Catholic High School Closes Doors

BREAUX BRIDGE — There will no longer be a high school division at St. Bernard’s School in Breaux Bridge as a lack of qualified teachers and a great financial burden have caused school authorities to close the high school department at the Catholic parochial facility.

The elementary division of the school will remain in operation.

Closing of the high school division was announced last week by Msgr. George Braquet, pastor.

"With great reluctance, we arrived at this decision," Msgr. Braquet said. "I consulted with Bishop Maurice Schexnayder and Monsignor Ignatius A. Martin, diocesan superintendent, and after discussions with parents, we could find no agreeable solution.

"We are unable to get enough teachers and the great financial burden which the parish has sustained in maintaining the school can no longer be carried," he explained further.

Last year the high school department, with an enrollment of slightly over 80 students, was staffed by four nuns and one lay teacher. Msgr. Braquet said he was informed by the Most Holy Sacrament order that only two nuns could be provided this year, and he was unable to hire lay teachers to replace the sisters.

In the elementary division, which will continue to operate, last year’s enrollment was about 270 students, taught by five sisters and 3 lay teachers. Msgr. Braquet said they had been informed that some students could be accepted at Father Teurlings’ High School in Lafayette, but arrangements must be made in Breaux Bridge for transportation to the school. "This presents another financial problem," Msgr. Braquet said.

St. Bernard’s School was established in 1900 by the then Sisters of Perpetual Adoration who later changed their name to Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament. A new building for the high school department was completed in 1959.