted the rosary with Mrs. Lueken in front it. Many more the white berets of the Canadian religious plot, Michael.

The site was selected with the help of several civic leaders late last week after Mrs. Lueken was unable to get permission from the Parks Department to hold the vigil in Alley Pond Park, the public property nearest the "sacred ground."

But Mrs. Lueken confidently maintained that the vigils would be held away from the Bayside Hills location only temporarily.

"Soon Bishop Francis Mugavero (of the Brooklyn Diocese) will receive an unquestionable vision instructing him to open St. Robert Bellarmine's as a basilica named for the Holy Lady," Mrs. Lueken said.