Brothers Arrived in 1919; Lafayette Notes Service

Lafayette — (St. John's Cathedral Parish) — The 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Christian Brothers in Lafayette and 60 years of service to the Lafayette community will be observed here Saturday, Dec. 13 with a Mass and banquet.

A concelebrated Mass will be offered with Bishop Maurice Schexnayder of Lafayette as principal celebrant at 10:30 a.m. in St. John's Cathedral. The choir of Immaculata Seminary will sing the Mass.

The banquet will be in Isenburg hall after the Mass. Toastmaster will be Lafayette City Judge Kaliste J. Salom, a graduate of Cathedral High School. Invocation will be given by Msgr. George Bodin, pastor of the Cathedral. Principal speaker will be Joseph A. Riehl, member of the first graduating class in 1923.

First Days in Lafayette

The Christian Brothers first came to Lafayette in the summer of 1919 to prepare to open a school for boys in the fall. The school opened September 18, 1919 following the appointment of Msgr. Jules B. Jeannard as Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette. One of the Bishop's greatest concerns was for the education of the children of the parish. Father William J. Teurlings, pastor of St. John's Cathedral, was encouraged by the Bishop to open a school under the direction of the Christian Brothers. At the opening 170 students in grades 3rd through 9th registered. At the close of the first year a larger frame structure was built.

The first class graduated in 1923. In the same year the Cathedral Alumni Association was organized.

The State Board of Education accreditation of the high school was on April 25, 1925. In 1926 the first football team was organized and also a Parent's Club. In December of 1950 the first annual Alumni Banquet was held. The event has continued without interruption. A nationally famous athlete is always the guest speaker.

First Summer School

In 1951 the first summer school session was held. Since then the summer school is always conducted for remedial purposes. Also for the first time lay teachers were used.

In 1965-66 Cathedral was integrated for the first time.

One brother taught at Teurlings High School. The band director was shared with Fatima High School. Mt. Carmel girls participated in math and science classes at Cathedral and 30 boys took typing and French at Mt. Carmel.

Consolidation

The consolidation of Cathedral and Mt. Carmel came in the 1967-68 session. The Brothers taught co-education classes for the first time, and the school became known as Cathedral-Carmel. Grades from kindergarten through fifth grade are on the Mt. Carmel campus and sixth through twelfth at Cathedral.

Sister Immaculata, O. Carm., is presently serving as Principal and Brother Patrick Gereighty is serving as Assistant Principal of Cathedral-Carmel.

Chairman for the celebration is Mrs. J. C. Landry; Special Invitations, Mrs. Arthur Broussard; Tickets, Mrs. David Fuselier; Mass — Mrs. Paul Dominique; Speakers, Mrs. R. V. St. Dizier; Public Relations — Mrs. Louis Trahan. Former students and friends of Cathedral are invited to attend the celebration. Tickets for dinner may be obtained from Cathedral-Carmel High School office, 848 St. John St., Lafayette, Louisiana.