

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:00pm

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

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlene Korte, Bob Innes, Diana Jansen, Virgil Jansen, Mel Toennies, Gary Arentsen, Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnie & Geri Varel.

3. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Fr. Jack

4. OTHER ATTENDEES: Deacon Glenn, CMD; Pete Toennies & Jan Mank, Parish Council Trustees; Anita Rakers, President St. Damian Finance Council; Bernard Heimann, St. Damian Cemetery Committee; Steve Horstmann, President St. Damian Men’s Holy Name; Erin Korte, President St. Damian Ladies Altar Sodality; and parishioners Ken Mank, Alfred Toennies, Danny & Darlene Billhartz

5. OPENING: Arlene led the meeting with a prayer.

6. MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING: The minutes of the December 2013 meeting were approved via email and published to the parishioners weekend of 4-5 January 2014.

7. HISPANIC MINISTRY: Nothing to report.

8. PARISH LIFE:

- Meeting of the North Central Vicariate (formerly known as the North Central Deanery) is scheduled for February 20, 2014. A meal is being planned.
- The parish is seeking a volunteer to serve as the St. Damian Parish Representative on the Mater Dei Board. Each parish is required to have a representative. Please contact current St. Damian Rep, Kathleen Hodges, for more information about what is involved. The position is voluntary. The term will begin in June 2014. If anyone is interested, please contact Kathleen Hodges or Jeanne at the parish office 248-5134.

9. FINANCE:

- The general financial reports were reviewed and accepted.
- A cemetery financial report was available for review. It included all income and expense totals for the past 7 years. The cemetery report included current balances for the checking account (used to sustain general maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery); the cemetery savings account (used as a holding account to keep the checking account whole and to generate more interest); and the cemetery care fund (to be used only if the parish closes and the diocese or the state has to run and maintain the cemetery).

10. PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

- Our sincere “Thanks” to Mel Toennies who completed 6 years (2 terms) of faithful service to the parish council. We were blessed to have his expertise and are thankful for his willingness to serve and work together with others for the common good of the parish. Also “Thanks” to Virgil Jansen and Geri Varel who agreed to remain on the council for a second term.
- The parish council is seeking one male parishioner to fill Mel’s spot on the parish council. Interested male parishioners should contact Jeanne at the 248-5134 or Arlene at 248-5548 or any other parish council member before March 15. The 3-year term would begin in April 2014. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday every other month (6 times a year - even months only).

11. LITURGY:

- There will be a Joint Parish Liturgy Committee meeting on Sunday, 16 February at 7:00pm at St. Bernard meeting room.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Mass schedule: St. Bernard 7:45am
St. Damian 7:00pm
- A Lenten outreach effort will begin on Ash Wednesday. There will be 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.
- Way of the Cross services will be held every Thursday during Lent at 7:00pm
 - St. Damian – March 6, March 20, April 3
 - St. Bernard – March 13, March 27, April 10
- Anointing of the Sick will be at all weekend masses on March 22-23
- Joint Parish Reconciliation Service will be held at St. Bernard on March 23 at 1:00pm
- Joint Parish Palm Sunday services will be held 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. Bernard 2:00pm; St. Damian 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

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

- CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY:

- 102 Casseroles and \$150 cash was donated toward Cosgrove’s Kitchen. Thanks to all who organized and supported this wonderful outreach effort.
- Mark your calendars for the annual Soup Supper at St. Bernard Parish Center on Sunday, March 2, 2014.

- FAITH FORMATION (FF) PROGRAM: Two new students were welcomed to the program.

- ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Lenten session will begin Monday, March 10, 7:00pm at St. Damian.

- CONFIRMATION: Fifteen (15) St. Damian 7th & 8th graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, April 28, 2014. A Sponsor meeting was held. Confirmandi will be wearing red robes this year as well as Spirit scarves. St. Damian and St. Bernard will share the cost of the robes and they will be used in both parishes. 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. The St. Damian Youth Choir will sing at this mass.

- 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.

13. HOLY NAME & ALTAR SODALITY REPORTS:

- **Holy Name:** Two bids for asphaltting the church parking lot was discussed at the last Holy Name meeting. Recommendation was made by the Holy Name to seek concrete bids as well. More information will be provided at the next parish council meeting.

- **The Altar Sodality:** Sponsoring a 4-hand Regular Euchre Tournament on February 28, 2014. Doors open at 6:30pm. Play will begin at 7:30pm. Must be 18 years old to play. Cost is \$10 per player. Water, soda and desserts will be available for purchase. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own alcohol if desired. Stay tuned to the bulletin for more info.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- Cemetery Rules and Regulations: A prior meeting was held on January 22, 2014, among representatives from the Parish Council, Finance Committee and Cemetery Committee to discuss recommended/proposed changes to the St. Damian Cemetery Rules & Regulations. An information sheet containing the recommended/proposed changes was made available to all parishioners during weekend of Feb 8-9, 2014. The recommended/proposed changes include:
 - Revise the criteria for "Parishioner" and "Non-Parishioner"
 - Change the rule regarding "Rite to Bury" to allow equal treatment of all registered parishioners regarding "Rite to Bury", by requiring all parishioners, who meet the criteria, to pay the same reduced fee for "Rite to Bury". This includes all parishioners who may not have been required to pay the "Rite to Bury" fee in the past due to membership in the Altar Sodality or Holy Name.
 - Update the fees for "Rite to Bury" so they are more in line with what surrounding parishes are charging (proposed reduced rate of \$400.00 for registered parishioners who meet the criteria, and \$1000.00 for non-parishioners).

Background Info: Over the past 7 years, income has not kept up with expenses in the cemetery checking account. The savings account is used to keep the checking account whole. The revenues in the savings account are from those few burial fees and funds from the Holy Name for concrete pads. All bequest monies received in the past, as well as interest from the savings account, have been deposited in the cemetery care fund for a number of years.

Issues and concerns were presented by council members, representatives from the various St. Damian parish groups, and parishioner attendees. The main concern was about the proposed change that would require all registered parishioners (including Altar Sodality & Holy Name members) to now pay a fee for "Rite to Bury". A recommendation to phase in the new changes was discussed but overruled. After consideration of all available information, the parish council determined that the parish cannot continue to depend on bequests for funding, and new sources of income for the checking account must be considered and pursued. The recommended/proposed changes above were determined to be in the best interest of the parish as a whole; and were deemed necessary in order to increase income to help the cemetery checking account sustain itself and make it more sound and viable into the future.

The recommended/proposed changes were approved by the parish council by a vote of 6-3 and are effective immediately (11 Feb 2014). New cemetery rules & regulations booklets are available at the church entrances or by contacting Jeanne at the parish office. Additional comments, questions, or concerns can be referred to any parish council member or any one of the parish organization presidents.

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 his family, friends, and parishioners from his former parishes. Stay tuned for more info to follow later.

16. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Two bids for asphaltting the church parking lot was discussed at the last Holy Name meeting. Recommendation was made by the Holy Name to seek concrete bids as well. More information will be available at the next parish council meeting.
- The memorial plaque for Msgr Don Eichenseer has been ordered and will be installed in the gym annex when it is received. An alternate location for all of the priest plaques is being sought. Any parishioner recommendations can be passed along to any parish council member.
- Pete will install the new hood in the rectory kitchen after some maintenance to repair a few cabinets is completed.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Discuss asphalt and concrete bids for church parking lot.
- Discuss new details for Fr. Jack's 25th Anniversary.
- Update on Msgr Don's memorial plaque and recommendation for new location to put all priest memorial plaques.
- Discuss Parish Council volunteer/nominee (1 man is needed to fill the vacancy for a 3-year term beginning in April 2014).
- Discuss calls received regarding a volunteer to serve as the St. Damian Rep on the Mater Dei Board.
- Discuss any building maintenance concerns/issues.
- Discuss feedback regarding Cemetery Rules & Regulations changes.
- Any new topics that occur between now and April meeting.

18. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

19. NEXT MEETING: The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 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.**