Novitiate Building

Brothers of the Christian Schools' Headquarters at DeLaSalle Normal

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of articles on diocesan institutions.)

Lafayette.—(DeLaSalle Normal Institute)—Headquarters of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the Santa Fe-New Orleans Province is located at DeLaSalle Normal School in Lafayette.

Built in 1929, the project location on the Lafayette-Rosen Bridge Highway houses the Juniorate and Novitiate as well as the province's residence and the house of retirement.

The school is well situated in surroundings of quiet beauty and peace because the concentrated religious training given the young brothers in the novitiate requires surroundings with the fewest distractions possible.

The property covers some 50 acres and is surrounded by fields and pastures so that the buildings are isolated from all sources of noise.

Site Acquired in 1921

The site was acquired in 1921 when Brother Amedee Joseph, who was recruiter for nearly 30 years, purchased Magnolia plantation for the purpose of establishing the preparatory novitiate. The three frame buildings on the plantation were inadequate for the purpose however and the work on the present Juniorate building began in 1929 and was completed for the formal opening in 1939 under the provincialship of Brother Amedee Joseph, who held his office from 1918 to 1921. Brother Arseneus, during his term as provincial (1924-1928) undertook construction of the novitiate building, dedicated in 1929. Brother Arseneus was provincial again from 1924-1929. The third department at DeLaSalle is known as the Community of the Holy Family and takes care of the temporal necessities of the other two departments.

Other provinces who have resided at DeLaSalle Normal are Brother August, 1910-1919; Brother Ernest, 1920-1929; and Brother Edwin, present provincial, who has held the office since 1919. A new provincial will be elected this summer to succeed Brother Edwin who has been appointed Brother Sub-Director at the International Second Novitiate in Rome.

Curriculum Standard

The curriculum at DeLaSalle is the standard four-year high school course. The high school was accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges in 1922. In addition to the four-year high school course, the training program includes the two-year Canonical novitiate.

The regular educational courses are implemented by various extracurricular activities. The school has a completely equipped print shop and most of the printing work for the school is done here. The choir, speech and dramatic events, piano and organ lessons for those interested, offer additional opportunities for developing talents of the prospective brothers.

During a regular hobby period, one might find the students working on stamp collections, model airplanes, photography, gardening, raising pet animals, baking, and practicing on a musical instrument.