



DECREE

Demolition of House Located on the Grounds of Mater Dei High School in Evansville

Due to the deteriorating condition of the uninhabited house, located at 3321 West Maryland Street on the grounds of Mater Dei High School in Evansville, 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 house.

Whereas the president of Mater Dei High School wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Mater Dei High School in order to request that the uninhabited house be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the vacant house, located on the grounds of Mater Dei High School, 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 uninhabited house has deteriorated to the extent that major and expensive repairs are necessary due to the extremely poor and uninhabitable condition of the building which costs \$11,000 to maintain annually, and the estimated cost of \$100,000 for renovation, coupled with concerns related to safety and liability issues for a vacant building;

Whereas following Mater Dei High School's president's consultation with the Mater Dei President's Council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the uninhabited house, particularly because of expense, safety, and liability concerns related to a vacant building;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the vacant house have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the president of Mater Dei High School; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 25 August 2026 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 members of the College of Consultors on 25 August 2026 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 College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted the members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 20 August 2026 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 in favor of the proposal; and

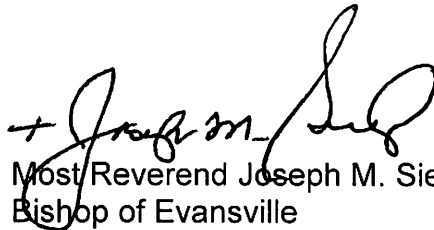
Having ascertained by means of the original deeds and other documents of the property as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs who may have donated the house; and

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

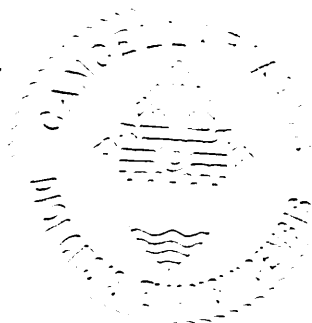
Therefore, in accord with canon 1290 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree that the vacant house located on the grounds of Mater Dei High School in Evansville, is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 22 September 2026, 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.

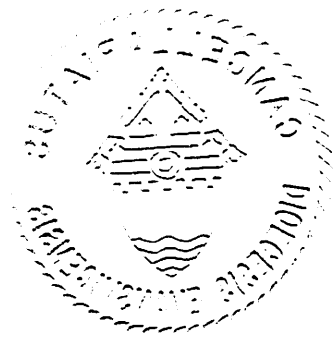
Given at Evansville, Indiana
4 September 2026


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


Dean Happe
Chancellor



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