

Classes To Open Next Fall

TWO new Catholic high schools costing a total of \$2.5 million will be built in Phoenix next year, the Very Rev. Francis J. Green, Bishop of Tucson, announced yesterday.

Construction of Gerard High at 44th Street at Oak and Bourgade High at 31st Avenue at Hazelwood will start in January after bid openings in December. Plans for the schools are similar.

Both schools will open with freshman classes in September 1962. Each succeeding year an additional class will be added until each plant has a full four-year program and 1,200 students in 1965.

"The growth of population in Phoenix has created a demand for Catholic education on the high school level which the present Catholic high schools, St. Mary's, St. Francis Xavier and Brophy College Preparatory, cannot possibly hope to meet," Bishop Green declared.

Both schools will accommodate about 360 freshmen next year. Boys and girls will attend but will be taught separately.

Each school will be constructed in four phases, will contain more than 80,000 square feet and will feature contemporary architecture with Spanish overtones.

The first phase of construction on the 23-acre sites will consist of wings with seven classrooms and special areas for home economics, art, botany, zoology, study hall and typing.

THIS CONSTRUCTION, under a single major contract, will be completed next August.

Supplementary facilities will include a small chapel, library, administration office, partial physical education facilities, a kitchen and eating area, mechanical plant and parking and storage areas.

Additional phases of construction will start in May 1962, in January 1964 and in May 1965.

Bishop Green said each school will add about 300 sophomores in 1963, 280 juniors in 1964 and 240 seniors in 1965.

Gerard High will serve the Catholic parishes of St. Agnes, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Theresa, St. Mark's, St. Daniel's in Scottsdale and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tempe.

It bears the name of Mgr. Gerard, a French missionary who served the Salt River Valley and built the first Catholic Church in Phoenix.

Bourgade High will be built for the parishes of St. Gregory's, SS. Simon and Jude, St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glendale and Most Holy Trinity Parish, Sunnyslope.

It is named in honor of Bishop Peter Bourgade, also from France, who was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Arizona in 1883.

A fund-raising campaign for the two schools was started in 1959.