**ST. DAMIAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022, 7:00 PM**

**2022-23 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**: President – Adam Fuehne, Vice President – Mech Toennies, Secretary - Denise Luitjohan

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**: Adam Fuehne, Mech Toennies, Shannon Sanders, Norm Horstmann, Marvin Wuebbels, Florence Jansen.

Ex-officio members: Father Steven Beatty, Deacon Glenn Netemeyer, Virgil Jansen, Arlene Korte, Deacon Kevin Templin (absent)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**: Salvador Tehandon, Denise Luitjohan, , Kay Toennies

**ALSO PRESENT:** Anita Rakers – Finance Committee Member, Al Varel

**OPENING**: Father Steven opened the meeting with a prayer.

**BUILDING & MAINTENANCE/CEMETERY:**

Al Varel stated that there is approximately $16,700 presently in the cemetery fund. There are plans for refreshing around the crucifix and statues, continued cleaning the older gravestones, and he would like to check into the possibility of pouring concrete strips in the area behind the Crucifix where trees were removed and use this area for cremains. Root removal and groundwork will be needed in that area. Parish council members were in approval of his recommendation and Anita will check with the other Finance Committee members. Superintendent Dustin Nail was unable to attend this meeting for any updates. Adam mentioned that two pin oak trees in front of the rectory next to the church would be good to remove before they get too large and possibly cause damage. Arlene mentioned of another for removal also. Adam will get a quote for this. Al told the council that termites were found in the rectory garage. Darryl treated the area and will keep checking on it.

**DEACON/FAITH FORMATION REPORT:** Faith Formation classes for this year start Monday August 22. Denise plans on having a vacation Bible School next summer and the planning is in the very early stages. Children’s Liturgy will start at the weekend Masses when St. Damian’s has the Sunday morning Mass, this will start on October 2. St. Bernard’s will celebrate an outdoor Mass on Labor Day weekend. There will be a Liturgy Committee meeting at 6:00 pm on October 3rd at the St. Damian’s offices. First Reconciliation will be on Dec 11th and First Communion is set for May 6,2023. Confirmation for the St. Damian Faith Formation 7th and 8th graders will be this coming year but a date has not been set yet. A diocesan sponsored pilgrimage to the Holy Land is Nov 28-Dev 9th, led by Father Steven.

**FR BEATTY/ LITURGY:** Fr. Steven told the council of wanting to host a Mission for Evangelization, called “The 99”, probably involving both parishes, once a week for 6 weeks. Usually, the best time would be during Lent. There would need to be a Leadership master class before starting. He showed the council a short segment of it at the meeting. More definite plans will be made at the next council meeting in October.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Adam inquired about setting up a parish text, similar to what the village does, to let parishioners know about Mass times, parish events cancellations due to weather, etc. Fr. Steven knows some parishes use “Flock Note” which is approximately $36 per month. We could also hand out something in church for those who would be interested in receiving texts. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

We have new LED light bulbs that need to be installed in the area in front of the rectory and the marque, these have been supplied by Ameren.

**ADJOURNMENT**: Father Steven closed the meeting with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00PM

**Minutes recorded by Mech Toennies and submitted by Denise Luitjohan**

**As always, all parish council meetings are open to the public. Please inform the parish secretary if you would like to speak to a topic or voice a concern so it can be added to the agenda.**