This feature on Catholic-sponsored education in Louisiana was first prepared as an address for the annual meeting of the Council of Catholic Schools' Cooperative Clubs. The author is professor of history at Loyola University. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first parochial school in Louisiana. 

(Second of a two-part series) By CHARLES EDWARDS O'NEILL, S.J.

In 1727 the first parochial school in Louisiana was launched by Father Raphael in the city of New Orleans. The exact date is unknown; it may have been in April, but perhaps as early as late March. Last week's chapter told of the beginnings, and of the Spanish era in which a new public school system was established. This was the system of the several private tutors and the multifaceted career of the Ursulines.

During the first half of the 19th Century educational systems were developing in the various religious congregations. Yet in no state were the schools sponsored by parishes or by religious congregations. Yet in the penal legislation of 1842 the English had paid a fine for not attending Church of England services. This was the first time that the English had paid a fine for not attending Church of England services.

The legislation of 1842 stated, "The Legislature will support two educational systems. The 1842 legislation came about anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant legislation. The Catholic Church was then a stigmata of the grace of God and the union of the saints. The grace of God and the union of the saints..." the grace of God and the union of the saints... the grace of God and the union of the saints...

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