Assumption Parish says farewell to priests, sisters

FAREWELL TO NUNS - The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who are leaving Carencro after 33 years in service to the community, were honored Sunday, June 14 at Assumption Parish. They are shown talking here with Father Val Pullman, right, newly installed pastor, and A.J. (Bob) Lilly, left, parishioner. The sisters are Sister Alphonse Marie Brady; Sister Alice Marie Harkens, principal; Sister Katherine Mary Chazotte.

CARENCRO Members and friends of Assumption Parish here joined in thanking and bidding farewell to the Holy Ghost Fathers and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who have served the parish for many years.

The Holy Ghost Fathers were honored at a Sunday afternoon Mass on June 8. Special guests included Father Silvio D'Ostillio, C.S.Sp., San Antonio, Tex., Holy Ghost provincial superior, and Father Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp., Lafayette, homilist.

Msgr. H. Alexandre Larroque, Vicar General, represented the Lafayette diocese and thanked the Holy Ghost priests for their years of service to the parish they have staffed since its establishment in 1925.

Living branches Members of the parish brought up living branches at the offering, representing the 15 Holy Ghost priests who have served in the parish. Special music was provided by the choir of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lafayette.

Also taking part at this time was the transfer of the parish to the diocese with installation of Father Val Pullman as pastor. Father Michael Jarrell, Vicar for the Central Acadiana Deanery, read the document of transfer. Also taking part was Father Henry Smith, C.S.Sp., last Holy Ghost priest to serve as pastor of the parish.

Honoréd sisters On Sunday, June 15 the parish honored the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who have staffed the school for 33 years. An appropriately engraved plaque was presented by Gabriel Living, member of the parish council and the school board, who is also a member of the Carencro town council.

Father Pullman, in thanking the sisters for their years of service, noted they had donated part of their salaries as a tuition subsidy, thereby enabling many of the children to attend the parochial school. Through the years, he pointed out, this has amounted to $41,000, a sizable donation above and beyond their teaching efforts.

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The Holy Ghost Fathers are withdrawing from the church parish also because of the voca- tion shortage.

The parish was established in 1925 with Father James Dolan, C.S.Sp., as first pastor. In 1934, when Father Francis Smith, C.S.Sp., was pastor, the school was moved into town next to the church. At one time as many as 300 children were enrolled. It was the only school in the area for black children for many years.

In 1971 when the Diocese of Lafayette paired a number of the schools, Assumption School was paired with St. Pierre to become Carencro Catholic. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament continued to teach in the school until the end of the 1960-81 year when they had to withdraw because of the voca- tion shortage.

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