

faith; therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,

SECTION 1. That article 23 of the Code of Public General Laws (title "Corporations," sub-title "Religious Corporations") be and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of four sections, to follow section 217 of the said article as now enacted, and to be designated as section 217 A, section 217 B, section 217 C, and section 217 D, respectively, the said sections to read as follows, that is to say:

SEC. 217 A. In every congregation of the denomination of Christians known as the "Roman Catholic Church," the ordinary of the diocese and the pastor of the said congregation for the time being, according to the practice and discipline of the said church, the other persons to be annually designated by said ordinary, and two other persons to be annually elected by the male pew-holders of the said congregation from among their number (said annual election and appointment to be made on the Sunday next succeeding the first day of January in each and every year, and the incumbents to hold office until their respective successors shall be so as aforesaid elected or appointed, as the case may be) shall be constituted a body politic and corporate, under such title as may be assumed by the said corporation, and recorded in a certificate under the hands and seals of the corporators first chosen or otherwise entitled to office under the terms of this act, the said certificate to be acknowledged before a justice of the peace of the county, or city of Baltimore, as the case may be, where the said congregation shall have or possess a place of worship, and recorded among the corporation records of the said county or city.

SEC. 217 B. Every such corporation shall have, in addition to the powers conferred by sections 50 to 55 of this article, inclusive, in so far as the said powers may be consistent with its general character, the further power to appoint the hour and place of the meetings at which the two of its members so as aforesaid to be annually elected shall be chosen, and the manner in which such election shall be held, and shall provide a good and sufficient record-book wherein shall be registered from time to time all of its proceedings, and which shall at all times be open to inspection by any member of the said congregation, or any ecclesiastical officer of the said denomination of Christians, having, according to the discipline and practice thereof, authority over the said congregation, or the right to be informed concerning its management and interests of the said corporation the pastor of the congregation for the time