

Acadia Deacons Ordained



Willis Broussard

Two Acadia Parish men were ordained permanent deacons in the Catholic Church recently. Coley M. Bellamy of Rayne and Willis Broussard of Mermentau are the first deacons from this parish to receive these rites. Three groups of deacons were ordained in the diocese in the Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church June 24, at St. Peter Church in New Iberia Saturday, June 25, and at St. John Cathedral in Lafayette June 26.

Coley Bellamy is a native of Mobile, Ala. and is the son of the late Coley and Hattie Bellamy. He is married to the former Louise Mildred Boudreaux of Rayne and has been a citizen of Rayne for the past 22 years.

Bellamy has acquired several degrees in music education in which he worked as a band director for 16 years. His bands have been awarded honors which include district, zone and state championships.

He is presently employed by the Acadia Parish School Board as assistant principal in the

Church Point High School. Prior to his appointment as an administrator, he conducted bands in the Herod High School, Abbeville; Holy Rosary High School, Lafayette; Armstrong High School, Rayne; West Church Point High School; Church Point Junior High School, and Church Point High School.

Bellamy is also presently serving in the elected office of the Rayne City Council.

The Bellamys have one son, Paul Rene, who attends the University of Southwestern.

Willis Broussard was born in Lafayette May 20, 1927 but has been a resident of Mermentau for the past 25 years. He is married to the former Rena

Guidry of New Iberia, and has four children, James, Harold, Sandra and Peggy. James and Sandra are married. The Broussards also have five grandchildren, two boys and three girls.

Broussard is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Mermentau and is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 4991, the volunteer fire dept. and the Third Order of St. Francis. He is employed by Southern Pacific as a bridge tender.

Upon being asked why Broussard chose to become a deacon, he replied, "Because of a feeling inside of me, that God had extended a call for me to serve him as ordained deacon,

and also because of a desire to serve beyond that of which I was doing as a lay person."

Before beginning the program, he served as reader, lay minister of communion and sometimes took part in the singing.

At present, he is working on plans to start giving communion service to residents of the rest homes in Jennings on Sunday, and to bring communion to the sick and shut-ins. He also expects to serve mass with his priest at least once a week.

Distant plans are to give a homily at least once a month, but this, he explains, will have to worked out gradually.