New teen vocation program offered

By Kathleen Toups

LAFAYETTE.

The "Come and See" program introduced by Kathleen Toups, associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette, provides a setting and an atmosphere in which young men in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades can consider a vocation to the priesthood.

The program is under the immediate direction of Sr. Francine Guillory, M.H.S., associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette, with assistance from Father Henry Mancuso, vocation director.

Four "Come and See" weekends have been scheduled for the 1980-81 year, with one being held in December. The facility being used is Our Lady of the Sacred Heart retreat center in Church Point, formerly the center of the Grey Nuns. Former seminarians as well as young men in the 11th and 12th grades are especially encouraged to attend at least one of these retreats, and more if they wish. Young men interested in attending one of these retreats should contact their parish priest for information.

The weekend programs include private guided prayer sessions, group sharing with alternating spiritual and educational topics, and recreation.

Father Henry Mancuso, vocation director, said, "Everyone pitches in at mealtime, helping to set the table and wash the dishes. It helps them to get a community spirit."

Four themes for the weekend programs in 1980-81 are: Loyalty and Being Church; Anointing; Parish Councils; Parents' Organization; and Being Church.

She says she also welcomes invitations to talk to adult groups - parish councils, parents' organizations, teachers, and others. She also prays regularly for this intention.

The organization of such a vocation program is a vital follow-up activity to its visit to a school or parish. Sister Francine emphasizes, because it helps to keep up the interest and enthusiasm for the cause of vocations. Several are already active in the school system.

Expansion of the high school program is planned for later this year with the retreat weekends being held on a monthly basis.

Sister Francine said an associate program is planned to provide a kind of link with diocesan office.

Sister Francine is a native of Oberlin, the daughter of Mrs. Odile (Blanchard) Guillory and the late Cammie Guillory. She has been a Sister of the Most Holy Sacred Heart for 19 years, of which 13 were spent in the classroom.

She taught in Jennings, Crowley, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart school of Lafayette, and the Lafayette City Deanery. She is a member of the diocesan seminary advisory board.

Sr. Francine Guillory M.H.S.