



DECREE

Demolition of the Former School Building in Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Vincennes

Due to the deteriorating condition of the former school building in Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Vincennes, 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 building.

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

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the former school building, located within the boundaries of Saint Francis Xavier 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;

Whereas the structure of the former school building has deteriorated to the extent that major and expensive repairs are necessary, including but not limited to replacement of all windows, gutters and roof, tuck pointing, installation of fire suppression system, replacement of stairway and basement ceiling, installation of new lighting, HVAC and plumbing systems, restoration of bell tower, replacement of kitchen, and the cost of insurance, coupled with concerns which relate to safety, and liability issues for a vacant building;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the former school building, particularly because of expense, safety, and liability concerns related to 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 Francis Xavier Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 21 October 2025, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having obtained the consent of the members of the College of Consultors on 21 October 2025, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having obtained the consent of the members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 30 October 2025, 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 building; and

Having ensured that the demolition has been approved by civil authorities, and if any special permits are needed, they shall be obtained.

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 in Saint Francis Xavier Parish, is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 24 November 2025, 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
7 November 2025


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


Dean Happe
Chancellor