Large Catholic High School Planned For Abbeville Area

ABBEVILLE — Plans for a new Catholic high school in Abbeville are just about complete and will be given out for bids soon, it was announced today by Msgr. T. A. Martin, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish.

The new plant will be constructed on the north side of the present Mount Carmel elementary and high school facing Park Ave., he said. The high school department of the existing Mount Carmel school will move into the new facilities, the pastor added.

Cost estimates for the new Catholic school were not announced at this time. Msgr. Martin did say, however, that the new structure will be a part of an overall development program of Catholic educational facilities in Abbeville to serve the city and its surrounding area.

Earlier Additions

Elaborating on the overall development program of Catholic education, the messenger said that a new athletic field house and addition to the Mount Carmel stadium were built in 1963, and a new music room and extra classroom were added to the elementary department of the existing school in 1965.

"Every effort was made to anticipate the latest developments in education in planning the proposed new Catholic school," the priest stated. "For example, provision has been made to install close-circuit television and regular television; the science rooms will have the latest in laboratory equipment; the language laboratory will have the latest in electronic teaching equipment; and a separate teachers' workroom and teachers' study have been included in the administration department."

Father Martin continued that the mechanical system of the new school will provide for complete heating and ventilating of the entire building and cooling of all except the physical education department. Many economies in design and other phases of construction were effected by using this type of system, he said.

Staff

The school will be staffed by priests, sisters of Mount Carmel and lay teachers. It will provide for more than 600 students, boys and girls.

General features of the proposed school were listed as follows:

Areas to accommodate large groups for school or parochial functions. An auditorium and gymnasium will be centrally located near a large mail and lavatories to effect economy.

The library will be located in the heart of the building and will be easily supervised.

A series of folding steel gates will permit isolation of parts of the structure for separate use.

The student area will provide "milking" space between classes and while waiting for transportation. Fixed tables and benches, lockers, lavatories and water coolers will be provided there.

Since football dressing facilities are provided in a field house near the stadium, this has been eliminated from the new project. Otherwise, complete physical education facilities are included.

Unusual attention will be given to the design of the auditorium with emphasis on good lighting, acoustics and concentric seating.

Much attention will be given to sound isolation. Partitions between classrooms will be rated at 40 decibels. Those around music and noisy equipment will be higher. All instructional areas will be designed for use with closed doors.

Fluorescent lighting will be used throughout except in the auditorium.

Choice of finish materials was made with reasonable first cost and low maintenance in mind to include terrazzo in corridors, painted concrete block and hard plaster on interior walls, and partitions and exoxy finish on "hard use" areas, acoustic ceiling materials, solid oak doors and metal frames.

Msgr. Martin said that D’Avy and Vollia of Opelousas are the architects on the new school.