

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, August 12, 2014 7:00pm

1. CURRENT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2014-15 ARE: President – Arlene Korte;
Vice President – Bob Innes; Secretary – Geri Varel

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Jack, Deacon Glenn, Arlene Korte, Bob Innes, Diana Jansen, Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnies, Virgil Jansen, Gary Arentsen, Dave Kassen & Geri Varel

3. ABSENT: Jan Mank, PC Trustee; Bob Rapp, Hispanic Minister

4. OTHER ATTENDEES: Jeanne Langenhorst, Parish Secretary; Pete Toennies, PC Trustee, Bud & Ruth Jansen, Jerome Kalmer

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

6. MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING: The minutes of the June 10, 2014, meeting were approved via email and published to the parishioners weekend of July 5-6, 2014.

7. HISPANIC MINISTRY: No report.

8. PARISH LIFE:

- Thanks to Kevin Arentsen for volunteering to serve as the St. Damian Parish Representative on the Mater Dei Board.

9. FINANCE:

- The general financial reports and the picnic report were reviewed. Jeanne was present to clarify some of the entries. The financial reports were accepted. The Annual Report for 2013-14 church year will be sent to parishioners via email and copies will also be available on the tables at the church entrances.

- The picnic report was reviewed. A final report will be provided to all parishioners after all bills are paid.
ADDENDUM TO MINUTES: The final picnic report was made available to all parishioners on Aug 24 along with the annual financial report.

- Capital Campaign: The Capital Campaign Fund is officially closed. The council discussed best use of these funds. Recommendation made to pursue protective covering for the stained glass windows. A separate meeting will be set up with Precision Inc in Breese who provides protective coverings.

10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

- Election of Parish Council Officers is Finalized: New officers for 2014-2015 are: President – Arlene Korte, Vice-President – Bob Innes, Secretary – Geri Varel.

- Jeanne has begun her move to one centrally located office where she can manage office operations for St. Damian/St. Bernard/St. George in a more efficient manner. Centralized office space will be in New Baden at St. George School facility. Jeanne's phone number would remain as is (248-5134). She will be available at St. Damian/St. Bernard on Mondays. Anyone who needs to talk to or meet Jeanne on any other day can make an appointment with her and she will return to St. Damian rectory whenever she is needed there.

11. LITURGY:

- Masses in honor of the Feast of the Assumption will be: Aug 14, 7:00pm at St. Bernard
Aug 15, 8:00am at St. Damian

- There will be a Polka Mass at St. Bernard on Aug 24, 10:00am

- The Saturday October 4 mass at St. Bernard will be at 4:00pm vice 5:00pm to accommodate the Fall Festival.

- Mark your calendar for Sunday Oct 19! There will be Bluegrass music at both 8:30 & 10:00 masses.

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

- CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY:

- The annual parent/youth softball game was won by the parents. Everyone had a good time.
- The trip to Holiday World was fun.
- Youth Sing Praise will be at the Shrine.

- FAITH FORMATION (FF) PROGRAM:

- All Evangelists (Teachers) from last year will be returning to the FF program in addition to two students from Mater Dei (Brendan Tonnies – 1st grade and Shannon Netemeyer – 2nd grade). Thanks to all teachers who faithfully serve the parish and the FF Program. As a reminder to parents: Please turn in your child's Faith Formation registration form as soon as possible.
- St. Bernard will have Confirmation in April 2015. Exact date still to be determined.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Summer session is complete. Fall session will begin in October.

13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:

- **Holy Name Sodality:** Thanks to the men who volunteered to clean up the landscaping around the parish house, the church and the gym so it looked nice for the picnic. A question was raised if maintaining the landscaping around the parish house and the church to keep it looking nice during the summer months might be a project that the Hispanic Community would want to take on as a way to show support of the parish. The idea will be passed on to Bob Rapp for further consideration.
- **Altar Sodality:** The Altar Sodality donated funds to replace the flooring in both sacristies in church. The work was completed and it looks beautiful!

14. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Cemetery Rules and Regulations:** Bud & Ruth Jansen were present to express concerns regarding the changes made to the St. Damian Cemetery Rules and Regulations effective 11 Feb 2014. They asked that consideration be given to those long-time Holy Name and Altar Sodality members who have been paying dues to the Holy Name and Altar Sodality organizations for many years. It is the Parish Council's understanding that the topic was brought up at the Holy Name meeting in the March/April 2014 timeframe, and there was discussion regarding the organization itself paying for the rite to bury fee for their members in good-standing or at least subsidizing the fee for their members in good-standing. A final decision was made at that meeting that it would be difficult and an added burden on the officers to have to make the determination of who was or wasn't paid up on their dues and was or wasn't a member in good-standing, so the topic was dropped. It is not known if the topic was brought up at the last Altar Sodality meeting.

NOTE: All parishioners are reminded of the following facts regarding St. Damian Cemetery:

- 1) The parish staff, priest & deacon do not have access to current membership rosters of the HN/AS; therefore, they do not know who are HN/AS members in good-standing. The decision regarding who is or is not a member in good-standing cannot be made by the parish staff.
- 2) The dues collected over the years by the HN/AS organizations were not and are not deposited in any of the St. Damian Cemetery accounts (checking or savings). The only income to the cemetery accounts is through rite to bury fees, interest and bequests.
- 3) In order to keep the cemetery savings account from slowly depleting due to constantly having to lend money to the cemetery checking account for maintenance & upkeep, the cemetery checking account must have a continuous source of income that allows it to sustain itself.
- 4) Every person who wishes to be buried in St. Damian Cemetery has a responsibility to share in the cost of the cemetery's maintenance and up-keep both now and into the future.
- 5) All registered parishioners shall be treated equally regarding payment of rite to bury fees. All registered parishioners will continue to receive a discount on their rite to bury fee (\$400 for registered parishioners/\$1000 for non-parishioners).

14. OLD BUSINESS (continued from page 1)

- Grave Digging:

Jerome Kalmer was present at the meeting to see if damage to his wife's gravestone was covered under insurance. The parish is awaiting word from the local funeral directors regarding proof of insurance from the grave digger. If proof of insurance is not provided soon, the local funeral directors will hire someone who has proof of insurance that covers any damages that may occur to land or property due to negligence, equipment malfunction, or equipment operator error. No exceptions.

- Dining Room Chairs:

Still looking for 4 more dining room chairs.

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES : A used table and chairs was found in a Facebook ad placed by a local family. The Parish and Hispanic community will share the cost of purchasing it.

- Eyesore Across the Street:

Bud Jansen reported that the Village lawyer has approached the owner of the old tavern property across the street from church. The bank may step in at the end of August. Hopefully by the end of the year, the building will be demolished.

- Cemetery Seminar:

Ed Kramer gave a detailed report of his attendance at a cemetery seminar Omaha Neb. One thing was emphasized...Do not touch the Cemetery (Perpetual) Care Fund!

15. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- **Priest Plaques:** Decision was made to keep the marble Priest plaques in their current location in the gym annex. New 8X10 frames with a photo of each priest and their years of service to St. Damian will be made and hung above the window of the cry room. Marble plaques will no longer be purchased.
- **Church Parking Lot:** At the previous meeting in June, it was recommended that asphalt be considered rather than concrete. Item tabled due to cost.
- **Kitchen Cabinets:** Building of 3 new cabinets is in progress.
- **Sacristy Flooring:** Completed and beautiful!
- **Replacement of Flooring in Upstairs Rooms in Rectory:** Reviewed one bid for laminate. Virgil Jansen will obtain additional bid. Diana Jansen will obtain a bid for carpet.
- **Stained Glass Protectors for 11 Church Windows:** Capital Campaign Funds and Building Funds are available to purchase protectors. A separate meeting will be held with Bill at Precision Stained Glass in Breese to provide details. Deacon Glenn will check with the parish's insurance company to see if our insurance cover hail damage.
ADDENDUM TO MINUTES: Meeting was held with Precision on Aug 20. Decision made to go ahead with installing protectors as the parish has a \$5000 deductible on insurance.
- **Repair of Church and Rectory Steps:** Hemker has not responded to Dave Kassen's calls. He will try again. Recommendation made to knock out the steps at the rectory and install a new concrete steps if funding is available. Item tabled until next meeting.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- RCIA will begin at St Damian Rectory starting in September at 7:00pm.
- There was an issue with the grill in the sandwich stand at the picnic. There is a nice used grill available in Carlyle. Recommendation was made to purchase it with picnic funds.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Discuss upstairs flooring bids for rectory (Arlene, Virgil, Diana)
- Update on kitchen cabinets (Pete)
- Update on priest memorial frames (Geri).
- Update on stained glass window protectors (Arlene)
- Report on dining room table and chairs (Arlene and Bob Rapp)
- Update on tavern property across the street (?)
- Report on rectory and church steps issues (Dave)
- Update on Jeanne's office move to New Baden (Deacon)
- Update on proof of insurance for grave digger (Fr. Jack)
- Follow up regarding letters received from parishioners (Fr. Jack)
- Any new topics that occur between now and October meeting.

18. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm. Father Jack closed the meeting with a prayer.

19. NEXT MEETING: The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 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.