

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Sarah Pereira, Erin Krysko, Chris Moraes, Cheryl Nandee, Florian Bernardo, Bill Werbowski, Alisa McLin, Ted McLin, Bob Young, David Nolke

Regrets: Grant Gay, Santos Cuadra, Greg Verhappen, Edith Tyndall

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

Erin K. read the Land acknowledgement.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Bob Y. opened the meeting with reflection and prayer.

Approval of minutes from December 2021

No changes were made to the December minutes and a motion was made to approve them. Moved by: Bill W. Seconded: Erin K. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped during the Advent and Christmas season. Even though the weather was extremely cold, we were able to safely have all scheduled masses. There were no changes to the restrictions from the Diocese or government. Unfortunately, the COVID numbers are increasing, so it is possible that there may be changes in restrictions which might impact our Lenten season which starts at the beginning of March.

With respect to the parking lot safety concerns that were raised recently, two Finance Council members will explore the costs to install posts to block the entrance. In the meantime, Paladin Security has been hired to monitor the parking lot three times during the night to check if it is safe or if anyone is there, they are asked to leave. We receive regular reports from Paladin and there was one incident with a car in the parking lot, but they left peacefully when asked to. Information about these changes was shared via the parish bulletin and website. There was mixed reaction as some were satisfied that their concerns were addressed, but others were disappointed because they can no longer use the parking lot for overnight parking.

Finance Council report – David N.

At the last Finance Council meeting there was a presentation regarding Refuge Family Sponsorship. Our parish has been contacted to consider sponsoring a refuge family. This will cost approximately \$60,000 - \$75,000. The Finance Council is not in a position to approve the expenditure as parishioners and volunteers will need to raise funds. The Diocese will need to be involved to approve this expense. This will be discussed in further detail later in this meeting as a separate agenda item.

In February we will share a presentation with the parishioners about our financial position at yearend December 31, 2021. We will discuss this in our next meeting. There were about many parishes within the Diocese that were in a negative balance almost every month. However, by yearend we were blessed to be at a \$68,800 positive balance. The Together in Action is complete for 2021, with the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to meet and exceed our goal.

When the Bishop had breakfast with us a few years ago, he had asked us about our 5-year plan and whether we have a capital budget. We would like to re-visit this and review the last study about what needs to be replaced. We

are aware that we have a potential flooding issue which comes at a financial risk as insurance might not cover the repairs. We will complete a study to determine a list of required repairs.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Alisa M. / Ted M. / Bob Y.

Sherry S. has stepped down from her position at Co-Lead Mass Coordinator and Saturday 5 pm Mass Coordinator. We thank her for her contributions. Bob Y. will step in to help at the Saturday 5 pm masses.

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

Masses during the Advent and Christmas season ran smoothly. Even though it was extremely cold, and we had frigid temperatures, the volunteers stepped up to help. All masses were 'sold out' and we have a 79% turnout.

Here are the attendance numbers of Christmas and New Year masses:

December 24 @ 3 pm	305
December 24 @ 6 pm	269
December 24 @ 9 pm	306
December 24 @ midnight	261
December 25 @ 9 am	239
December 25 @ 11 am	258
December 25 @ 2 pm	272
December 31 @ 5 pm	305
January 1 @ 9 am	151
January 1 @ 11 am	289
January 1 @ 5 pm	269

The average mass attendance for the last few weeks is shown below:

Saturday 5 pm	233
Sunday 9 am	176
Sunday 11 am	289
Sunday 5 pm	205

Weekend mass numbers have decreased since before Advent.

Bob Y. presented on the state of pandemic-related restrictions and how that impacted Ministries and volunteers since March 2020. He highlighted which ministries were required (e.g., Point of Entry, Ushers etc. and those that could not continue (e.g., Music Ministry, Children's Liturgy etc.). An online signup was created for volunteers which was well-received at the time and mass coordinators were appointed. As restrictions and capacities changed, the procedures were updated. We have met our goals of keeping everyone safe at mass and have not had to cancel a single mass.

He shared our learnings and that we are considering re-structuring the mass ministries and re-instating the ministry coordinators. He shared the new structure and the roles and responsibilities of the Mass Coordinators, People Ministry, Welcoming Ministry, Ushers and other continuing mass ministries. With this new structure, we would like to stop using the online volunteer scheduling. The PPC would help structure

and endorse this plan, assist with proposing candidates for the coordinators and help with recruiting new volunteers. This change will take some time to get the procedures in place and the tasks will need to be spread. The Ministry Coordinators will be trained.

Action: Bob Y. to send Sarah P. the presentation for the minutes.

Action for all: Think about people who would be a good fit for the various Ministry positions.

Action: Chris M., Grant G. and Ted M. to create an online 'Discernment of gifts' self-assessment

Update on Synod on Synodality – Chris M.

On Saturday, January 29 there is a meeting for the South Zone. This will be an Information Session with the Diocese. Fr. Andrew, Chris M. and some staff will attend. This will prepare the foundation for the path forward. We will pass this information to us in February PPC meeting.

Update on parish website – Chris M.

We are pleased to report that the new parish website is nearing completion. The Office Staff has gone through iterations of feedback and changes. This will be the platform to communicate with parishioners about how to get engaged with the parish. The parishioner who designed the website has graciously volunteered to help Gerry S. with updating the content. There will be time scheduled to complete the transition.

We are also looking to change the format of the parish bulletin. Many parishes are using Flocknote. The bulletin will be more like a webpage and it will be easier to incorporate the weekly updates from the Diocese. This new look will also integrate nicely with the new website.

New Business

Sponsoring a family – Fr. Andrew

Five years ago, a few parishes sponsored several refugee families. This is accomplished with the combined effort of the whole parish. St. Albert the Great Parish has been approached by two ladies from the Catholic Immigration Society to sponsor a refugee family. They have approached different parishes with similar requests. These refugees are Christian families from Iraq or Iran who are being persecuted over their religious beliefs. Some of them are converts from Islam to Christianity and since they denied their faith they are persecuted.

The presentation was made to the Finance Council. We need to discuss if we are able and willing to sponsor a family of four adults (mother, two daughters and the married daughter's husband). Sponsorship requires that we would be financially responsible for them for one year. If we agree to sponsor this family then they will submit their immigration application. It will likely take about two years before their application is processed. The current sponsorship amount is around \$60-61K, but in two years this might increase to \$75K. The total amount can be decreased if household or food items are donated. The family has decided to live together in one house, and this means our parish would cover rent of an apartment with two bedrooms. A Parish committee will need to be formed for fundraising. The Catholic Immigration Society will support our fundraising efforts. All PPC members in attendance supported the sponsorship of this refugee family.

Lenten Season events – Fr. Andrew

- Stations of the Cross: As in the previous year, we will have the weekly Stations of the Cross which will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend.
- Lenten Reflection: There will be one session to reflect on the last words of Jesus.

- Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: It was suggested to have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament one evening during the week.
- Come As You Are Night: There will likely be at least one event from Come As You Are.

Action: Fr. Andrew would like the PPC members to think about other ideas for the Lenten season.

Action: Sarah P. and Greg V. to decide if we will do Lenten videos for children like the ones we did for Advent.

Other

Bishop will be coming to celebrate Confirmation masses at our parish on May 1 and May 8 at 2 pm.

Adjournment

The next PPC meeting is on February 15 and Florian B. will lead us in the opening prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm. Fr. Andrew closed the meeting in prayer.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)