Lakeland Catholic School Division

Christ Our Model. **Children** Our Focus.

2025–2026 Bishop's Assurance Summary Report

Guided by Christ: Living Our Mission Through Faith, Formation, and Service

Purpose

The Board of Trustees of Lakeland Catholic School Division is pleased to provide this summary report to Bishop Gary Franken as evidence of our continued commitment to Catholic education and the Bishop's Assurance process.
As a Catholic school division, we recognize that our schools are an extension of the Church's mission of evangelization, faith formation, and discipleship. Guided by our vision, Christ Our Model. Children Our Focus., we remain committed to forming the whole child and ensuring that Christ is reflected in all aspects of our learning communities.
This report highlights key initiatives, accomplishments, and developments during the 2025–2026 school year that demonstrate our commitment to Catholic identity, faith formation, leadership development, and Gospel-centred education.

Governance and Strategic Leadership

The 2025–2026 school year marked a significant milestone in the evolution of governance within Lakeland Catholic School Division.

Board Strategic Plan – link

The Board of Trustees initiated the development of a new Board Strategic Plan to provide enduring, long-term direction for Catholic education in Lakeland.
The Strategic Plan is grounded in four enduring priorities:

- Faith that Forms Leaders
- Excellence Without Exception
- Belonging that Transforms Lives
- Stewardship that Sustains and Grows the Future

These priorities reflect the Board's commitment to Catholic identity, student success, belonging, and responsible stewardship.

Board Assurance Plan – link

To complement the Strategic Plan, the Board developed a Board Assurance Plan that clearly defines governance responsibilities, monitoring processes, advocacy priorities, and accountability measures.

The Assurance Plan establishes how the Board will ensure that the mission and priorities of the Division are realized over time.

Division Assurance Plan (2026–2030) – link

The Division also developed a new 4 year Assurance Plan rooted in faith and evidence-informed decision-making.

The plan continues to prioritize:

- Catholic Christian Identity
- Student Success
- Equity, Inclusion and Student Wellness
- Organizational Excellence

while ensuring alignment with Alberta Education assurance requirements and local Catholic priorities.

Strengthening Catholic Identity

The Board continued to strengthen Catholic identity across the Division through several significant initiatives.

Policy and Administrative Procedure Update

The Board of Trustees and Division Administration are currently engaged in a comprehensive review of Board Policies and Administrative Procedures to ensure they are explicitly grounded in our Catholic faith and mission. This process involves applying a "faith lens" to foundational documents, ensuring that governance and operational guidelines reflect Gospel values and the Five Marks of Catholic Education.

Key updates include the alignment of Board Policy 1 with the new Board Strategic Plan and Board Assurance Plan (2026–2030), establishing a long-term, faith-centered strategic direction for the Division.

Lakeland Catholic Charter of Christ–Centered Excellence – link

The Division developed and the Board approved the implementing the Lakeland Catholic Charter of Christ–Centered Excellence, a staff commitment focused on Catholic witness, wellness, collaboration, integrity, and service. The Charter calls staff to be visible signs of Christ's love through their daily interactions and professional practice.

Lakeland Catholic Approach to Safety and Belonging –link

The Division has transitioned its framework for student well–being by removing secular language associated with previous anti–bullying campaigns. This shift involves the development of a new, faith–integrated approach titled "Lakeland Catholic Approach to Safety and Belonging". This initiative ensures that the Division's commitment to student safety is explicitly grounded in the inherent dignity of the person and the Gospel call to build communities rooted in love and compassion.

School and Facility Naming Initiatives

The Board approved the renaming of ***École Dr. Bernard Brosseau School to École Dr. Bernard Brosseau Catholic School***, strengthening the explicit Catholic identity of the school and ensuring greater visibility of Catholic educational heritage within the Division.

The Board also initiated the formal naming of the Division's Bonnyville Central Office as the ***St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic Education Centre / Centre éducatif Sainte–Marguerite–Bourgeoys.***

Currently known only by its functional title, the naming of the Division Office provides an opportunity to more visibly reflect the Catholic mission of the organization. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, one of Canada's great pioneers of Catholic education, dedicated her life to the formation of young people through faith, service, and learning.

Together, these initiatives reflect the Board's commitment to ensuring Catholic identity remains visible, authentic, and enduring throughout the Division.

Strategic Investment in Faith Formation – link

A key responsibility of the Board of Trustees is ensuring that resources are aligned with the Division's priorities and strategic direction. Through the annual budget process, the Board demonstrates its commitment to Catholic education by aligning financial decisions with the goals and outcomes of the Division Assurance Plan.

For the 2026–2027 school year, funding allocated for a division Faith Formation and Religious Education System Excellence Coordinator **(1.0 FTE)**, and for teachers with dedicated time to serve in school

faith leadership roles, increased from **0.8 FTE to 1.45 FTE**, representing a substantial investment in student faith formation, staff formation, and the integration of Catholic identity across all schools.

This investment reflects the Board's belief that faith formation is foundational to student success and that Catholic identity must be intentionally supported through leadership, resources, and ongoing formation opportunities.

By aligning resources with strategic priorities, the Board continues to ensure that the Division's mission, Strategic Plan, and Assurance Plan are translated into meaningful actions that support students, staff, schools, and parish communities.

Faith Formation and Catholic Culture

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, Lakeland Catholic continued to deepen faith formation opportunities for students, staff, leaders, and Trustees.
Faith formation was intentionally embedded throughout the organization through:

- Prayer and faith formation/reflection at all Board meetings
- Commissioning mass for the Newly Elected Board of Trustees
- Faith formation at Administrative Leadership and Central Leadership Team meetings
- Daily prayer at Central Office
- Faith-centred learning opportunities during school staff meetings
- Ongoing integration of Catholic Social Teaching across schools and programs
- System-wide promotion of the Division faith theme "Doing Small Things with Great Love"
- Development of IGNITE Student Faith Leadership Teams at all Schools
- Faith formation opportunities for students including Division retreats, NET retreats, Eric Reinhart presentations, and Face to Face Ministries

The Superintendent's weekly messages continued to intentionally connect our work to Scripture, Gospel values, and the mission of Catholic education, helping staff understand their vocation as educators and disciples.

This work aligns with our commitment to ensuring faith is lived, visible, and transformative across the Division.





Developing Catholic Leaders

Lakeland Catholic continued to invest in the formation of future Catholic leaders through several key initiatives.

Sharing the Faith Program

The Division launched and expanded opportunities to support early-career Catholic teachers through the two year Sharing the Faith Program.

The program focuses on:
Catholic identity and vocation

- Faith formation
- Catholic worldview – Mission and Vision of Catholic Schools
- A study of "The 5 marks of Excellent Catholic Teacher"
- Catholic Teacher Pastoral Guide with Stacy MacNeil-Ayeh
- Practical integration of faith into teaching and learning
- Bishop Gary facilitated a session on "What we believe through a study of the Nicene Creed"

The program supports teachers in understanding their role as witnesses to Christ within Catholic education.

Aspiring Catholic Leaders Program

The Aspiring Catholic Leaders Program was initiated to develop emerging leaders across the Division through leadership formation grounded in Gospel values, service, stewardship, and faith-centred leadership. The 2 year program saw 9 teachers commit to learning more about catholic leadership.

New to Administration Program

The New to Administration Program supported newly appointed school leaders through intentional formation focused on:

- Catholic leadership
- Faith-centred decision making
- Instructional leadership
- A study of the Catholic Leadership Quality Standard
- A study of the Five Marks of Catholic Education

Together, these initiatives strengthen the Division's capacity to sustain and grow Catholic leadership for the future.

Catholic School Reviews – (Website link / Full Report – link)

During the 2025–2026 school year, Lakeland Catholic completed Catholic School Reviews at:

- *St. Dominic Elementary School* – link
- *École Notre Dame High School* – link
- *Light of Christ Catholic School* – link
    - Joined by East Central and Living Waters Catholic School Divisions
- *Holy Family Catholic School* – link

We were honoured to have Bishop Gary Franken participate as a member of the review team for Holy Family Catholic School Catholic School review.

These reviews provided meaningful opportunities to celebrate Catholic identity, strengthen faith formation practices, and identify opportunities for continued growth in Gospel witness and Catholic culture.

Each school community received a detailed review report highlighting commendations, recommendations, and opportunities for growth aligned to the Five Marks of Catholic Education. These reports were posted on the division website for transparency with stakeholders.

The reviews affirmed the dedication of students, staff, school leaders, parents, parish partners, and Trustees in living the mission of Catholic education.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for the 2026–2030 planning cycle, Lakeland Catholic remains committed to:

- Deepening Catholic identity and faith formation
- Strengthening home, parish, school, and community partnerships
- Forming faith-filled leaders
- Supporting student flourishing and belonging
- Advancing truth, reconciliation, and right relationship
- Providing responsible stewardship and governance
- Living our mission as an extension of the Church

As an extension of the Church's educational mission, Lakeland Catholic remains committed to forming disciples of Christ, nurturing faith-filled communities, and providing Catholic education that reflects the Gospel in both word and action.

Guided by Christ, we remain committed to serving families, supporting our parishes, and building vibrant Catholic learning communities that witness to the Gospel in all that they do.

Conclusion

The Board of Trustees is grateful for the continued support, guidance, and partnership of Bishop Gary Franken and the Diocese of St. Paul.

Together, we continue to advance the mission of Catholic education, ensuring that Christ remains at the centre of all we do as we form students in faith, wisdom, service, and leadership.







