

## DECREE

### Alienation of Church Property Parish Convent and Related Land All Saints Parish

Due to reasons of fiduciary stewardship and responsibility, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the alienation of Church property in the form of the parish convent adjacent to Saint Joseph Church in Evansville.

Whereas the administrator of All Saints Parish, in whose territory the parish convent is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiduciary stewardship of All Saints Parish in order to request that the parish convent and related land adjacent to Saint Joseph Church be alienated;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the parish convent and related land adjacent to Saint Joseph Church, located at 618 East Virginia Street in Evansville within the boundaries of All Saints Parish, may be alienated:

Whereas All Saints Parish has significant financial expense for the maintenance and repair of two churches as well as adjacent Church property, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability of All Saints Parish as well as the consideration of prudent stewardship;

Whereas following the administrator's consultation with the parishioners of All Saints Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the parish convent, particularly because financial concerns for the parish exist;

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

Whereas the alienation of the convent and the land on which it is situated will provide ready and effective assistance for the more urgent needs of the parish. Furthermore, charity and other assistance to be bestowed on the poor cannot be neglected in order to preserve an unneeded and unused convent and its related land.

Wherefore:

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the administrator of All Saints Parish; 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 Diocesan Finance Council on 31 October 2019 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 consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 17 December 2019 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 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 land and whose consent is needed to place this juridic act in accord with canon 1292 §1; and

Having considered the request of the parish administrator to postpone the promulgation of this decree due to personal reasons; 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, in accordance with the norm of canon 1222 §2; and

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

Having determined that no religious sisters have resided in the convent for many years; and

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

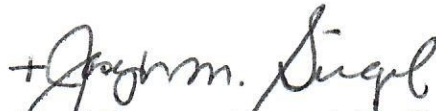
Therefore, in accord with canons 1291 and 1292 §4 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree the alienation of the parish convent and land on which it is situated adjacent to Saint Joseph Church within the boundaries of All Saints Parish in Evansville.

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 22 March 2021, 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  
5 March 2021



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



Tim McGuire  
Chancellor

