

**St. Albert Parish Pastoral Council**

**2008 Reports**

**for the**

**St. Albert Parish Annual Meeting**

**February 22, 2009**

**Dear Parishioners,**

Attached is a summary of the 2008 activities from the various number of committees, groups, and parish office personnel that contribute to our parish life.

Our parish team and support ministry is called to serve one of the Diocese's largest parishes. Often their dedication is taken for granted and many ongoing contributions go unnoticed. We are indebted to your elected parish council who dedicated their time to help us achieve the mission of our Parish. The following served your Council faithfully in the following capacities:

**Secretary** – Cindy Marshall

**Chair** – Walter Mis

**Community Life** – Bernie McCracken

**Finance** – Debra McLennan

**Regional/Archdiocesan Council** – Jacques Plamondon

**Pastoral Associate** – Bernice Mahoney

**Pastor** – Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, omi

**Social Justice** – Max Vandersteen

**Liturgy** – Rita McGregor

**Youth** – Colleen Mahon

**Buildings & Grounds** – Ron Bokenfohr

We will miss Walter Mis, Cindy Marshall and Jacques Plamondon who have completed their terms. We thank them for their valuable contribution to this ministry. New members coming on council are Janet Bailey, Dan Friedt, and Ron Van Halst.

Following up on the discussions at our parish council retreat in May, the council decided to set the following as our main goal for the coming year:

- **Working toward becoming a more inclusive parish community through the various means available to us, e.g. educational, social, liturgical, spiritual.**

Other 2008 objectives identified by this Council:

1. Capital fundraising to insure construction of phase 1 and phase 11 planning has continued strongly relying on the monthly "Capital Envelopes" and a significant end of year transfer from operational savings. The Building and Grounds report identifies the challenges faced where construction had to be deferred to 2008.
2. Council scheduled meetings with representatives of the various committees to enhance communication regarding parish activities and events. This was well received by those who participated.
3. Launching of the Guatemala Parish twinning project is now well underway.

The **Regional Pastoral Council** (we are paired with Holy Family) met for two formal meetings in October, 2008 which included celebration of Mass and evening of sharing between the two parish councils.

The financial report provides a snapshot of a prudent and sound financial picture.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Yours in Christ,

Walter Mis  
Chairperson

## **Agenda**

**St. Albert Parish Annual General Meeting**  
**February 22, 2009                      2:00 pm in the Parish Hall**

- ITEM 1.                      Call to Order and Spiritual reflection by Parish Council Chairperson
- ITEM 2                      Report from the Chair
- ITEM 3                      Adoption of the Agenda
- ITEM 4                      Adoption of the AGM Minutes of March 2, 2008
- ITEM 5                      Committee Reports
  - a)                      Liturgy
  - b)                      Youth
  - c)                      Social Justice
  - d)                      Community Life
  - e)                      Finance
  - f)                      Buildings and Grounds
  - g)                      Guatemala
  - h)                      Pastoral Associate
- ITEM 6                      Business of the Meeting
- ITEM 7                      Pastor's Report
- ITEM 8                      Lord's Prayer. Adjournment.

# Community Life Report 2008-2009

The Community Life Committee is indebted to those involved in the Call to Ministry for the work they accomplish every year, by surveying our parishioners to determine how each of them wishes to be involved in parish life. This past year we were blessed to have over 30 parishioners volunteer to assist with various events involving Community Life.

Completing our second year of reorganization this group has focused energies in 3 main areas.

## Parish Picnic

In June 2008 Holy Family and St Albert Parishes co-hosted this event. There was a record attendance and participation from both parish communities. The costs for the event were shared equally between the two parishes. Children's activities were organized by Sue Rokos from the "Faith and Light" group. Representatives from C.W.L. and K.of C. prepared the food, while Youth/Adult games were organized by the Parish Charity Action group. The 2009 Parish Picnic is scheduled for Sunday June 14. Mark your calendars now. Gentlemen, now is time to prepare ourselves, developing our muscles and getting in shape so we can regain our honour and win the Annual Tug of War Competition with the Parish ladies.

## Parish Fall Supper

The Fall Supper was held October 26, 2008. Thanks to the services of James and Mike of "Chef 2 Chef", and a big bouquet to the many willing folks who assisted with:

- Food donations
- Food preparation
- Hall preparation and take
- Food presentation and serving
- Bartending
- Ticket sales
- Clean up

## Other Initiatives

Members of the Community Life Committee assisted with our Annual Parish Pilgrimage working with the Charity Action Team, C.W.L. and K.of C. The Community Life Committee also provided hospitality after Parish Activities such as presentations by Mary Kieftenbeld and our Community Reconciliation Services.

I would like to thank the ladies from C.W.L. and the gentlemen from K.of C. as well as the many individuals who assisted with our parish activities during the past year. Your hard work and participation has made our community stronger! Your hours of service were very much appreciated as: **Many Hands Make Light Work**

Respectfully Submitted by

Bernie McCracken

## Annual Youth Report - 2008

Since February 2008 Youth activities at St. Albert Parish are as follows:

### February, March, April:

- Ski trip to Canmore with 21 high school youth and 3 leaders
- Assisted with leading the 'Way of the Cross' during Lent.
- Easter egg hunt at the 9:00 and 11:00am masses.
- Other activities included; soul spa night for girls, movie night, yoga(Christian) night for women of all ages, Bissell Centre service and Confirmation retreats.

### May:

- Servus Place gathering
- CIC (Christian Initiation of Children) meeting with 3 girls twice per month
- Planning and development of Camp Hands and Feet.

### June:

- Guatemalan mission visit. Activities included; visits to Canmore, Drumheller, and Lac St. Anne. Attended residential school apology at Enoch and Pigeon Lake golfing.
- Regular meeting with 4 CIC youth.

### July:

- Camp Hands and Feet: July 7-11<sup>th</sup>- children ages 5 and 6, July 14-18 children ages 7 and 8 and July 21-25- children ages 9 and 10. Olivia Clarke was hired as an assistant coordinator. Older youth assisted as volunteers.

### August:

- Attended WCACYM Youth Ministry Conference Western Association of Catholic Youth Ministers where I did 3 courses on Social Justice, Prayer and Evangelization Catechesis
- Took 8 Jr/Sr High Youth to Charismatic Youth Conference in Spokane Washington at Gonzaga University with St. Theresa's Parish

### September:

- Coffee night with 6 high school/university students. Meetings to take place twice per month for coffee and formation.
- Bissell Centre movie night (provide and serve snacks)
- Camp Hands and Feet: 52 youth attended for reflection, games and fun.

### School Involvement:

- Fr. Jan School:

Participating in the Monday morning student assembly meeting.

- St. Albert High School:

Weekly meetings with St. Albert High School 'Give a Damn Club'. Youth are trying to raise funds to build a school in Africa and students are also assisting with the Guatemala mission. I (Brittney) will teach religious studies to 15-25 youth

- Vincent J Maloney Jr. High School:

Religious Education and retreats.

- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Guatemala interest meeting.
- Sept. 26-28, Canmore horseback Retreat. Theme: Who's in charge? God's in Charge. 25 registered.
- CIC bi-monthly meetings with 3 youth.

**October:**

- On going school involvement
- Bi monthly meetings with junior and senior high school girls focusing on real life issues and prayer.
- Hands and Feet: 25 elementary age youth.
- October 18<sup>th</sup> : Attended an Archdiocesan retreat along with three junior and senior high school students
- One youth continues with CIC on a bi-monthly basis.
- 30 students at St. Albert High attending 'Give a Damn Club'.
- Assisted with Thanksgiving celebrations within various Catholic schools.

**Guatemala Mission:**

- 15 youth/young adults formed a team that will be going to Guatemala for 2 weeks in August. Group will meet bi-monthly and be responsible for one service based project, prayer, formation and reflection.

**Bissell Centre Outreach:**

- 15 youth attended the outreach and movie night.

**December and January:**

- Continue with bi monthly Camp Hands and Feet meetings. Serving from 15-62 children.
- Bi-monthly coffee meetings with youth. Youth put on a Christmas Movie night at the Bissell Center.
- Bi-Monthly meetings with one registered CIC youth

**Guatemala Mission:**

- Bi-monthly meetings, service at the Mustard Seed, Bissell Centre and the Food Bank. Julio Garcia, Canadian Youth rep. for Development and Peace did a presentation on D&P and social justice involvement in Latin/Central America.

**School Involvement:**

- Weekly meetings with St. Albert High 'Give a Damn Club'
- VJM social justice weekly lunch group 'Have A Heart'
- Ecole Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville: Assisting with community service class and individual student service projects

**Diocesan Involvement**

- St. Albert Parish is in charge of the Deanery's THINKFAST. This is being organized at the moment with assistance from Julio Garcia.
- Working on distribution of Human Trafficking kits to schools. Assisting St. Theresa's with their Confirmation IE. Presentations on Catholic Social Teaching and Service

Brittney White  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

## LITURGY COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

We established the following Mission statement for the Liturgy Committee and it was approved by Parish Council:

*Our mission is to enhance the worship of God, to support the liturgical prayer life of St. Albert Parish and to nurture the spiritual growth of our community.*

During the past year much work was done with respect to defining the Liturgy Committee. The committee consists of Father Andrzej; our pastoral associate, Bernice Mahoney; a representative from Parish Pastoral Council and the coordinator for each of the following ministries in our Parish:

- Music Ministry -
- Art and Environment Ministry
- Children's Liturgy -
- Pastoral Care Ministry
  - Hospital Ministry
  - Liturgy of Word Ministry (Chateau Mission Court)
  - Liturgy of the Word Ministry (Funeral Prayers)
  - Prayer Laudators
  - Communion to the Shut-Ins
- Ushers and Greeters Ministry
- Coordinator for scheduling Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers
- Altar Servers Ministry

Each coordinator was responsible for preparing a job description for the job that they do. These have all been completed and paper and electronic copies of these are on file at the Parish Office. These job descriptions were prepared so that in the event one of our coordinators decides to discontinue doing the job a new person stepping in has some guidelines to follow.

At each meeting we discuss what "helped my praise" and what "hindered my praise". During these discussions we also bring forward comments which have been passed on to us by parishioners.

We established what appropriate dress should be for all ministries serving during weekend celebrations.

Music ministry coordinators were contacted by a family wishing to donate a Grand Piano in memory of their daughter. They worked with the family and we now have a lovely piano to help enrich the music for our liturgies.

We accomplished many things this year thanks to the hard work of all committee members.

Anna Vollmer  
Chairperson

# Building and Grounds Report 2008

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The buildings and grounds committee would like to thank everyone who helped out this year. It was a busy year and we managed to see many projects through to completion.

## Front Entrance

Johnston builders got off to an early start which was good since the stairs took longer to complete than they expected. They were unable to drill piles as originally planned because they encountered some boulders and debris left over from the original foundations for the bell towers. Plans were revised and work proceeded with foundation walls instead of piles. Work progressed reasonably well but slowed again with the installation of the precast balustrades and handrails. We still have some work left to do. We are getting brass signage made up and installed with some floodlighting. And we will be finishing off the landscaping around the stairs in the spring.

## Replace Roof and Metal Fascia

Many parishioners did not know that we had the roof re-shingled with 35 year asphalt shingles. A Clark Roofing completed the work in a couple days. They used a 44" peel and stick membrane under the shingles in all valleys and eaves. The Galvanized metal trim that capped the gable ends and the fascia were replaced with white metal trim.

## Painting and Wood Work

Some of the window sills were in bad shape. After much investigation and discussion we decided the best plan was just to cut out and replace the rotten sections of the window sills. Also some of the trim on the cupola (the structure that sits on top of the roof above the dome) was replaced. The cupola, and all the windows including the basement, main floor, and upper level, were scraped, primed and painted with two coats of white. The church main entrance doors were stripped, sanded, and varnished. The exterior wood on the rectory was painted. The ceiling above the choir loft was patched and painted. Building Painters of St. Albert did a great job.

## What's left for 2009?

The upper section of the bell tower on the main church, with the fake aluminum bell, is beyond repair. We are planning on removing this section and replacing it with a new structure.

The bell tower on the chapel will get reinstalled this summer. Part of it blew off some years ago, and the remaining structure with the bell was removed in 2008. Because the chapel roof is so steep and it is difficult to get up there to inspect or paint a wooden bell tower, we are planning to replace it with a bell tower of similar design, made out of metal that will not require maintenance.

Ron Bokenfohr,  
Chairperson

## **St Albert Parish Social Justice Committee**

### **Annual Report for 2008**

The St Albert Parish Social Justice Committee has lost some members but gained some others since the last annual report but continues to be very active. The committee chair was transferred to Leslie Vandersteen for this year as Val Merchant stepped down to take up further duties with the Alberta and NWT board of Development and Peace. During the past year, members of the committee have attempted to carry on supporting the Parish Mission statement by promoting awareness and activity in social justice and environmental concerns for the benefit of people within our local community as well all people in our global community. In conjunction with this the Social Justice Committee has also worked in solidarity with the Development and Peace Organization, who are under the mandate of the Canadian Bishops, to foster spiritual reflection and a community connection to these concerns. The past year marked the fortieth anniversary for Development and Peace. During their annual Share Lent Campaign the committee placed a display in the church and circulated calendars and bulletin inserts illustrating the impact of unsafe mining practices by International Corporations on communities and the environment primarily in the third world. Support from the community for the efforts of Development and Peace was encouraged in the form of donations in envelopes provided on Solidarity Sunday. Although donations were down slightly from the previous year the committee would like to express their appreciation for the generosity of parish members.

Throughout this past year members of the Social Justice Committee have continued to support the Colombian family that St Albert Parish sponsored to come to Canada in 2007 and help them to assimilate in their new community.

Also during the last year the St Albert Parish Social Justice Committee has had representatives attend several St Albert Christians for Social Justice meetings and the parish has hosted some of these functions. Originated by representatives of several faith communities in St Albert the group has been attempting to determine and work together on common needs of community members. Focusing primarily on affordable housing at this time, great strides have been accomplished over this time period. Interest and/or funding have been solicited from the City of St Albert, the Province of Alberta as well as Habitat for Humanity, who will be building units in Saint Albert in the near future. The committee aims to be involved in volunteering for this effort as well.

During the St Albert Parish Lenten Mission, the Social Justice Committee hosted an evening of presentations by members involved with international social justice Non-governmental Organizations. Emir Poelzer presented on the Ecuador Medical Dental Mission; Richard LeBlanc presented on Roots of Change, which carries out ongoing missionary projects in Nicaragua; Max and Leslie Vandersteen presented on their involvement with Habitat for Humanity builds in Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Joanne & Dan Friedt also spoke about their mission experience in Brazil.

Working with the parish Youth Committee during the annual Roy Financial Mayor's Walk for Charity the committee raised awareness of the St Albert Parish Guatemala mission. By their participation and soliciting sponsors and additional participants the Social Justice committee was also successful in raising funds for the Guatemala mission's future endeavors.

The Social Justice Committee has continued to promote Fair Trade Products to support the cooperatives in South America with a fair wage as well as health and educational benefits for their families. The number of products available is increasing, as are sales during the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfasts. Fair Trade products and education were also promoted at The Star of the North Just Christmas Sale and the St Albert High School Fair Trade Week. The Social Justice Committee would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their continued use of fair trade coffee at their functions. Some funds raised through fair trade sales have been used once again to support the Ecuador Medical and Dental Mission. As well this year some funding support was also directed to Father Denis Hebert and the Roots of Change Foundation.

The committee was involved with Development and Peace again with the Fall Action Campaign. The theme this year was 'Working our land, fighting for our rights'. The goal of the campaign was to raise awareness about how the activities of Canadian International Mining Corporations affect the indigenous communities. It also reiterated a request to the Canadian Government to install an impartial ombudsperson to oversee the actions of the mines and companies. Although this action was promised after last year's campaign the Canadian government has taken no steps to implement any recommendations agreed upon by themselves and the corporations as well. Committee members placed more educational material and reflections in bulletin inserts, once again placed the display about mining in the church and collected close to three hundred and fifty signed postcards to forward to Development and Peace. D&P will collect cards from all of the Catholic churches in the Edmonton archdiocese and will pass them on to the Canadian Government.

As the committee did last year, we once again raised funds to assist the medical and dental mission to Ecuador that Emir and Lindsay Poelzer along with Rebecca Krauskopf, of St Albert Parish, participate in yearly. A raffle of Ecuadorian handicrafts, fair trade goods, and other items was held during the Knights of Columbus breakfast in December, which raised just about \$1000. The Social Justice Committee also expresses their gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for donating another additional \$400 to the mission. This money was presented to Dr Manuel Avila for distribution to families requiring assistance while receiving treatment from the mission facility.

Also at different times throughout the year the Social Justice Committee donated DVD movies to the Parish Library. These movies are all centered around social justice issues and abuses throughout local and international communities.

A sincere thank you must go out to all committee members for their ongoing efforts and hard work. The Social Justice committee would also like to thank the St Albert Parish Council and the community members for their assistance and continued support.

## **St Albert Parish Guatemala Committee**

### **Annual Report for 2008**

St Albert Parish received three visitors from Guatemala in June. Although at times the language barrier was difficult the group was housed with parish members and kept busy with a multitude of activities including cultural events, sightseeing and parish activities. The cultural interchange was very valuable in building relationships for the future of the mission.

Although included in the parish Call to Ministry in September a parish Guatemala committee has not been formally initiated. The Guatemala Young Adult Team is based out of the Parish and meets bimonthly- one meeting for prayer and formation and the other for an inner city outreach project in the community. In addition, the group will be exposed to various speakers and educational experiences leading up to the actual trip to Guatemala in July of 2009. As for the parish group going, there will be fundraisers inside of and outside of the Parish. Basically the way it works is that the people going both pay for their ticket to go through saving and fundraising. Any additional fundraising goes directly to projects in Guatemala depending upon the need at the time. Contact with Fr. Gerry in Guatemala indicates that there are two orphanages willing to take the group in this summer to assist where possible. Also approximately ten St. Albert High Students and Religion Teacher Lynne Zakreski are interested in a mission trip in July... approx seven days as well.

#### **UPCOMING:**

#### **FEBRUARY:**

Preliminary organizational trip to Guatemala – Brittney White, Father Andrzej

#### **MAY:**

Silent Auction and dinner to raise funds for the mission trip; excess proceeds will go directly to families & projects in Guatemala. Any monetary assistance or items for the auction would be greatly appreciated.

## PASTORAL ASSOCIATE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

2008 has been a very busy year as usual in the various areas of ministry in which I am involved. While some ministries continue as usual, the year has brought some changes as we attempt to respond to the changing needs of the parish and larger community.

We extended a grateful thank you to Mary Dugas for all her work with the RCIA children's group (CIC) over the past few years. Mary will continue to assist on an occasional basis as will Danielle Lutes. We welcomed Cecelia Munro to the team. Cecelia works in this ministry with Kim Opalinsky who was new to the team last year.

After several years as a regular member of the RCIA team (a number of them as coordinator), Irene Wilson is lending her talents and knowledge to a different area of ministry. With the assistance of Janet Bailey, she has organized a bi-weekly Bible study focused on the writings of St. Paul. Irene continues to assist with RCIA dismissal.

In the area of adult faith education, there have been some continuing efforts as well as some new developments. We have continued with Advent and Lenten reflection booklets as well as guest presenters. Mary Kieftenbeld led us in an evening of prayer and reflection for Advent. In October, Sr. Rosaleen Zdunich gave a presentation on Being Authentically Christian in a Multi-faith Community. We hope to have retired Bishop Denis Croteau come on the weekend of May 2/3 to speak at our Guatemala dinner and also at all Masses for World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We have promoted Archdiocesan educational opportunities such as the Nothing More Beautiful series.

New developments: Our committee has undergone a change of name to Adult Faith Formation Committee (previously Adult Education) as the new name is more comprehensive and better reflects the broad areas of involvement as well as the content and methods employed in this ministry. This year, we decided to try and reach out to what we consider is an under-represented demographic in our parish – families of young children. An anonymous survey of parents coming for first Communion preparation provided some insight. Concerns of these parents included: balancing work and family life (a major one), kids and drugs, kids and sexuality, elderly parents. Church attendance in this group was down but children's activities were popular. Over half of those who responded indicated that they would find various electronic media resources helpful. One of the ways that we plan to respond to this is by providing information about and access to such resources. A further development is in regard to the parish library. Responding to the lack of use of the library in its current state, the difficulty in getting new volunteers, and the need to reach out more to a younger generation, the library will be open on pancake breakfast Sundays. However, parishioners who are using the library at other times, e.g., for meetings, will be able to take out materials on an honour system. We will be looking at our current resources, recycling some that have outlasted their use to our parish, adding some new ones geared to a younger generation. Thanks to Geneva Lander and her team of volunteers for all their hard work.

In the area of sacramental preparation, we have added new members to our baptism team. Numbers for Baptism, first Reconciliation, and first Communion remain fairly steady while numbers for Confirmation have dropped substantially.

Our dedicated pastoral care ministry is now represented on our liturgy committee. These are people who take communion to the sick in their homes and in the hospital, lead liturgies of the

Word at various facilities, assist with the hospital Mass and lead prayers for funeral vigils. Each year, we try to have at least one morning or evening retreat or workshop for all of those involved in pastoral care ministry.

Our Call to Ministry survey was held over three weekends in September. After trying a ministry fair for the past couple of years with little response, we have decided to drop that part of the Call to Ministry. Instead, we want to focus on various ministries at “natural” times during the year, e.g. have individuals involved in our pastoral care ministries speak at Masses on the weekend that we have anointing of the sick. By doing so, we hope to interest more people in our various ministries. As our long serving people retire, there is an increasing need to bring new people on board.

As the staff and parish pastoral council (and some of you) already know, I will be retiring at the end of August. I have enjoyed very much my years here at St. Albert Parish. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with a parish team and parishioners who are inclusive, who make social justice a priority, and who are able to honor the past while looking to the future. I want to thank Fr. Andrzej, Evelyn, Brittney, Kristen, Deanne, and our custodians, past and present, for all of their support, cooperation, and encouragement over the past few years. A big thank you as well to the many dedicated volunteers, too numerous to name, without whose assistance my job would have been impossible. As you prepare to celebrate your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish community, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire you in your task of spreading the Good News to a new generation.

Sincerely,

Bernice Mahoney,  
Pastoral Associate

## **Pastor's Annual Report – 2008**

In January 2008 we called for nominations to replace three outgoing members of our parish pastoral council. As only three names were put forward, these three were elected by acclamation. They were: Rita McGregor, Colleen Mahon and Debra McLennan. Our Parish Council plays a very important role in our parish because the decisions we make are made through the Council with input from the committees and individual parishioners.

There were changes in some in the staff. JP Belanger (Youth Ministry Coordinator) was replaced by Brittney White.

Details of the programs and activities offered in our Parish are included in the individual reports of the committees that are active in our Parish.

Pastoral statistics for 2008:

Baptisms – 114

Confirmation – 96

Marriages – 45

First Communion – 95

Deaths – 71

Some highlights of 2008:

- Lenten Mission on our experiences in Ministering in the “Third World” countries.
- Advent Reflection with Mary Kieftenbeld
- Social events in the parish
- Adult faith education series
- Capital renovations projects
- Social Justice activities

We hope to continue developing our existing programs and ministries as well as exploring new ways of serving our parish.

I would like to thank all the parishioners for their support and involvement in our parish's life.

Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, o.m.i.

Pastor, St. Albert Parish.