Nat'l Jr. CDA
Had Beginning
In Lafayette

Added distinction is contributed to the city of Lafayette through the Junior Catholic Daughters of America unit, since that national organization had its beginning in this community on August 24, 1926.

Three of the leaders in Catholic spiritual endeavor, recognizing the need of organization of a youth group for spiritual and recreational guidance, presented their plan to Court Immaculata No. 53, Catholic Daughters of America. Founders of the movement were Mrs. Emilie E. Souler, Sr., Mrs. Fannie Rieth and Miss Odessa Mouton, now Reverend Mother Odessa Mouton, a madame of the Sacred Heart sisters, who is now in St. Louis, Mo.

These three zealous women served as first counselors of Junior Catholic Daughter troops. Mrs. George Lesley, as grand regent of the Junior Catholic Daughter organization, welcomed the plans for the junior group, and the court subsequently adopted and sponsored the first Junior Catholic Daughter troop.

The Juniors then became the most important work of the senior court, working with the motto: "Love God, serve others, live nobly and be useful."

Other persons who have served as chairmen of the Junior movement in this city have been Mrs. Emilie Souler, Sr., Mrs. George Lesley, Mrs. A. N. Boucher, Mrs. E. P. Petillon, Mrs. Clare Nelson, Mrs. O. J. Ory, Mrs. I. L. Miret and Mrs. Whitney C. Bourg, Sr., with Mrs. Howard L. Justice as current chairman of the Juniors.

Troops have participated in all patriotic drives such as war bonds, salvage, stamp drives, Crippled Children’s drives.

They have followed projects which involve the visitation of the sick and special endeavors are directed toward the children of St. Mary’s Home as gifts of candy, ice cream and clothing are often contributed by the troops for these young ones.

Clothing has been shipped from the Juniors to the needy and the Juniors have participated in the “CARE” program with a contribution of over $300.00.

Another worthy project undertaken by the Juniors has been the aiding of seminarians studying in the United States by sending them books and religious articles. In supporting the young men who have come to this country for their religious training, the Juniors have contributed their financial aid to the spiritual welfare of their members.

A Bayou Scene Was There

When members of the Lafayette Garden Club arranged their exhibit (top) for the first midwinter show at the Exposition Building at Southwestern Louisiana Institute they created a scene reminiscent of the charm of South Louisiana and the bayou country. Graceful spirals of Spanish Moss were combined with glossy palm leaves as a background for other plants native to the section. In the lower photo, is a more modernistic exhibit prepared by individual members of the club as part of the Yuletide program. Mrs. Paul Mouton, Mrs. Louis Mann and Mrs. F. H. Rymanes (left to right) praise each other’s exhibits which were colorful centerpieces for the 1948 festive Christmas tables.

The original forest area of the United States is estimated at 525 million acres—nearly half the country’s land area.