Growth of Catholic Schools in La. a Story of Courage

This brief sketch of Catholic-sponsored education in Louisiana from early days to the present day is an abridged version of the original work by the late Jean L. Thiry, a research scholar at Loyola University. The original work is a comprehensive study of the growth of Catholic schools in Louisiana from the French colonial period to the present day. It is a valuable resource for those interested in the history of education in Louisiana and the role of the Catholic Church in shaping the state's educational landscape.

The story begins with the early days of Catholic education in Louisiana, where the French and Spanish colonizers brought with them a strong tradition of religious education. The first Catholic schools in Louisiana were established in the 18th century, with the arrival of the Company of the Holy Cross, a religious order dedicated to the education of the poor.

In the 19th century, the growth of Catholic schools continued as the state experienced a period of rapid expansion and development. The arrival of the Mississippi River and the development of New Orleans as a major seaport and trade center provided new opportunities for Catholic education.

As the state continued to grow, so did the demand for Catholic schools. The growth of Catholic education in Louisiana was not without its challenges, as the state experienced periods of war, economic depression, and political instability.

The story concludes with a look at the future of Catholic education in Louisiana, as the state continues to grapple with issues such as funding, curriculum, and diversity.

This brief sketch is an introduction to the story of Catholic education in Louisiana, and is intended to provide a glimpse into the rich history of this important aspect of the state's cultural and educational heritage.

"Alas! Their God is gold, pleasure, and inordinate lust; God is but a sickle in their hand, they are the sickle of servitude which Ifind in instructing Irish-born pupils."

The story of Catholic education in Louisiana is a story of courage, perseverance, and dedication, as Catholic educators worked to provide a quality education to generations of children in the state.