



DECREE

Alienation of Church Property: 7.11 Acres of Wooded Land and Related Timber and Mineral Rights

Due to reasons of financial stability and security as well as proper funding of diocesan ministries and assistance to the poor, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the alienation of Church property, namely, approximately 7.11 acres of wooded land located in Vincennes and related timber and mineral rights, owned by the Diocese of Evansville.

Whereas I, as the Bishop of Evansville, have concern for the fiscal stability and security of the Diocese of Evansville as well as the proper funding of diocesan ministries and assistance to the poor in order to consider that the 7.11 acres of wooded land and related timber and mineral rights be alienated;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the 7.11 acres of wooded land and related timber and mineral rights, situated on Outer Main Street Road in Vincennes, may be alienated:

Whereas the Diocese of Evansville has no need for the 7.11 acres of wooded land and related timber and mineral rights which constrains diocesan funds from better use in fostering ministerial endeavors and assistance to the poor, giving rise to concern for prudent stewardship; and

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding of diocesan ministries and assistance to the poor have been considered but found inadequate.

Furthermore, charity and other assistance to be bestowed on the poor as well as proper funding of diocesan ministries cannot be neglected in order to preserve 7.11 acres of unneeded wooded land and related timber and mineral rights.

Wherefore:

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; 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 25 June 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 25 June 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 27 June 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 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; 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 7.11 acres of wooded land and related timber and mineral rights located in Vincennes.

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 is

for a charitable purpose and therefore may be alienated for a price less than the appraised value.

In accord with the precepts 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 8 August 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
24 July 2024



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



Dean Happe
Chancellor

