



## Clarkfork Catholic Communities

St. John the Baptist Parish † St. Albert the Great Parish † St. Mary Queen of Heaven  
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### Pastoral Council Update

On Monday, January 16, members from each of our communities gathered to 'Come and See' the vision for a Pastoral Council for our communities. I sincerely thank everyone who could attend. Here is a summary of our time together.

Each community already has a parish committee that sees to the details of each parish; i.e., replacing sidewalks, doors and planning various events. These committees are important and will continue. We also have a Finance Council that sets and monitors our budget. But we have a real need for a common **Pastoral Council** that will help us create a plan that allows us to move more deeply into Christ's call for our community. I am calling this new Pastoral Council to develop a shared vision and plan for our parish communities and to continually evaluate our progress as we move forward with the plan.

The reason I feel so strongly that we need such a Pastoral Council is that we need to move from maintenance mode – where we make sure the lights are on and we have Mass – to becoming the growing, healthy community that God is calling us to become. We will need members from each community on the council to make this a reality.

I would like our parishes to exhibit four characteristics: 1) **Shared leadership**, I can't do this alone, I need you, and all of us are called to share our talents in bringing this vision to life. 2) **Excellent Liturgies** – we can't just settle for good enough. God deserves better and so do we. 3) **Opportunities to grow in faith** – each member needs to develop as disciples. 4) **Reach out to others** – Pope Francis continues to remind us that we must reach out and invite others in, to share in God's love.

So, where do we go from here? First, please keep our parish communities and this process in your personal prayers. Second, prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a member of the Pastoral Council. Third, we will hold a membership discernment meeting on **February 13 at 7:00 pm** at **St. Albert's, Alberton**.

Some resources that will be used by the Council include these books: *Divine Renovation: Moving from Maintenance to Mission* by Fr. James Mallon and *Great Catholic Parishes* by William E. Simon, Jr. Please let me know if you have any questions! All God's blessings to you and our communities!