Sacred Heart Brothers
Will Be Given Farewell

Order to Leave School in Ascension

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(T-P Bayou Lafourche Bureau)

DONALDSONVILLE, La. — This area will say "farewell" to the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, who have staffed Ascension Catholic High School and its forerunners for 80 years, on May 25 in the school gymnasium starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Brothers recently announced that they will withdraw from the school here at the end of the school year because of a shortage of vocations to the order. The school next year will be staffed by laymen.

Friends of the Brothers and the school alumni have planned a farewell friendship hour for May 25 and have invited all of the Brothers of the Southern Province to attend.

BOYS' DIVISION

At present Brother Eldon, S.C., is principal of the boys' division of ACHS, and staff members are: Brother Godfrey, Brother Hilbert and Brother Gregory. The remainder of the staff is composed of laymen.

Sidney Heider, a faculty member of St. John high school in Plaquemine, is to become principal of ACHS next term.

The first school occupied by the Brothers here was a primitively constructed of rough weatherboarding and was called St. Joseph's Commercial Institute. It began with 70 students.

On Aug. 22, 1888, a storm destroyed the building.

At the invitation of the City of Donaldsonville, the Brothers accepted the use of the public school building until a new school could be built.

The new structure was destroyed by fire on a Sunday morning in 1901. A two-story frame building for the Brothers to live in and a one-story structure, adjoining the residence, used as the school, were built in 1901.

STORM DAMAGE

In 1909 a storm severely damaged the building and took the roof from the school. The Ascension Catholic Church rectory was turned to the Brothers in 1916 for a school and residence. This building continues in use for some classes.

Today ACHS is in modern quarters built in September, 1954, under direction of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. J. Gubler, pastor of Ascension Catholic Church and superintendent of the school.

The school is co-educational with separate wings for boys and girls.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart was founded by the Rev. Andre Coindre of Lyons, France, because of a need to give Catholic teen-age boys guidance and example.

In September, 1821, he led 10 young men willing to dedicate themselves as religious to teaching boys to the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere in Lyons where they became Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

The first Brothers of the Order came to the United States in 1847 to take charge of an orphanage in Mobile, Ala.