



DECREE

Demolition of the Former School in Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish

Due to the deteriorating condition of the former school building in the territory of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish, and a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the building, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the demolition of the former school.

Whereas the pastor of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish, in whose territory the former school building is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish in order to request that the former school be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the former school building, located at 6748 East Main Cross Street in Celestine, Indiana within the boundaries of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish should be demolished:

Whereas the property is no longer being 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 it is in poor condition;

Whereas the former school building has deteriorated to the extent that major and expensive repairs are necessary, coupled with concerns which relate to liability issues; the former school building is described as suffering from deferred maintenance which has led to significant damage and safety issues;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish, the parish pastoral council, and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the former school building, particularly because of the necessity of costly repairs related to safety such as fire protection, electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and ventilation issues, along with ongoing parish expense for general upkeep and insurance for a vacant building;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the former school building have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 16 May 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 College of Consultors on 16 May 2023, 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 members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 23 February 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 former school; and

Having been assured by the pastor that any required permits for the proposed demolition will be filed at the appropriate time with civil authorities.

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 former school building located in Celestine, Indiana in the territory of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 6 July 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
20 June 2023



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



Dean Happe
Chancellor

