

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Chris Moraes, Edith Tyndall, Sarah Pereira, Erin Krysko, Bill Werbowski, Cheryll Nandee, Florian Bernardo, Santos Cuadra, Sherry Samborski, Grant Gay, Alisa McLin, Bob Young

Regrets: Greg Verhappen, David Nolke

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Erin K. read the Land acknowledgement.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Fr. Andrew opened the meeting in prayer and shared excerpts from the Gospel of Matthew in relation to today's feast day.

Organizational changes to PPC

Chris M. indicated that he will be stepping down from the position as Parish Council Chair. Please contact Fr. Andrew or Chris M. if you are interested or you know someone who would be a good candidate to fill the PPC Chair position.

Approval of minutes from June 2021

No changes were made to the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Moved by: Edith T. Seconded: Grant G. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

There have been many changes to restrictions over the summer. It has been difficult to organize ministries with the changing restrictions.

There are many parishes in the Diocese which have not been able to cover their expenses each month. The Diocese is looking at the priorities of the parishes and providing assistance with hiring staff. At St. Albert the Great, volunteers are helping to cover the duties of the secretary. The Parish Office is open on weekday mornings only.

There were 25 residential schools in the Province of Alberta. Four of them operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) were within the boundaries of the Diocese. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary did not run any residential schools. On September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, there is a webinar for parishes to understand the current situation. Priests and parish staff are encouraged to attend. The Diocese has met with First Nations. These meetings have been positive and are looking to move forward.

Parishioners are requesting for vaccination exemption letters due to religious grounds. This will be dealt with by the Bishop.

Finance Council report – Edith T. & Fr. Andrew

The financial statement for the month of August shows that the parish did well. This summary information can be found in a recent bulletin. A detailed financial report will be shared with the parishioners in October.

In August 2021, we have received a government grant of \$2,027. Funds raised by CWL from their Coffee fundraiser which went towards the mortgage.

Update on masses and volunteers – Alisa M. & Sherry S.

At the time of the last PPC meeting in June, we averaged about 200 per weekend mass and about 60 at the weekday masses.

On July 1 the restrictions were lifted and there was no limit on capacity, no requirement for contact tracing or physical distancing, congregational singing was permitted, and altar servers were welcomed back to serve. The attendance numbers increased across all weekend masses in July and August.

	Average Attendance	
	July	August
Saturday 5 pm	152	213
Sunday 9 am	258	279
Sunday 11 am	378	479
Sunday 5 pm	220	300

On September 4 the temporary mask mandate was issued by the City, and there was some confusion when the Province said the masks were not mandatory. However, we were required to comply with the City bylaws.

On September 16 restrictions additional restrictions were put back in place.

- Everyone must wear masks, except for children under 2 years of age and those medically exempt. However, we are not allowed to ask for medical exemptions. Masks are required by everyone when receiving Holy Communion.
- We were limited to one-third of fire code capacity. We decided upon the limit of 450 which includes the priests, deacon(s) and volunteers. We the limit is reached, then the doors are locked. The count is reported to the Diocese on a weekly basis.
- Physical distancing is required, so we have blocked off every other pew. Holy Eucharist is distributed via the side aisles.
- We do not have to register to attend mass because there is no contact tracing.
- We do not have to sanitize the pews but will continue to clean the high-touch areas after weekend masses.
- We are not required to use separate exits.
- We will not have to check vaccination records and should not ask as it is a personal decision.
- We are allowed altar servers and lectors, one cantor and one instrumentalist. Congregational singing is not permitted.

Last weekend attendance:

	July
Saturday 5 pm	140
Sunday 9 am	210
Sunday 11 am	441
Sunday 5 pm	221

There were many people in the nave at the 11 am mass so we are going to open East transept for seating.

The volunteers have been wonderful. They have had to deal with different things, but they managed it with grace and kindness. A volunteer barbeque was being planned but is currently on hold. We will reschedule this event when it is safe to do so.

The music ministry has a new coordinator.

Old business

Website – Chris M.

We are close to planned schedule to rolling out the new website. The feedback of the Parish Office staff is being incorporated. A meeting is scheduled to transition to the new website.

New Business

No new business discussed.

Adjournment

The next PPC meeting is on October 19 and Erin K. will lead us in the opening prayer. Grant G. will lead us in the opening prayer for the November 16 meeting.

Fr. Andrew closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)