

History of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School celebrates over 118 years of pride, tradition, and excellence in Catholic Education. St. Anthony is located at 850 Forsythe Street in the Basilica complex in the heart of Downtown Beaumont, Texas. The school was founded in 1895 and in 1925 became one of the first Catholic schools in the state to be accredited by the Texas Education Agency. In 1999, St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

In 1895, the Reverend M. P. McSorley became the first full time resident priest in what was then known as St. Louis Church. On September 1, 1895, Mother Pauline and Sister Augustine of the Dominican Order came to St. Louis Parish to open St. Louis' Parochial School. The school was opened in the former rectory with 13 students and four Sisters.

A larger school was built in 1896 on the corner of Jefferson and Forsythe Streets. The school was called Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent School. The school continued to grow to the extent that classes were held on the first two floors and the Sisters lived on the third floor.

In 1901, the oil boom struck Beaumont with the Lucas Gusher at Spindletop Oil Field. The small St. Louis Church soon became inadequate to serve the growing community. In 1907, the present St. Anthony Cathedral Church was built in honor of St. Anthony of Padua. The first high school class was added to the grammar school.

By 1917, the increase in the number of students attending St. Anthony School was so great that a new school had to be built. This new stucco building was open for classes on September 16, 1918 and had an enrollment of 288 students and a faculty of nine Sisters.

The student population continued to increase, and in 1953, a new two-story brick building was built on the corner of Forsythe and Jefferson streets. This is the present day location of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School.

A gym was built and dedicated in 1995 in celebration of the centennial of the school and Catholic education in the Diocese of Beaumont. The school consists of a main two-story brick building, a separate cafeteria, technology lab, Early Childhood Development Center, gymnasium, playground, and a softball field.

