



DECREE

Alienation of Church Property: .40 of an Acre of Land and Related Timber and Mineral Rights

Due to reasons of financial stability and security as well as proper funding of parish ministries and assistance to the poor, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the alienation of Church property previously gifted to Good Shepherd Parish, namely, approximately .40 of an acre of land located in Evansville and related timber and mineral rights.

Whereas the pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability and security and more urgent pastoral needs of Good Shepherd Parish in order to request that .40 of an acre of land and related timber and mineral rights be alienated;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the .40 of an acre of land and related timber and mineral rights, situated in Evansville, may be alienated:

Whereas Good Shepherd Parish has no need for the .40 of an acre of land and related timber and mineral rights which constrains funds from better pastoral use in fostering ministerial endeavors and assistance to the poor, giving rise to concern for prudent stewardship;

Whereas Good Shepherd Parish has been paying \$164 per year in taxes for an unnecessary and useless .40 of an acre of triangular-shaped land described as a landlocked ditch between railroad tracks and other properties with no road frontage or ingress/egress;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish, as well as the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the specified tract of land and related timber and mineral rights; and

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

Furthermore, charity and other assistance to be bestowed on the poor as well as proper funding of parish ministries cannot be neglected in order to preserve .40 of an acre of unneeded land and related timber and mineral rights.

Wherefore:

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Good Shepherd 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 Council of Priests on 13 August 2024 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 consulted and obtained the consent of the College of Consultors on 13 August 2024 in accord with the norm of canons 127 §1, §2, 1°, and §3, and 1292 §§1 and 4, 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 and obtained the consent of the Diocesan Finance Council on 29 August 2024 in accord with canons 127 §1, §2, 1°, and §3, and 1292 §§1 and 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 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 whose consent is needed to place this juridic act in accord with canon 1292 §1; 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 alienation has been given a certain amount of publicity, and the documents of the proposed alienation have stipulations and restrictions inserted in them that the property may only be used for profane but not sordid use; 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 the good of souls will suffer no harm thereby;

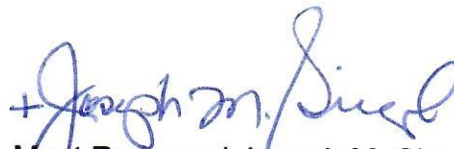
Therefore, in accord with canons 1290, 1291, and 1292 §1 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree the alienation of the .40 of an acre of land and related timber and mineral rights located in Evansville.

In keeping with the prescripts of canon 1294 §1, the aforesaid property cannot ordinarily be alienated below its appraised value provided by the experts, though this alienation shall save Good Shepherd Parish the expense of property tax, and in consideration of the fact that the value of the property is minimal, the .40 of an acre of land and related timber and mineral rights, therefore, may be alienated via gift.

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 4 October 2024, 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
19 September 2024



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



Dean Happe
Chancellor

