

**St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2021**

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Chris Moraes, Sarah Pereira, Edith Tyndall, Bob Young, Erin Krysko, Greg Verhappen, Cheryl Nandee, Grant Gay, Bill Werbowski, David Nolke, Sheila Schneider, Jack Teunissen

Regrets: Maryann Kusmirski, Florian Bernardo, Santos Cuadra, Denise Stoley

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Fr. Andrew led us in prayer and reflection. Grant G. to lead the prayer for the meeting in May.

Guest proposal - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium – Sheila S.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has been in Calgary for ten years, and at our parish since 2017. Prior to the pandemic, the two adult volunteers would meet with the children once a week in the St. Albert room. The volunteers would need to setup before and take down after the session. The St. Albert room could not be used during the Christmas season because of the St. Vincent de Paul hamper program.

The proposal is to convert the cloak room on the main floor for use by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. A parishioner (wanting to remain anonymous) is willing to donate funds to cover the renovation cost. There may even be possibility of adding a washroom. A rough draft plan was shared with the PPC members.

Fr. Andrew confirmed that projects over the cost of \$50K would need to be approved by the Diocese. However, at this time, all projects are on hold.

**Action:** Chris M. and PPC members to review proposal and potential timeline for a future project.

Approval of minutes from March 2021

Motion made to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Moved by: Edith T. Seconded: Greg V. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

The Easter celebrations were similar to pre-pandemic format. There was an evening Mass on Holy Thursday, two services on Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday with RCIA Baptisms, three Masses on Easter Sunday and a Mass on Easter Monday.

We are preparing for First Eucharist celebrations. There will be two celebrations every week. These Masses will only be open to the First Eucharist candidates and their family members.

Finance Council report – David N.

The decision to repair the rectory roof was made and approved by the Finance Council and the project/expense approved by the Diocese. This is an asset of the Diocese that needs to be preserved.

As the parish is moving towards electronic donations, the decision was made to not purchase donation envelopes for 2022. This results in a savings of about \$5K. People can still use unnumbered envelopes.

The Finance Council is looking for a new member. It would be good for this person to have some business experience. When the announcements were made in the past, no one applied.

The Diocese has provided guidance on new ways to report financial results. We will consider using one of the proposed reports in our monthly update to the parishioners to inform them of the financial status of the prior month. There is another report which can be used two times a year – one which gives a financial report for previous year and the other contains a report up to the end of June. This will give the priests some material to talk to in their announcements.

The donations are coming in closer to budget. We will share the following financial report for the month of March at weekend masses and parish bulletin:

<b>MARCH Collections</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Shortfall / Over</b>
Operations (Monthly)	\$60,000	\$62,184	\$2,184
Donations through Diocese / CEWS Grant (not regular income)	0	\$4,899	\$4,899
Mortgage (Monthly)	\$11,500	\$10,338	\$(1,162)
Together In Action (January through March)	\$54,911	\$11,170	\$(43,741)

#### Old business

##### Update on Masses and volunteers – Bob Y.

We have successfully gotten through Easter and Triduum Masses. There were many volunteer families that were in isolation due to close contact, but we are blessed, that no one has tested positive. AHS reported COVID positive cases who have attended Mass, but no contact tracing was required.

Recently there have been a few extraordinary incidents that the volunteers have had to manage. We continue to pray for our volunteers and our parish community.

The First Eucharist celebrations start next week. Nine Masses have been scheduled and these Masses will be opened to full capacity. Some of the parish ministries have stepped up to provide volunteers for many of these Masses. Only three Masses require recruitment from our regular volunteers.

Bob Y. will be stepping down from his positions as Volunteer Coordinator, Safety Coordinator and Lector Coordinator. It has been difficult for him to balance his full-time job and church responsibilities. However, these past ten months have been very spiritually fulfilling for him. A new volunteer organization structure will be put into place over the next few weeks. Fr. Andrew and Chris M. thanked Bob Y. for his dedication to our parish and for being instrumental in keeping our parish community safe during the pandemic.

##### Website development – Chris M.

The website is under development. The design and content are complete, and we need to start tying it into our existing hosting infrastructure.

**Action:** Chris M. to share the link to the website to the PPC members for their feedback.

##### Consistent use of communication channels – Sarah P.

There have been gaps in communication via the different channels e.g., relevant messages are published to the social media or webpage, but not shared via the bulletin or announcements. Awareness has been raised of this issue. Fr. Andrew has informed the Parish Staff and asked them to share information sent to them to the other communication channel administrators. We ask the PPC members and ministry leads to keep this in mind when using the communication channels.

##### Report from Pastoral Care – Cheryl N. & Jack T.

The following Pastoral Care/Bereavement Ministries report was shared by Cheryl N. via email to the PPC members. It contains input from Ann R. S. of the Pastoral Care Committee.

- The Pastoral Care Ministry has five members – they all share the work, Ann R. S. is responsible for home visits and bringing Holy Communion to the shut-ins; Jack T. for hospital visits, Rachel H. for the Care West Centre and retirement home both in McKenzie Town, Ellen F. is assisting with home visits and taking Holy Communion to shut-ins.
- The Pastoral Care Ministry have been unable to facilitate in person visits to the sick, shut-ins and bereaved because of the COVID restrictions and the current Diocesan guidelines - which restricts in person home or hospital visits.
- Ann R. S. is also the Diocesan point person for St. Albert the Great. She is advised of calls received either from other parishes, or hospitals etc., she assesses the need and will confer with someone from that parish, etc., that can accommodate that need or she will handle it herself.
- The Pastoral Care committee has an announcement in the bulletin and is putting a post on our parish Facebook page offering their ministry services to those who wish to pray and speak with by phone. They are requested to contact the parish office if they would like to be contacted.

Jack T. confirmed that Pastoral Care at the hospital is not possible during this time. However, there have been messages in the bulletin asking people to contact the Parish Office if they need care or someone to talk to. He is not aware if anyone has reached out requesting assistance.

Cheryl N. confirmed that Ann R. S. is contacted by the Parish Office but has not received any requests yet.

#### New Business

##### Thank you & farewell to Denise S.

We wish Denise S. the best and will pray for her role as CWL Chair.

##### The Beatification of Fr. Francis Jordan, founder of the Salvatorians on May 15, 2021

Fr. Francis Jordan was born in 1848 in Germany. He spread the Good News and brought the message of Jesus in any way possible. The Vatican approved his Beatification. The Salvatorians in Canada fall under the Canadian region of the Polish province.

##### PPC/Finance Council Volunteers for First Holy Communion on May 17, 2021

Chris M. reminded us for the need for volunteers to serve at the First Holy Communion mass on May 17.

#### Adjournment

Chris M. thanked everyone for their support. With Bob Y. and Denise S. stepping down, there may be a need for two new PPC members in September.

Fr. Andrew closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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Chris M. (Chair)

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Sarah P. (Secretary)