

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 7:00pm

1. PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014 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, Virgil Jansen, Mel Toennies & Geri Varel. The council welcomed Gary Arentsen as the newest member of the Parish Council. Gary will assume the remaining term that was vacated by Phil Jansen.

3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnie, Pete Toennies & Jan Mank

4. OTHER ATTENDEES: None

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

6. MINUTES FROM OCTOBER MEETING: The minutes of the October 2013 meeting were approved via email and published to the parishioners weekend of 26-27 October 2013.

7. HISPANIC MINISTRY: Nothing to report.

8. PARISH LIFE:

- Meeting of the North Central Vicariate (formerly known as the North Central Deanery): The meeting was rescheduled due to weather issues and Fr. Hartlein's funeral. No new date is known at this time.
- Diocesan Letters and Questions: A letter from the Diocese included several questions issued by the Vatican pertaining to *The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization*. Fr. Jack recommended each member of the Parish Council do their best to answer the questions and submit responses individually back to the Diocese point of contacts listed in the letter. Discussion among the council members revealed that the questions were confusing and unclear/ambiguous. Deadline for responses is Dec 16.
- Prior to tonight's meeting, Deacon Glenn, Arlene, Bob Innes and the President & VP of the St. Bernard's Parish Council met regarding the *Pastoral Plan for Parish Renewal and Restructuring*. At this time St. Damian & St. Bernard parishes are ahead of the game since we have been sharing a priest and working in joint parish mode for several years while other parishes in our area are just now beginning their efforts to operate jointly with a neighboring parish.
- Christmas decorations will be put up in church on Dec 14. They will be taken down on Sunday, January 5, at 1:00pm.

9. FINANCE:

- The general financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION: Nothing to report.

11. LITURGY:

- ADVENT "GIVING TREE": Thanks to all who supported the Giving Tree effort. Donated hats, gloves, scarves, underwear and socks were delivered to BCMW for distribution in the local area.
- CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas Eve – 5:00pm at St. Damian; 10:00pm at St. Bernard
7:00pm Mass in Spanish
Christmas Day - 8:30am at St. Damian; 10:00am at St. Bernard
- NEW YEAR'S MASSES: New Year's Eve Tues Dec 31 – 5:00pm at St. Bernard
New Year's Day Wed Jan 1 – 9:00am at St. Damian

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

- CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY:
 - Operation Christmas Child : 82 boxes were packed and shipped. Thanks to all!
 - National Youth Conference: 11 youth from St. Damian & St. Bernard attended.
 - Mark your calendars for the annual Soup Supper on Sunday, March 2, 2014.
 - Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014
- FAITH FORMATION (FF) PROGRAM:
 - 8th Graders from both parishes will visit Mater Dei on Dec 11.
- ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Next session will begin during Lent.
- CONFIRMATION: Fifteen (15) St. Damian 7th & 8th graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, April 28, 2014. 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.
- 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.

13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:

- The Holy Name Christmas Party will be Friday, Dec 13. Will discuss topic of funding for asphaltting the church parking lot.
- The Altar Sodality Christmas Party was held on Sunday Dec 8. The Sodality will donate money needed to purchase/install new marble plaque in the gym annex in memory of Msgr Don Eichenseer. Plans are in the works to host another Euchre Tournament in the Feb/March timeframe. Stay tuned for more info.

14. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Two bids were received for asphaltting the church parking lot. Item will be discussed at the December Holy Name meeting.
- A new electric stove was installed in the parish house by KJ Appliance. Pete Toennies modified the existing cabinetry to accommodate the new stove. Looks good! Works great!

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. Parishioners will bring desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in both parishes. Fr. Jack will invite folks from his former parishes. Stay tuned for more info to follow later.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- Cemetery Rules and Regulations: The new booklet regarding St. Damian Cemetery Rules and Regulations was presented to the Council. A brief review took place. There are several items in the booklet that raised questions that need to be addressed. A separate meeting will be scheduled to discuss recommendations and possible changes. A few representatives from the Parish Council, Cemetery Committee, Finance Committee, Holy Name & Altar Sodality will be asked to attend. Final comments will be gathered and presented at the February parish council meeting.
- Joint Parish Council Holiday Meal – Proposed date is January 10. Several members of St. Damian Council cannot make it that night. An alternate date will be proposed.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Discuss asphalt for church parking lot.
- Discuss new details for Fr. Jack's 25th Anniversary.
- Update on Msgr. Don's memorial plaque.
- Report outcome regarding Cemetery Rules & Regulations discussions.
- Discuss Parish Council elections and obtain nominees (2 men and 1 woman)
- Any new topics that occur between now and February meeting.

18. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

19. NEXT MEETING: The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 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.**