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Hugh Amick, District Supervisor
W.P.A. FEDERAL PROJECT NO. 1
"THE AMERICAN GUIDE"

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Number of words ... 300 Special topic assigned ... RACIAL ELEMENTS

Part of assigned topic covered in this report St. Peter Claver Parish

Questionnaire categories incomplete or missing: list below with reasons for omission, i.e. whether material is still to be covered or whether the questions are not applicable to your territory.

Signed Hugh Amick, District Supv.
Area Supervisor

THE AMERICAN GUIDE - Racial Elements
Wichita, Kansas

9-274

CONTEMPORARY GROUPS, St. Peter Claver Parish
Contributed by: Philip Aherne

300 words

An active and ambitious religious organization working among the Negroes in Wichita is the Catholic group, which makes the headquarters for its activities in the St. Peter Claver Parish Hall at 1225 North Mosley Avenue. This is a large two-story frame building in the center of the Negro residential district.

First services to be held in this building under the auspices of the Catholic Church were in November, 1930. Since that time, the work of the Catholic mission has grown steadily to a position of importance in the religious and social life of Wichita Negroes.

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Since its inception, the mission has been under the leadership of Father Leon A. McNeill and Mrs. Nora Dillon, a Wichita woman (white) who had formerly been very active in Catholic work among Mexicans.

The Catholic Mission is held by the Catholics and offers services among the Negroes. Church services are held in the mission building every Sunday, while Sunday School services for the Negro children are conducted by Catholic Sisters.

The building in which the Mission is now housed is rented by the Catholic Church. An interesting feature of the history of the Mission is that, when services were first being held in the second floor of the building, the ground floor was occupied by a pool hall. At this time, the Mission occupies the entire building.

Plans of the Catholic group for the future call for the erection of its own building, somewhere in the immediate vicinity of the Mission's present site. In this proposed structure will be housed a parochial school for Negro children and the chapel and classrooms for devotional services.

During the six years of the Mission's growth, Mrs. Nora Dillon has been patiently raising funds for the construction of the proposed new Mission. A great proportion of the funds raised represent the penny contributions of Negro children.

At present the building fund has reached a total of almost \$2,000 and the leaders of the Mission feel that their goal is almost within sight.

Source of information: Rev. Leon A. McNeill, 424 North Broadway, Wichita, Kansas.

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