**ST. DAMIAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023**

**2022-23 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS:** President – Adam Fuehne,

Vice President – Mech Toennies, Secretary – Denise Luitjohan

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adam Fuehne, Mech Toennies, Kay Toennies, Florence Jansen, Emily Schirmer,

**EX-OFFCIO:** Fr. Matthew Elie, Deacon Kevin Templin (not present)

Deacon Glenn Netemeyer, Arlene Korte, Virgil Jansen, Anita Rakers

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Denise Luitjohan, Norm Horstmann and Roger Toennies

Fr. Elie opened the meeting with a prayer. Fr. Elie was welcomed to the meeting as this was his first Parish Council meeting.

**GUEST**: Lacey Arentsen was present at the meeting on behalf of the school to request permission to install concrete and picnic tables on the east side of the school facing Park Lane to be used for outdoor classrooms occasionally and also to be able to block off the road just south of the school between Park Lane and Cemetery Rd. when students are in that area. The Council agreed to these requests.

Adam reported that Al Varel contacted him regarding the flat roof above the meeting room and back entrance in the rectory is in need of repair. The members agreed to making the necessary repairs. Adam will check with Joe Kehrer and see if Kehrer Roofing will donate some or all of this expense. Also, better lighting is needed behind and on the side of the rectory. The council members agreed to this and J.F. Electric will be contacted about this matter.

**Deacon Glenn’s report:** Faith Formation starts Monday August 21, with the same teachers, although there is no sub/floater this year yet. Mater Dei Senior Simon Toennies will be helping with teaching also. Liturgy committee will meet Sept. 7 First Reconciliation is planned for Dec. 3 at 1p.m. at St. Damian. First Communion is tentatively set for Saturday May 4, 2024. There will be no confirmation at St. Damian this school year.

There is still a vacancy on the council. It was discussed that there will be an effort to try to have Hispanic representation.

Also, no parent of a student has agreed to be the parish representative on the Mater Dei Board. It is a 3 year term.

There was a discussion of what is considered “an active parishioner” concerning if the parish should be asked to be partially financially responsible for students who want to attend Mater Dei but request financial assistance. An active parishioner “attends, donates and supports” their parish.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Fr. Elie closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes taken by Mech Toennies

**Next meeting: Oct. 17,2023**

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