



DECREE

Alienation of Church Property: Tract of Land Located on the Property of Catholic Charities in Evansville, Indiana

Due to the non-use of a tract of land situated on the property of Catholic Charities, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the alienation of Church property in the form of a specified tract of land located on the property of Catholic Charities; this tract of land is part of a larger tract of land which was previously alienated to Catholic Charities from Good Shepherd Parish.

Whereas, the director of Catholic Charities wrote to me to request that fifty percent of the land which was previously alienated to Catholic Charities from Good Shepherd Parish be alienated a second time;

Whereas, the following reasons indicate that Church property consisting of a tract of land on the property of Catholic Charities which is located at 2121 Stringtown Road, Evansville, Indiana, may be alienated for a second time:

Whereas, a portion of the tract of land which was previously alienated to Catholic Charities has gone unused, and, coupled with the expense of the construction of a new building for Catholic Charities adjacent to that tract of land, is not consistent with prudent stewardship to maintain ownership of a vacant tract of land;

Whereas, following consultation with the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors, no interest was expressed in maintaining the tract of land now specified for alienation;

Whereas, other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the specified tract of land have been considered but found inadequate; it is not prudent stewardship for Catholic Charities to expend money on an unused tract of land when funds may be better expended on charitable purposes.

Furthermore, charity and other assistance to be bestowed on the poor cannot be neglected in order to preserve an unused tract of land.

Wherefore:

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having consulted the Dean of the South Deanery; and

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

Having examined and accepted the experts' estimates of the value of the property, and having found 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 of the *Code of Canon Law*; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 29 January 2019 in accord with the norm of canons 127 §1, §2, 2°, and §3, and 1292 §§3 and 4 regarding the second alienation of a specified tract of land located on the property of Catholic Charities, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests voted unanimously in favor of the proposed second alienation of the specified tract of land; and

Having consulted the Diocesan Finance Council on 29 January 2019 in accord with the norm of canons 127 §1, §2, 2°, and §3, and 1292 §§3 and 4 regarding the second alienation of a specified tract of land located on the property of Catholic Charities, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Diocesan Finance Council voted unanimously in favor of the proposed second alienation of the specified tract of land; 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 who may have donated the specified tract of land; 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 alienation of the property has been given a certain amount of publicity, the buyer has the funds or the collateral to secure the payment, and the documents of the proposed sale of the property have inserted in them that the property may only be used for profane but not sordid use, in accordance with the norm of canon 1293 §2; and

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

Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no detriment thereby; and

Furthermore, for the validity of this alienation, in accord with canons 1292 §3 and 63 §1, it has been made known that this proposed alienation is the second alienation to occur for the same property.

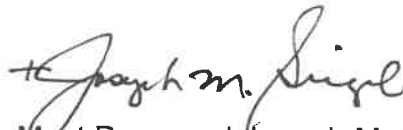
Therefore, having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree the alienation of Church property in the form of a specified tract of land located on the property of Catholic Charities.

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

In accord with the prescripts of canon 1294 §2, 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; and

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 13 March 2020, 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 law, canon 1734 §§1 and 2.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
27 February 2020



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



Tim McGuire
Chancellor