



DECREE

Alienation of Church Property: Two Houses and Related Land

Due to reasons of financial stability and security, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the alienation of Church property, namely, two houses and related tracts of land located in Vincennes, managed by Catholic Charities and owned by the Diocese of Evansville.

Whereas Catholic Charities manages the two homes as rental properties, and the director of Catholic Charities wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability and security of Catholic Charities in order to request that the two rental houses and related land be alienated;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the two houses and related land which are located at 303 North 10th Street and 305 South 7th Street, both in Vincennes, may be alienated:

Whereas Catholic Charities has significant financial expense and expends human resources for the maintenance and repairs of the two houses and related grounds, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability and prudent stewardship of Catholic Charities;

Whereas Catholic Charities has no need for two rental houses and related land which create additional expense and expenditure of human resources for Catholic Charities; and

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding and human resources have been considered but found inadequate.

Furthermore, charity and other assistance to be bestowed on the poor cannot be neglected in order to preserve two unneeded rental houses and related land.

Wherefore:

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having sought and obtained the written appraisals of experts who have provided the financial value of the property, in accord with canon 1293 §1, 2°; and

Having examined and accepted the experts' estimates of the value of the property, and finding that the estimated value of the property lies below the minimum amount established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the valid alienation of goods which constitute the stable patrimony of those public juridic persons subject to my episcopal authority, according to the norm of canon 1292 §1; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 16 January 2024 in accord with the norm of canons 127 §1, §2, 2°, and §3, and 1292 §4, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted the College of Consultors on 16 January 2024 in accord with the norm of canons 127 §1, §2, 2°, and §3, and 1292 §4, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted the Diocesan Finance Council on 18 January 2024 in accord with canons 127 §1, §2, 2°, and §3, and 1292 §4, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Diocesan Finance Council voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having ascertained by means of the original deeds and other documents as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs whose consent is needed to place this juridic act in accord with canon 1292 §1; and

Having ensured that the alienation will be valid civilly; and

Having ensured that no harm shall come to the Church by the alienation of the property inasmuch as the proposed sale has been given a certain amount of publicity, the purchaser has the funds or the collateral to secure the payment, and the documents of the proposed sale have stipulations and restrictions inserted in them that the property may only be used for profane but not sordid use; and

Having ensured that there is no reasonable possibility of scandal or loss of the faithful resulting from the proposed alienation; and

Having ensured that the tenants of the two rental homes received timely notification and assistance in locating new housing; and

Having determined that the good of souls will suffer no harm thereby;

Therefore, in accord with canons 1290 and 1291 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree the alienation of the two rental houses and related land, located in Vincennes.

In keeping with the prescripts of canon 1294 §1, the aforesaid property cannot be alienated below its appraised value provided by the experts.

In accord with the prescripts of canon 1294 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, the income resulting from the alienation of the aforesaid property must be invested carefully for the advantage of the Church or expended prudently according to the purposes of the alienation.

The provisions of this decree are to take effect on 4 March 2024, all things to the contrary notwithstanding. This decree is to be communicated to all interested persons. These provisions may be appealed according to the norm of canon 1734 §§1 and 2.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
16 February 2024



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which reads "Joseph M. Siegel".

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which reads "Brad Clark".

Brad Clark
Vice-Chancellor