

**ST. DAMIAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016 7:00PM**

**1. 2016-2017 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS:** President - Dave Kassen, Vice-President - Kathy Gonsalves, Secretary - Geri Varel

**2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fr. Anthony, Dave Kassen, Geri Varel, Pete Toennies, Jan Mank, Tina Tonnie, & JoAnn Koerkenmeier.

**3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Deacon Glenn, Clay Lynch, Virgil Jansen, Kathy Gonsalves, Anita Arentsen, Gary Arentsen

**4. OTHER ATTENDEES:** None

**5. OPENING:** Fr. Anthony opened the meeting with a prayer.

**6. MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 2016 MEETING:** The minutes of the 21 June 2016, meeting were approved by council members via email and published to the congregation on 2-3 July, 2016.

**7. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:** The Council welcomed Fr. Anthony Onyango to St. Damian. His first month has gone well and he is happy to be here leading the Parish Partnership at St. Damian/St. Bernard.

**8. PARISH LIFE:**

- Consideration was given to a possible 5-10 ten year plan for Parish Partnership. As we progress through the Diocesan Parish Restructuring Plan, the use of the parish houses in both parishes was discussed as well as the current structural issues associated with both parish houses. Also discussed feasibility of having parish offices co-located at St. Damian and the priest residence remaining at St. Bernard. More details will be discussed as the parish partnership between St. Damian/St. Bernard progresses.
- Fr. Anthony proposed conducting a parish survey to see how parishioners feel about their parish and what parishioners are interested in and what their expectations are regarding mass, activities, etc in their parish. No objections.

**9. FINANCE:**

- The financial reports for June and July 2016, were reviewed and approved.
- The Annual Financial & Budget Report will be emailed to all parishioners that have email and additional copies will be provided at the church entrances for those who don't have email.
- Info regarding ACH Deposits - An ACH Deposit is a simple and dependable way to make your donations to the church. ACH deposits are set up by each individual parishioner to have their church contributions automatically transferred from their own personal checking/savings accounts into the St. Damian account at FCB Bank. FCB provides a statement to Jeanne so that she can record the donations at the parish level. The ACH process alleviates having counters physically count the donations, takes care of those times when you may forget to bring your envelope to church, and also alleviates possible human-errors made by those handling the envelopes. Making donations via ACH is a simple & dependable process. Additional information will be provided to all St. Damian Parishioners so that they can make an informed decision regarding electronic donations via ACH.
- Picnic Report - Thanks to all who helped out at the parish picnic. Still awaiting some bills to come in. A final profit amount will be reported when all bills are received and paid.

**10. LITURGY:**

- Effective August 1, 2016, the weekday mass schedule changed. Mass will be at St. Damian on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Masses at St. Bernard will remain on Tuesdays & Thursday mornings. No mass or communion service on Fridays.
- It was confirmed that St. Damian and St. Bernard does have joint-parish liturgy committee meetings twice a year — one in the Fall to discuss Advent/Christmas liturgies and another meeting in the Spring to discuss Lent/Easter liturgies. Committee members include parish leadership, organists, music directors, sacristans and anyone else who organizes these liturgies.

**11. CATECHETICAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORT:**

- CYM - No report.
- Faith Formation - St. Damian will begin its Faith Formation program with mass on Monday, Aug 22. The children will attend mass on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:40am. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- The annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled at St. Damian on Sunday, August 14, 2016, from 1:00 - 4:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help with the activities. The theme is "Surf Shack - Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love". Contact Robbin or Deacon Netemeyer for additional info.

**12. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:**

- The Men's Holy Name - No report.
- Altar Sodality - No report.

**13. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:**

- The coat of water sealant applied by Warnecke Restoration Services on the south and east walls of the parish house late last year appears to be working. Decision made to monitor the issue and table repairs to the plaster at this time. Item tabled.
- No new info regarding removal of the Cemetery trees and replacement of the flag pole.
- A deflector was put on the A/C vent on the west wall of Church (near baptismal font). The paint doesn't appear to be getting any worse. Area will be monitored. Item tabled.
- The floor tiles under the swinging doors at the main entrance of church were repaired. Item complete.
- Speaker System in Church - Problems are still being reported regarding the sound system. Recommendation made to seek estimates to re-do the sound system. Swing City in Collinsville recently did work on the sound system at St. Teresa in Belleville. Tech Electronics did work on the sound system at St. George. Geri will contact both companies, plus at least one other, to see if they would come out to assess the sound system and provide estimates to repair/replace the system and possibly provide listening devices for those with impaired hearing.
- Landscaping in front of the parish house - Old trees & bushes were removed and new rock put in. Item complete.

#### **14. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Gluten Free Hosts - No new info. Additional research will need to be done to see how many people would be interested in received a gluten-free host at Communion. These types of hosts are available from our current supplier. If there is a definite interest within our parish family, parishioners are asked to contact the parish office or any parish council member, to state that you are interested. Additional research will also be done to see how these hosts are distributed in other parishes who offer them.

#### **15. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A recommendation was made to power wash the stone that was exposed on the parish house when the old trees & bushes were removed. If anyone is willing to accomplish this task, please contact any of the parish council members.
- Fr. Anthony advised that this year's Priest Convocation will be held in St. Louis September 12-16, 2016.
- Fr. Anthony will be out of town for 2 weeks in January 2017.
- A thank-you note was received from Steve Schomaker, Mayor of Albers, thanking the parish and the village for letting them use some of our equipment and picnic tables at their 125 Celebration.
- A request was made asking if the grassy area near the catalpa trees could be used to put 2 soccer goals for kids to play with. No objection.
- Request from Bob Rapp to put a framed picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the niche area in the gathering space at church. The statue currently occupying that space will be returned to it's owner. No objection.

#### **16. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Update on cemetery trees & flag pole
- Update on the Diocesan search for a new Hispanic Minister
- Update on ACH Deposits.
- Update on use of gluten-free hosts.
- Update on Our Lady of Guadalupe niche.
- Parish Partnership progress.
- Final Picnic Report.
- Date & Time of Fall Liturgy Committee Meeting
- Final Report - VBS
- Update on Church Speaker System.
- Joint Parish Holiday Dinner - St. Damian Hosting - Set a Date and Time

**17. NEXT MEETING:** Next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at 7:00pm in the parish meeting room.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. Fr. Anthony closed the meeting with a prayer.

**As always, all parish council meetings are open to the public.  
Please inform the parish secretary (588-4323 or 979-5933)  
if you would like to speak to a topic or voice a concern,  
so it can be added to the agenda.**