

DECREE

Demolition of the Former Assumption of Mary Chapel

Due to the deteriorating condition of the former Assumption of Mary Chapel and a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain it, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the demolition of the former Assumption of Mary Chapel.

Whereas the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, in whose territory the former Assumption of Mary Chapel is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in order to request that the former Assumption of Mary Chapel be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the former Assumption of Mary Chapel, located at 3525 North County Road 1200 East, Loogootee, Indiana, within the boundaries of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, should be demolished:

Whereas Saint John the Evangelist Parish now has the care of four church buildings which creates significant financial expenditure for the parish for maintenance and repairs of all edifices, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability of the parish;

Whereas the Assumption of Mary Chapel was relegated to profane but not sordid use by decree which became effective on 13 December 2021;

Whereas the relegated chapel is no longer being used for divine worship;

Whereas the structure of the former Assumption of Mary Chapel has deteriorated to the extent that extensive repairs are necessary, including, but not limited to: settling of the building, several vertical cracks noted in the basement foundation walls, bowing of exterior walls, brick façade separation from walls, building left vacant with minimal maintenance, overall poor condition of the building which was constructed as a temporary structure, and liability concerns; such expense imposes a considerable financial strain on Saint John the Evangelist Parish;

Whereas Saint John the Evangelist Church serves as the primary parish church;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the former church;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the former Assumption of Mary Chapel have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 15 March 2022, 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 15 March 2022, 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 28 April 2022, 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 chapel and/or the land; and

Having ascertained that the altar, all sacred objects, and religious artifacts have been removed from the former chapel; and

Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no harm; the celebration of Mass and the sacraments are offered at Saint John the Evangelist Church which provides pastoral care for the parishioners; and

Having been assured by the pastor that the demolition has been approved by civil authorities, and no special permits are needed.

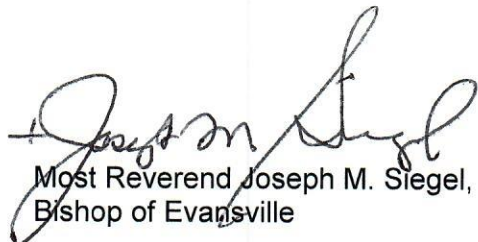
Therefore, in accord with canon 1290 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree that the edifice formerly known as Assumption of Mary Chapel in Loogootee, Indiana, relegated to profane but not sordid use, is to be demolished, retaining the bell tower which has a separate foundation, and the land.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 27 June 2022, 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
10 June 2022




Dean Happe
Chancellor


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