



News Release

June 19, 2025

STAR Catholic Names New High School in Beaumont: St. Olivia Catholic High School

Leduc — The Board of Trustees for St. Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic School Division is pleased to announce the official name of the future Catholic high school in Beaumont: **St. Olivia Catholic High School**.

The name was selected following a thoughtful process that included community consultation and discernment rooted in Catholic identity, student connection, and long-term vision. STAR Trustees approved the name at their June 2025 Board Meeting.

St. Olivia of Palermo—a young Christian martyr known for her faith, courage, and resilience, was chosen as the school's patron. Her story of quiet strength and conviction makes her a powerful and relatable role model for today's youth.

"As a teenager, St. Olivia showed remarkable courage, faith, and grace—virtues we hope to nurture in every student who walks through the doors of this school," said Board Chair Donna Tugwood. "Her short but powerful life will serve as an enduring source of inspiration, encouraging generations of learners to grow not only in knowledge but in spirit.

Once built, St. Olivia Catholic High School will offer a Christ-centered learning environment rooted in academic excellence, Catholic values, and a strong sense of belonging.

"This name reflects not only who we are as a Catholic community, but who our students are becoming: faithful, courageous, and harmonious peacemakers," said Liz Taylor-Sirois, STAR Catholic Trustee for Beaumont.

"Choosing a school name is about more than identity—it's about shaping a vision," said Superintendent Laurie Kardynal. "St. Olivia represents the Christian call to stand firm in truth and love, especially in a world that challenges belief in God. St. Olivia of Palermo is recognized for her deep faith, and exemplifies strength of character, courage, humility, and grace, all key virtues we aim to instill in our students."

This announcement follows the Government of Alberta's March 2025 approval of planning funding for the new high school, marking a major step forward in bringing Catholic high school education to the growing Beaumont community. Further details regarding the new high school will be shared as they become available.

Based in central Alberta, Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic School Division represents 12 schools that serve the communities of Beaumont, Drayton Valley, Lacombe, Leduc, Ponoka, and Wetaskiwin. The STAR Catholic Schools team of teachers and support staff are committed to giving more than 4,700 students across our division every opportunity to achieve their potential in a caring, safe and Christ-centered environment.

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