Breaux Bridge - Parents of St. Bernard School here heard Sister Alphonsine, C.D.P., principal of Father Teurlings' High School, Lafayette, explain facilities and curriculum of her school at a special meeting last week in the parish hall.

The meeting was called after the announcement by Msgr. George Braquet, pastor, that the St. Bernard High School would be closed.

"Change is the dominate factor in the life of the church today," said Sister Alphonsine. "We must be ready to accept change, to conform, to mold ourselves into the pattern Christ is setting before us. We have to accept the challenge he gives, and find some way of surmounting it."

Sister Alphonsine said there was room at Father Teurlings for some of the students from Breaux Bridge. She was accompanied by members of the Teurlings' Boosters' Club.

With only ninety high school students enrolled, Msgr. George Braquet explained he could no longer continue subsidizing the school with parish funds.

"I have had to let our beautiful old church deteriorate to the point where I absolutely have to do something about it," Msgr. Braquet said. "It is simply not fair to those people who support the church to put everything we have in a failing school system. We cannot begin to pay teachers a decent salary, or even find enough teachers for the students enrolled."

"We had hoped that the dream of a Central Catholic high school would materialize before we had to make our move, but it did not. We checked every school in the area, and find that Teurlings High in Lafayette is the one school in the vicinity that could absorb our students without too much trouble or expense," he pointed out.

What Happens Now?

Conferring after the parents' meeting in Breaux Bridge, when the closing of St. Bernard High School was discussed, are, from left, Sister Alphonsine, C.D.P., principal of Father Teurlings' High School, Lafayette; Msgr. George Braquet, pastor; Warren Finely, president of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and member of the Boosters' Club; Mrs. Walter Broussard, president of the school parents' club.

Last year the high school department, with an enrollment of slightly over 80 students, was staffed by four nuns and one lay teacher. Msgr. Braquet said he was informed by the Most Holy Sacrament order that only two nuns could be provided this year, and he was unable to hire lay teachers to replace the sisters.

In the elementary division, which will continue to operate, last year's enrollment was about 270 students, taught by five sisters and 3 lay teachers.

Msgr. Braquet said they had been informed that some students could be accepted at Father Teurlings' High School in Lafayette, but arrangements must be made in Breaux Bridge for transportation to the school. "This presents another financial problem," Msgr. Braquet said.

St. Bernard's School was established in 1900 by the then Sisters of Perpetual Adoration who later changed their name to Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament. A new building for the high school department was completed in 1959.