

DECREE

Demolition of a House in Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish in Huntingburg

Due to the deteriorating and unsafe condition of a vacant house owned by Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish, a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the building, and the purpose of a more suitable use for the land on which the house sits, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the demolition of the vacant house.

Whereas the pastor of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish, in whose territory the vacant house is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish in order to request that the vacant house be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the vacant house located at 405 North Washington Street, Huntingburg, Indiana, within the boundaries of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish should be demolished:

Whereas the property is unable to be used for the purpose of which it was built, and there is no possibility that it will be used for that or any other purpose, particularly since the purpose of a more suitable use for the land on which the vacant house sits better serves the needs of the parish;

Whereas the land on which the vacant house sits is more valuable to serve the needs of the parish by providing for parking lot expansion for Masses and events;

Whereas the structure of the vacant house has deteriorated to the extent that major and expensive repairs are necessary, coupled with concerns which relate to liability issues, safety hazards, and blight for the neighborhood; the interior of the vacant house is described as in poor and unlivable condition, suffering from deferred maintenance;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish, the parish pastoral council, and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the dilapidated vacant house,

particularly because the land on which the house sits better serves the needs of the parish so as to provide for parking expansion;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the vacant house have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 15 August 2023, 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 members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 21 September 2023, 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 of the property as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs who may have donated the house and/or land; and

Having been assured by the pastor that no civil permits are required for the proposed demolition.

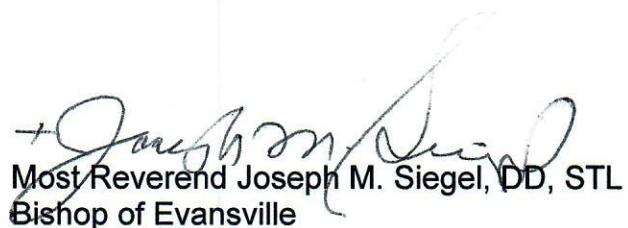
Therefore, in accord with canon 1290 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree that the house located in the territory of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Parish is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 19 October 2023, 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
5 October 2023


Dean Happe
Chancellor




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