

**St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2021**

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Sarah Pereira, Erin Krysko, Bill Werbowski, Cheryll Nandee, Florian Bernardo, Grant Gay, Greg Verhappen, David Nolke, Alisa McLin, Bob Young

Regrets: Chris Moraes, Edith Tyndall, Santos Cuadra, Sherry Samborski

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Erin K. read the Land acknowledgement.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Erin K. opened the meeting in prayer for hope.

Approval of minutes from September 2021

No changes were made to the September minutes and a motion was made to approve them. Moved by: Florian B. Seconded: Erin K. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

The COVID-19 restrictions have not changed since the last PPC meeting. The parish continues to follow the restrictions required at the weekday and weekend masses.

We have started to celebrate masses in two senior facilities – McKenzie Towne and Extended Care. Other facilities (Seton and Auburn Bay) have not resumed masses.

Most ministries are continuing to meet online using conferencing tools due to current restrictions.

October 25 is the first Reconciliation preparation session and we are relying heavily on parents to support the learning of their children. Information about sacrament registration was communicated via the parish bulletin and communications sent to the schools.

Carpet cleaning was done on October 18 and the windows will be cleaned on October 20.

Finance Council report – David N.

The Finance Council works as a liaison between the Diocese and the Pastor of the parish. We report and advise the Pastor on financial matters. Every month a brief financial report is shared with the parishioners. The Diocese has asked the Finance Council to provide a more detailed report to the parishioners two times a year. At St. Albert the Great, we have chosen to provide this detailed report after September 30 and December 31. September has budget information for the next year and December is the financial yearend.

The statement of cash flow for period ending October 31, 2021 was shared.

In the 2022 budget, the regular donations of \$68,600 was calculated as 80% of the average revenue for the three years 2017-2019. In 2021 the repayment of the loan was reduced to \$16,000 per month, and this will gradually increase to \$20,000 per month. Some other expense categories are also increasing e.g. the Diocese payment of \$8,700 will be \$9,943 and insurance amount will increase from \$42,286 to \$74,000. Our Together in Action amount is \$54,911 in 2021 and will be \$78,445 next year.

## Old business

### Update on masses and volunteers – Alisa M.

Our parish is blessed with our volunteers who serve our parish with dedication and commitment. The restrictions from September 16 continue to remain in effect. Here are the summarized three items:

- Mandatory masking
- Capacity limit to one-third of fire code
- Physical distancing is required. For this reason, every other pew is closed and Communion is distributed down the side aisles.

Additional changes since our last PPC meeting:

- Capacity limit is reduced to 350
- Ushers are seating attendees at weekend masses
- Markings have been added on the pews to aide with social distancing
- First and last pews have been closed off
- Both transepts have been opened for use
- Encouraging the use of different exits
- POE/Ushers are posted at the other exits for collection and to manage safety
- Sunday 11 am mass has the highest attendance. We have increased the number of volunteers and separated two entrances. The doors are locked 5 minutes before mass. When the doors are locked, a 'Mass is full' sign is placed with a list of other mass options.

The average mass attendance for the last four weeks are shown below:

Saturday 5 pm	178
Sunday 9 am	247
Sunday 11 am	403
Sunday 5 pm	235

### Update on Website – Fr. Andrew

The staff sent their feedback to the website editor and the adjustments were made. Last week another review was done via Zoom and the staff learned how to manage the website. The staff, Fr. Andrew and Gerry S. were happy with the session. Today they reviewed the webpage and discussed the content on the home page. Hopefully by next week the home page will be created.

**Action:** Sarah P. to contact ministries listed on the current website and ask them to review and/or update the existing content and logo, if applicable.

### Looking for new PPC members – Fr. Andrew

We are trying our best to get more people involved however, this has proven to be difficult even with Finance Council. Personal invitations are usually the best way to bring in new members. The Parish Council Chair is required for two monthly meetings - one to prepare the agenda and the other for the PPC meeting.

**Action for all:** Let Fr. Andrew know if you know of someone who understands our purpose and would be a good fit in our Parish Council.

## New Business

### Event ideas for Advent season – Fr. Andrew

Michelle D. is organizing weekly presentations after evening mass on Tuesdays about the rules of discernment. These sessions are based on Fr. Timothy Gallagher teachings.

Fr. Andrew will have weekly reflections after evening mass on Thursdays on our spiritual journey during Advent. This will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in-person.

Other suggested ideas are:

- Caroling concert like the one that was held last year. This can be restructured to a more prayerful manner  
**Action:** Florian B. to initiate planning
- Videos for children  
**Action:** Greg V. to discuss with Sarah P.

#### Vaccination concerns within parish ministry — Greg V.

Vaccinations are not required for those who attend mass, however is it possible to have mandatory vaccination within parish ministry? Fr. Andrew read the October 13 message from the Diocese on this topic. The Parish is not in a position to issue a directive to ministry volunteers saying anything different. Choosing to vaccinate or not is a personal decision.

#### **October 13, 2021 – from the Diocese of Calgary**

**Parishes are not to ask people any proof of vaccination as they enter the church.** Nor are parishes to apply for and participate in the *Restrictions Exemption Program (REP)* of the government wherein people who are unvaccinated are required to undergo rapid testing with a negative result as a requirement for their admittance to the church.

Funeral homes and their staff, wedding families, and third party groups are not permitted to implement the REP in the parishes.

**The Diocese will not ask individuals to reveal their consciences concerning their vaccination status.** However, everyone is strongly recommended to be vaccinated and is free to decide based on their condition and conscience.

**All health and safety restrictions by the government must be followed.**

#### **On Being Vaccinated**

Vaccination helps prevent hospitalization and the burdening of hospital units which then contribute to the cancellation and postponement of life-saving medical procedures in an overwhelmed health care system. Vaccination is preventative and an act of charity in this time of pandemic.

Anyone who delivers service or ministry in the name of the Church and the Diocese must remember the obligation to keep everyone safe. In virtue of this and in respecting the jurisdiction and mandate of hospitals and health care facilities, the decision to not be vaccinated may directly impact one's ability to carry out service and ministry in secular facilities where the vaccination mandate is in place.

**Action:** Sarah P. to send Greg V.'s email to PPC members.

#### Security issues – Fr. Andrew

Some of our neighbors have raised concerns about the security of our parking lot. They feel unsafe and are frustrated with the activities that take place in the late evening / night. We are responsible for what happens on our parking lot and the only way to limit these activities is to put gates on the three entrances. Neighbors are requested to call the police, however by the time the police arrives the people have moved away. The Pastoral Centre and other parishes such as St. Thomas More, St. Peter and the Cathedral are having similar

issues are adding to their fences. One suggestion was to gate / close off the two East entrances with a camera focused on the West entrance. This will make it difficult for people to drive from one entrance and exit from the opposite side.

#### Livestream mass – what to stream during Holy Communion? – Fr. Andrew

A concern has been raised by a parishioner about the 'commercial' announcements that are shared during Holy Communion on the livestream. In place of this, they would like to witness those who are able to receive Eucharist in-person so they can feel like they are a part of the mass. They suggested that it may be better to share the announcements after mass has ended.

This was discussed at length and the following concerns were raised:

- It is not easy and almost impossible to emulate the in-person experience of receiving the Holy Eucharist
- This would be a privacy issue for those attending mass in-person. As the Communicants receive on the side aisles and then return to their pews down the centre aisle, the faces would be visible because of where our camera is situated.
- For many of those that join the livestream, this is the only opportunity to connect with them and share important information about the parish. The viewership begins to drop at the distribution of Holy Communion and drops significantly immediately afterward. If the announcements were moved to the end of the livestream it is likely that they will already have disconnected and would miss information about how to subscribe to our bulletin, volunteer in the parish or support us financially.

**Action:** Bob Y. to draft a response.

#### Adjournment

The next PPC meeting is on November 16 and Grant G. will lead us in the opening prayer. Greg V. will lead us in the opening prayer for the December 21 meeting.

Fr. Andrew closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

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Fr. Andrew (Acting Chair)

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Sarah P. (Secretary)