

church, in Saint-Mary's county, from and after the passing of this act, shall be, and they are hereby created into and declared to be, a body politic and corporate, in deed and by law, by the name, style and title, of The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Congregation at Saint Joseph's Church, in Saint-Mary's County; and that they the said trustees, by the name aforesaid, and their successors, to be elected as herein after mentioned, shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able and capable in law to purchase, take, have, hold, receive and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee simple; or for any lesser estate, any lands, tenements and hereditaments, by grant, gift, bargain and sale, and also to purchase, take, hold, possess and enjoy, any monies, bank stock, stock of the United States, goods, chattels, or personal property whatsoever, by gift, grant; *Provided*, that the lands which shall be acquired by, and vested in, the said corporation, by virtue of this act, shall not exceed the quantity of two hundred acres; *And provided also*, that the real and personal property acquired by, and vested in, the said corporation, shall not exceed in the whole the yearly value of two hundred pounds current money of Maryland; and the same lands, tenements, hereditaments and personal property, to give, sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of, as to them shall seem meet, for the use of the said religious society; and also that the said trustees, by the name aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in any suits or actions in all or any court of jurisdiction within this state; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said trustees, by the name aforesaid, to devise, make, have and use, one common seal, to authenticate all and every the acts, deeds and instruments, touching their business, and the same at pleasure to break, alter and renew; and generally that the said trustees, by the name aforesaid, shall have, hold and enjoy, all and singular the rights, privileges, liberties and franchises, incident and belonging to a private or religious corporation or body politic, as fully and effectually as any other religious corporation or body politic in this state hath right to have, hold and enjoy.

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the first trustees of said corporation shall be and consist of the following persons, to wit: the reverend James Griffin, Henry Neale, Michael Fenwick, Bernard Spalding, Edward Mattingly and Bennet Mattingly, members of the said congregation; and the future trustees of the said corporation shall be and consist of the pastor of the church for the time being, and five lay members of the congregation of Roman catholics in Saint Joseph's church aforesaid, to be appointed and elected in the manner herein after mentioned.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all and every of the members of the said congregation, holding a pew in the church, and paying for the same, or otherwise contributing towards the support of the same church, or the pastor of the congregation, shall meet at their usual place of worship on Monday after Whitsunday in the year eighteen hundred and two, and on the Monday after Whitsunday in every year thereafter for ever, of which notice shall be given in the said church at the close of divine worship on the morning of the preceding Sunday, and then and there shall elect, by ballot, the said five lay trustees, and the persons so chosen shall be trustees of the