

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 7:00pm

1. CURRENT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014 ARE: President – Arlene Korte;
Vice President – Bob Innes; Secretary – Geri Varel

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Jack, Arlene Korte, Diana Jansen, Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnies & Geri Varel. The Council welcomed Dave Kassen as the newest member of the Parish Council (2014-2017).

3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Deacon Glenn, Bob Innes, Virgil Jansen, Gary Arentsen, Jan Mank

4. OTHER ATTENDEES: Pete Toennies, Parish Council Trustee; Steve Horstmann & Dennis Fuehne, Reps from St. Damian Holy Name Sodality.

5. OPENING: Fr. Jack opened the meeting with a prayer.

6. MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING: The minutes of the February 11, 2014, meeting were approved via email and published to the parishioners weekend of 22-23 February 2014.

7. HISPANIC MINISTRY: No report.

8. PARISH LIFE:

- Meeting of the North Central Vicariate (formerly known as the North Central Deanery) was held on February 20, 2014, and it went well. Thanks to all who helped with the meal.
- Kelly Arentsen volunteered to serve as the St. Damian Parish Representative on the Mater Dei Board.

9. FINANCE:

- The general financial reports were reviewed. One correction was noted – The checking account balances should be dated April 4, 2014, vice March 4, 2014. The finance reports were accepted.

10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

- Election of Parish Council Officers: The election of new officers for 2014-2015 is pending finalization due to absence of one of the current officers. This item will be revisited during the June meeting.

11. LITURGY:

- A Lenten outreach effort began on Ash Wednesday. There is a metal bowl in the main entrance of both churches where parishioners can deposit spare change. All proceeds will benefit the local “Rice Bowl” effort.
- Joint Parish Palm Sunday services on April 13-14: St. Bernard 5:00pm, April 13
St. Damian 9:00am, April 14
- Holy Thursday mass will be held on April 17 at St. Damian, 7:00pm
- Good Friday mass schedule: April 18, St. Damian 2:00pm; Hispanic 7:00pm ; St. Bernard 7:00pm
- Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil mass: April 19, St. Bernard 7:00pm
- Easter Sunday Masses: April 20, Regular Schedule - St. Damian 8:30am; St. Bernard 10:00am
Hispanic 11:00am

12. CATECHETICAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORT: (aka Deacon Glenn)

- CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY:

- Twelve youth from St. Damian and St. Bernard participated in the Diocesan Youth Conference.
- Bowling night on April 5 took in approximately \$500.00. Everyone had a great time.
- Soup Supper – Thanks to all who participated. Jackie Toennies was awarded the “Golden Ladle” Award for her delicious Chicken Gnocci soup.
- There will be a Moonlight Easter Egg hunt on the St. Damian parish grounds on 13 April.

- FAITH FORMATION (FF) PROGRAM:

- First Communion Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2014, 9:00-Noon.

- FIRST COMMUNION: Second graders at St. Damian will receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist on May 4, 2014, at 10:00am. The Sunday masses times will be switched that weekend. The St. Damian Adult Choir will sing at this mass. Family members & friends of the students and all parishioners are encouraged to support and attend this big event in the Catholic lives of our young parishioners.

- ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Will end on Monday 14 April. All materials are on the parish website. The next bible study will begin during the Summer where we will continue Revelation.

- CONFIRMATION: Fifteen (15) St. Damian 7th & 8th graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:00pm. Due a scheduling conflict with Bishop Braxton scheduled to be in Rome, the Very Reverend John C. Iffert, V.F., will most likely be coming to celebrate the Confirmation mass. Family members & friends of the students and all parishioners are encouraged to come to support and attend this big event in the Catholic lives of our young parishioners. A reception will follow in the gym. Confirmadi parents will bring food and the Ladies Sodality will assist with serving. All St. Damian Youth in grades 3-12 and older are invited to sing in the balcony during the Confirmation mass. There will be one choir practice on Sunday, April 27 at 9:30am. All youth in grades 3-12 and older are welcome to come to practice and help sing at the Confirmation. Please come support your fellow school mates and friends who are making their confirmation!

13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:

- **Holy Name Sodality:** 2014 Wurstmarkt was a success with approximately 950 meals served. No income/profit totals were available.
- **Altar Sodality:** The 4-hand Regular Euchre Tournament held on February 28, 2014, was a success. Approximate proceeds were \$3000.00

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- Ed Kramer attended a seminar regarding Cemetery topics. A report will be available at the next parish council meeting.

15. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fr. Jack's 25th Anniversary:** There will be a joint-parish, family-oriented gathering on Saturday, May 31, 2014, after the 5:00pm mass at St. Damian. Meal of spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic bread & salad will be served in the gym after mass. Parishioners will be asked to bring desserts. A sign-up sheet for the meal head count will be available in both parishes. Fr. Jack will invite his family, friends, and parishioners from his former parishes. All parishioners are invited to attend. Stay tuned to the bulletin for more info as the date gets closer.
- **Way-Ahead Regarding New Cemetery Rules and Regulations:**
New Cemetery Rules and Regulations were proposed and discussed at a meeting between representatives of the Parish Administration, Parish Council, Finance Committee, and Cemetery Committee on January 22, 2014. The proposed changes were presented and approved by a vote of 6-3 at the February 11, 2014, Parish Council meeting. Issues and concerns regarding the new rules were presented by Steve Horstmann and Dennis Fuehne as Officers of the Holy Name Sodality. A hearty discussion ensued regarding various points, views, opinions, and recommendations. A tentative monetary proposal was offered on behalf of the Holy Name to pay for annual grass cutting and a request was made to change the cemetery rules back to the previous version. Even though the proposal will assist with payment of the annual grass cutting costs at the cemetery for this year, the proposal did not address the need for the parish to create a steady source of income for the Cemetery into the future and the need to treat all parishioners equally. These two points were the main reasons for determining that a fee of \$400/\$1000 for each adult Rite to Bury certificate granted was necessary to ensure stability of the Cemetery checking account into the future as well as providing equal treatment of all parishioners who support the parish in a variety of different ways. A steady stream of income is necessary to fix a recurring problem facing the Cemetery checking account and its inability to sustain itself. Currently, the primary source of income for the Cemetery accounts comes from Rite to Bury fees, bequests, and interest from the savings accounts. Over the past 7 years, total income from fees was \$3650.00 (average \$525.00 per year). Partial expenses for the same 7 years was \$7000.00 for grass cutting alone. The grass cutting salaries were paid from the General Checking account due to not enough money being in the Cemetery checking. The money was not taken from the Cemetery Savings as needed for the past 3 years leaving the General Checking Account to pay the expense. During the January 22 meeting, a determination was made that continuing to borrow and continuing to allow income to fall short of expenses would eventually deplete the Savings account and continue to hurt a struggling General Checking account; therefore, the decision was made to begin charging a consistent fee for every Rite to Bury certificate granted and to adjust the fees for parishioners & non-parishioners in order to bring them more in line with what other parishes are charging their parishioners and non-parishioners. It was reported at the meeting that threats have been made by Holy Name members to withhold all support, take their names off workers lists and committees, reduce monetary donations to the church, and take St. Damian Parish out of their wills if the new cemetery rules were not rescinded. These threats could eventually result in the demise of the Holy Name organization and hurt St. Damian Parish in the longrun. It was noted that if that should happen, then the need for consistent Rite to Bury fees, across the board, would be needed even more since the parish may not be able to depend on the Holy Name for additional funding support in the future. More info will be provided after the next Holy Name meeting where they will discuss how to apply the new rules pertaining to Rite to Bury certificates for their members and try to reach consensus regarding future support to the parish.

16. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Bids for parking lot asphalt and concrete were reviewed. A recommendation was made to ask Dave Kassen and Virgil Jansen to review the bids more closely and make a recommendation to the Parish Council.
- The memorial plaque for Msgr Don Eichenseer is ready for installation in the gym annex. Alternate locations for installing these plaques was discussed. There may be space available to hang them above and below the windows on the outside wall of the cry room in church. More research will be done. A recommendation was made to switch to a smaller, more cost effective, commemorative plaque or nice picture frame with brass plate in the future. Fr. Jack was not opposed to the idea.
- Pete volunteered to make 3 new upper cabinets for the rectory kitchen due to damage caused by fire on the stove. The Hispanic community will be asked to share the cost of materials. The cabinets will be made in Pete's spare time. Pete will also install the new range hood after cabinets are completed/installed.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Discuss asphalt and concrete bids for church parking lot.
- Wrap up Fr. Jack's 25th Anniversary celebration.
- Update on Msgr Don's memorial plaque and update on recommendation to put plaques above and below the cry room windows.
- Finalize Parish Council Elections for 2014-2015 term.
- Discuss any building maintenance concerns/issues.
- Way- Ahead regarding new Cemetery Rules & Regulations.
- Feedback from Ed Kramer regarding attendance at recent Cemetery meeting.
- Any new topics that occur between now and June meeting.

18. ADJOURN:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

19. NEXT MEETING:

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 7:00pm in the parish meeting room.

**As always, parish council meetings are open to the public.
Please inform the parish secretary (248-5134) if you
would like to speak to a topic or voice a concern, so
it can be added to the agenda.**