



***“Working toward becoming a more
inclusive parish community”***

St Albert Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting

March 5, 2011, 4:00 pm, Parish Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Spiritual Reflection
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes of 2010 AGM
5. Parish Council Chair's Report
6. Bylaws and Motion
7. Financial Report
8. Pastor's Report
9. Q & A
10. Adjournment – 4:45 pm

St. Albert Parish Pastoral Council Report 2010-11

This has been an exciting year for our parish and we are pleased to share this Annual Report with you. For the past two years we have taken steps to accomplish our goal of **“Working toward becoming a more inclusive parish community.”** To achieve this goal we have identified two major areas of focus which have driven our activities: meaningful liturgical celebrations and increased faith formation. The successes of this past year are the result of a very supportive and visionary Pastor, Father Andrzej, who has provided leadership, spiritual guidance and trust to the Parish Pastoral Council and our parishioners, challenging us all to work together and take ownership of achieving these goals. Special thanks goes to the members of Parish Council and all the committees, ministers and volunteers that that have worked so willingly to truly make us a more inclusive and vibrant faith community. This report outlines the progress made in the past year.

Rita McGregor, PPC Chair

Liturgy Planning Committee

This is a newly constituted committee led by Father Andrzej that meets regularly to plan the liturgical celebrations. The committee has representatives from Parish Council, Arts & Environment, Music and the MC's. Together, the committee plans future seasons and liturgies. The addition of the MC's for each Mass has given a dynamic flow and energy to the celebrations and celebrants are made welcome and invited to worship. With our new multi-media equipment we can use many more songs of worship during our celebrations. There is an increased connectivity within the many and various music ministry groups as we learn new music and work more closely together to build liturgies that are filled with spirit and energy. New ideas are being integrated into the decor of our church as we continue to highlight specific symbols and decorations that help us to pray and keep our eyes focused on Jesus.

Community Life Committee

This committee, with many volunteers, truly contributes to the life and spirit of our parish community throughout the year. Seven parishioners offer drives to church every Sunday to five other parishioners. Pastoral care volunteers take Ministry of the Word and the Eucharist regularly to seniors in care facilities and those in hospitals. The solemnity and fellowship of our Lenten and Advent Penitential Celebrations are enhanced by the receptions that follow. The spirit and joy of Easter was increased by the gathering at the Easter Vigil Champagne reception. At times, the Community Life Committee collaborates with the CWL, the Knights of Columbus and the World Youth Day team to make events even more special. The Parish Picnic provided food and fun to over 500 parishioners. The Parish Pilgrimage was another successful event that allowed parishioners to gather for worship and fellowship. The Harvest Supper was a sold out event and a wonderful evening for all.

Social Justice Committee

This dedicated group of volunteers continues to make a difference both within the parish and without. As part of the St. Albert Christian's for Social Justice, they have helped to promote affordable housing in St. Albert. They promote Fair Trade Coffee in our community and are leading the drive to eliminate plastic water bottles. Once again parishioners have sponsored three of our members to serve in the Ecuador Medical-Dental Mission. The committee also publicizes and promotes Development and Peace issues and initiatives. A recent meeting of the Social Justice Committee and Parish Council was an important step in establishing common goals and communication.

150th Anniversary Committee

We have been able to experience two events in our Jubilee year – the launch and the tribute to the Grey Nuns and Oblates. Both have been spectacular in their own unique ways and we congratulate the committee for its ideas, hard work, attention to detail, and faith, love, and hope. We look forward to the rest of this very special year.

Building and Grounds

The work of this committee is ongoing. 2010 was a year with less activity as the stairs were completed and the steeple and parking lot were put on hold. These will be dealt with in late 2011 or 2012. Some work on the grotto will also be accomplished this year.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry at St. Albert Parish has been focused on creating fun social activities as well as service opportunities that welcome youth from within and outside the parish community. The Hands and Feet summer camp in July 2010 was a hugely successful and fun three weeks that brought children and teenaged volunteers into the church, showing them that church is a comfortable and welcoming place for them. The school year kicked off with a weekend retreat to Canmore where junior and senior high youth had a great time horse-back riding, playing games, hiking, and making new friends. This time away from home also lent itself to spiritual formation, reflection, and deep conversation.

The Hands and Feet day program, taking place once or twice a month on Saturdays, has seen a great deal of growth since September. Upwards of twenty children attend each program, participating in games, faith lessons, crafts, and fun activities. This program is a fantastic way to get young people excited about church at an early age and this excitement was contagious when the children enthusiastically led music for Saturday evening mass in November. Mairi Irene McCormick, the Youth and Music Ministry Associate, is hoping to build on the success of this event by beginning a children's choir in the new school year. Young children also took on a leadership role during the Christmas Eve family mass where they prepared and performed a nativity pageant. Confirmation candidates and high school students from within the community have also learned leadership skills through volunteering at Hands and Feet, themselves developing their abilities to welcome and accept these young children into our parish.

Mairi Irene has been helping Brittney in preparing and planning fundraising events for the World Youth Day pilgrims, giving these young adults a chance to welcome their friends and family members as well as parishioners for social gatherings in the church hall, including a movie night, coffeehouse night, and Italian dinner. There are plans to involve junior and senior high school students in more leadership roles during our weekend masses by working on our new audio visual system. By beginning a Sunday evening youth liturgy that will be developed in the upcoming weeks, we will welcome young people to be involved through their attendance, through leading worship as part of a youth band, and serving as lectors, ushers and greeters.