CODOFIL To Meet In Iberia

NEW IBERIA — Mrs. Vernon A. Voorhies, president of the Iberia Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), today promised a “French Renaissance” for Iberia Parish as a result of five months of French study in some of the New Iberia schools.

The movement to re-establish the French culture and tradition in Louisiana will be illustrated here tonight at a meeting of the parish CODOFIL chapter. A demonstration will be given at the meeting to show the new ties and progress between French Louisiana and the French speaking peoples in Canada and France.

Sad Fact

“For too long,” Mrs. Voorhies said, “the people of Iberia Parish have been deprived of real entry into the language and culture which is their birthright. It is a sad fact, that until the turn of the century both French and English were the official languages in Louisiana and since that time the language of our forebears has been driven, first from the streets and finally from the homes.

“Only now,” she continued, “can we hope to recapture the things which have made our people seek the broad promise for which they have searched so long.”

Established In 1971

The New Iberia Chapter of CODOFIL was established in 1971 in association with the Louisiana organization designed to foster a renewal of the French language in Louisiana.

Although perhaps the most French oriented of the American states, Louisiana seemed destined to lose the language of her infancy until the advent of CODOFIL, Mrs. Voorhies noted.

“I suppose it is natural,” she concluded, “that we could have expected the enthusiastic public support the French programs have received, but it has, nevertheless, been very heartening. Your support and your active participation is needed.”