

ST. DAMIAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 7:00PM

- 1. 2016-2017 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS:** President - Dave Kassen, Vice-President - Kathy Gonsalves, Secretary - Geri Varel
- 2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deacon Glenn, Dave Kassen, Geri Varel, Pete Toennies, Clay Lynch, Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnies, & JoAnn Koerkenmeier.
- 3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jan Mank, Virgil Jansen & Anita Arentsen
- 4. OTHER ATTENDEES:** None
- 5. OPENING:** Dave Kassen opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 6. MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING:** The minutes of the February 9, 2016, meeting were approved by council members via email and published to the congregation on March 15-16, 2016.
- 7. HISPANIC MINISTRY:** The search committee will meet in early May to discuss status of the Hispanic Minister position.
- 8. PARISH LIFE:** The Parish Council elections took place on March 5-6, 2016. Newly elected Parish Council members are JoAnn Koerkenmeier and Anita Arentsen. The Council welcomed JoAnn at the meeting and will welcome Anita at the June meeting. The council thanked Tina Tonnies for agreeing to a second 3-year term. The council wishes to thank Arlene Korte and Diana Jansen for their 6 years (2 terms) of service to the parish. An election of new officers occurred at the meeting. Dave Kassen was nominated as Parish Council President. He accepted the nomination and was voted in as the 2016-2017 President. Kathy Gonsalves volunteered to serve as the Vice President and Geri Varel volunteered to serve as the Secretary for 2016-2017.
- 9. FINANCE:** The financial reports for February 2016 and March 2016 were reviewed and approved.

10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

Fr. Jack lost his battle with cancer and passed away on April 8, 2016, at the Hinke Residence. For the time being, substitute priests will assist both parishes as needed on the weekends and there will continue to be communion services on Mon & Fri at St. Damian and Tues & Thurs at St. Bernard for the remainder of the school year. It is unknown when a new priest will be assigned. Hierarchy for a Parish in absence of a Priest is as follows: Bishop - Vicar General - Parish Trustees - Parish Council - Deacon.

FOLLOW-UP NOTE: Deacon Glenn received a call from Steve Joyce (Fr. Jack's brother) on April 18, to say that Fr. Jack's remains were cremated and he was buried in a private burial at Ruma on Sunday, April 17. Per Fr. Jack's wishes, a memorial mass will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 7:00pm at St. Bernard Church. All are invited to attend.

11. LITURGY:

- Holy Week services were well attended in both parishes. Thanks to all who prepared for and attended the services.
- The mass for Confirmation was held on April 6. The mass was well attended. Bishop Braxton was very complimentary of the confirmation students, teachers, the congregation, and the preparation for the mass. Thanks to everyone who prepared for or took part in this parish event.
- Since we will not have a priest during the weekdays for the unforeseeable future, Deacon Glenn asked for input regarding whether there is a desire to have communion services 4 days a week (2 at St. D and 2 at St. B) during the summer months when the children are not in school. If anyone has a strong preference that communion services continue 4 days a week, please contact Deacon Glenn at 248-5134. If the majority of attendees at weekday services feel that one communion service per week during the summer months would be acceptable, please contact the Deacon Glenn at 248-5134 to state which day of the week would be preferred (either Mon or Fri at St. Damian / either Tues or Thurs at St. Bernard). The final decision will be based on what those who attend the morning services would like to do. Please contact Deacon Glenn to voice your opinion.
- The picnic weekend mass schedule was discussed and it was decided to keep the mass schedule as it has been in the past with masses at 4:00 and 5:30 on Saturday and 8:30am on Sunday.

12. CATECHETICAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORT:

- First Communion at St. Damian is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 4:00pm (note time change). All parishioners are encouraged to attend and show support for the 4 little boys in the first communion class. The Youth Choir will lead the singing.
- Kevin Templin will continue his studies in the Diocese Deacon Program for 2 more years.
- Faith Formation - St. Damian will be losing the 6th grade Faith Formation teacher for the 2016-17 school year. If anyone in the parish would like to serve in this position or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Deacon Glenn at 248-5134. The Faith Formation program operates during the 9-month school year from 7:40am-8:25am on Tues-Wed-Thurs and includes bringing the kids to mass/communion services on Mon & Fri mornings during the school year.
- The Faith Formation classes are planning to do a Balloon Rosary in May in memory of Fr. Jack. The date will be published in the bulletin.

- Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) - No report.
- **13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:**
- The Ladies Sodality 4-Hand Euchre Tournament was held on Friday, March 4. Profit was \$2163.51. Thanks to all who worked and attended the event.
- The Men's Holy Name hosted their annual Wurstmarkt on Palm Sunday, March 20. Bills are still coming in.

14. 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. The Finance Committee recommended that the parish seek quotes to repair the interior water damage in both south bedrooms and furnace room upstairs. Item tabled.
- Cemetery trees and flag pole situation will be brought up at the next Holy Name meeting. Item tabled.
- New sidewalks around the parish house will be brought up at the next Holy Name meeting. Item tabled.
- It was reported that the paint on the west wall and baseboard of church (near the baptismal font) is peeling. A deflector was put on the A/C vent to see if it makes a difference. Item tabled.
- There was a discussion regarding the sound system in church. The sound has not been the same since the church was remodeled. Recommendation made to try removing the covering that was put on the speakers to see if it makes a difference.
- There was a discussion regarding dim lighting in the balcony due to the new high-efficiency bulbs which were installed during the church remodel. Recommendation made to install higher wattage bulbs in the balcony to see if it makes a difference.

15. OLD BUSINESS:

- Joint Parish Directory: The new parish directories were received and all have been distributed. If anyone would like to purchase a spare directory or if you know someone who might like a directory, please contact Geri Varel at 248-5134. Price is \$10 per book.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- Communion Hosts - New quotes will be obtained from the current provider of our communion hosts and also Christian Wolf Inc in Bartleso to compare current pricing.
- If anyone is interested in being added to the list of people who count collections on Sunday mornings, please let Jeanne know at 979-5933.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Update on cemetery trees, flag pole and concrete sidewalk around the parish house.
- Holy Name report (Wurstmarkt)
- Next step for repair of water damage in parish house.
- Update on church speakers.
- Update on balcony lighting
- Update on west wall near the baptismal font

18. NEXT MEETING: Next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 7:00pm in the parish meeting room.

19. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

**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.**