The History of the Office Of Superintendent of Schools

Tribunal
Has separate al, is also a pro-synodal judge on the diocesan tribunal. Monsignor A. J. Vincent, right, vice chancellor, is also officials, or chief judge, of the tribunal.

Tribunal Dates Back to Synod in 1923
Synodal judges were Monsignors Louis H. Boudreaux, J. Bourgeois, A. F. Isenberg, George Mollo, and Hubert Leschen. Reorganization of the tribunal was begun in 1946 when Father Warren L. Boudreaux was appointed vice chancellor and defender of the bond. In 1949, with other clergy who had been trained in canon law, the first major reorganization of the tribunal was completed. Father Boudreaux was named official, with Father Alexander O. Sigur as vice official, and Fathers Rudolph Arlandi and Henry John Box as defenders of the bond.

These were confirmed by the fourth diocesan synod in 1953, with Fathers Gremillion, Ignatius A. Martin, George J. Brunet, F. G. John Kemps, and Joseph E. Landry, C.S.Sp., named synodal judges. Appointed notaries were Charles E. Coignard and Fathers Ivan Amevineaux and A. J. Vincent. Appointed advocates and procurators, lawyers for the tribunal at the synod, were Fathers Floyd J. Calais, Edward Frue, Emery J. Labbe, Ossie A. Landry, Burdon Mouton, Gene Speyer, and John Wind.

A meeting of the tribunal and chancery officials of the Province of New Orleans was held in 1951 to set up a permanent office in the diocesan chancery building.

Charities Director
Father Gene Speyer, director of Catholic Charities, is a full-time director and in residence at St. Anthony Parish, Lafayette. Main concern of Catholic Charities is placement of children from unwed mothers and care of unwed mothers during pregnancy.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, LeRoy, in 1947. In April, 1948, Monsignor Martin was relieved of parochial duties as appointed full-time superintendent with residence and office in New Iberia. In November, 1948, it was decided to move the superintendent's office to the Bishop's house in Lafayette. Monsignor Martin had his residence at Immaculata seminary. As the superintendent's staff expanded and diocesan supervisors were employed, additional office space became necessary. A residence on St. John street was rented in August, 1931, to serve as office and residence for the superintendent.

A house on University avenue in Lafayette was purchased by the diocese in February, 1952, and served as the office until the move to the new diocesan building in 1959. Monsignor Martin was appointed pastor of St. Mary Magdalene parish, Abbeville; he commutes to Lafayette for his work as superintendent.

SO MUCH for the physical location of the school board office. As the school system has expanded, new systems of keeping records were introduced, national testing programs were adopted, and the latest methods of teaching reading, arithmetic, and languages also were introduced. The annual report of the superintendent in 1949 pointed out there were 349 teachers with a total of 16,076 pupils. The report for the 1963-64 school year reports a total of 786 teachers and 23,901 pupils. First diocesan supervisors were appointed in 1951, and a school lunch program supervisor was employed in 1954. First annual Catholic Business Education Association rally was held in 1964. A handbook of policies for elementary schools was published in 1957. Pupils' ac-