Peter Parish growing

By Kathleen Toups

CARENCRO
The parish of St. Peter in Carencro is constantly growing, according to Father Roy D. Edwards, pastor. He estimates there are some 1,980 families in the parish now, compared to between 800 and 900 when he first arrived 14 years ago.

Another way the growth is evident is the large number of baptisms. There were 287 baptisms in 1981, more than any one church parish in Lafayette, he pointed out.

The closeness of Lafayette is one reason for the growth of the church parish, Father Edwards says. Many people live in Carencro and work in Lafayette. A number of people also commute to Opelousas for work. He noted the recently-opened hospital on the outskirts of Opelousas is being used by people from Carencro who want to avoid Lafayette's traffic.

St. Peter lost some 300 families to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Lafayette when it was erected in 1975, but as the parish continues to grow, this number has been regained.

Father Edwards is quite proud of his parish staff which assists him in many ways. Deacon Lester P. Breaux, who works full time for the parish, brings Communion to the sick and shut-ins, assists at liturgical functions, plays the organ for weekday Mass, handles marriage cases for the diocesan tribunal.

Religion coordinators are Mrs. Sidney Latour, grades one to six; Nancy Krantz, Confirmation; Sister Aline Boutte, O.Carm., high school. Gordain Sibille, principal of Carencro Catholic, is also part of the parish staff.

The school enrollment is up and a seventh grade was added this year, with the eighth grade expected to be added next year. Since the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who had staffed the school for many years withdrew in 1981, the school has had a lay faculty.

Father Edwards and Father Val Pullman, pastor of Assumption parish, alternate in offering weekly Masses at the school. Outdoor stations of the cross have been erected and this devotion is held during Lent.

Sister Aline is in charge of the parish census and works at it constantly to keep it up to date. She also visits the homes of parishioners.

Since Father Edwards arrived as pastor, the parish debt has been paid off, and improvement made include the repainting and air conditioning of the parish hall; new carpet installed throughout the church, paving of sidewalks around the church. A new building next to Carencro Catholic provides office space for the parish staff.

The parish council, with Father Edwards and Deacon Breaux as co-chairmen, is made up of representatives of the various parish organizations.

Mrs. Mayo Benoit is president of the Ladies Altar Society; Mrs. Robert Bordelon heads the Legion of Mary; Louise Arceneaux is president of the (Continued on page two)