The energetic young Catholic priest lost little time in working for establishment of better education facilities in his parish. As related by historians of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, he turned to that order—established in Louisiana since 1833—and requested that they open a school in Carencro. "Although the prospects were far from encouraging, taking into consideration the smallness of the town, a site was bought by us and the necessary buildings put up at our expense which has been the case ever since. To the credit of the Catholics of Carencro be it stated that they have stood by nobly in times of dire need," says the account.

The convent was named St. Ann's in honor of St. Ann de Beaupre—another link with Canada and the Acadians. Simultaneously with the founding of the convent, Father Laforest established the Society of Ladies of St. Ann, an organization which has flourished uninterrupted through the years. The convent, the society, and later the school building which was erected in 1905, became centers about which Carencro life revolved in great measure, growing with the town in its progress and expansion.

The school's modest beginning was with 75 pupils and a faculty of three—Sister Mechtild Allain, Sister Clotilda Cabelle and Sister M. Maurice Webre—with Mother Mary Joseph Lambert as first superior. Attendance in October 1955 showed a regular roll of 195. The celebration of the 50th anniversary of St. Ann's will join Sunday in the interesting program. Some of the original class of 50 years ago will get together for a group of vocal selections. Then the generation will have its inning at performing, followed by the third, current St. Ann's students...typifying the tradition behind the institution, which receives generation after generation of young minds for molding.

A variety of numbers has been readied, and all the old students and their guests are promised a lively time by their Carencro hosts.

A major feature of the Sunday celebration will be the shower for St. Ann's by its grateful students and friends. Following the program and shower, a social hour will be enjoyed by all present, with refreshments served to all the guests.

So many persons of Carencro have joined in readying this entertainment that efforts to obtain the "key" individuals' names brought disclaimers—there were no few "leaders"; all of Carencro is sponsoring it and playing proud host.

Lafayette, Louisiana

December 16, 1958