

personal or mixed, which, by the constitution and laws of this state, may be acquired and held by religious societies; and it appearing reasonable that the prayer of said petition be granted, C H A P. XV.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the right reverend John Carroll, Roman catholic bishop of Baltimore, the reverend Francis Beeston, and Robert Walsh, James Barry, David Williamson, Charles Ghequiere, Charles O'Brien, Luke Tiernan and George Rosensteel, lay members of said church, from and immediately after the passing of this act, shall be and they are hereby created and erected into a body politic and corporate, in deed and in law, by the name, style and title, of The Trustees of the Roman catholic church in the town of Baltimore, 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 estates, any property, real, personal or mixed, which, by the constitution and laws of this state, may be acquired and held by religious societies; 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, in any court of law or equity, in as full and effectual manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said trustees, by the name aforesaid, to cause to be made and use one common seal to authenticate all acts and instruments of writing respecting their business, and the same at pleasure to alter and renew.

A body politic created, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the said body corporate shall always hereafter consist of the Roman catholic bishop of Baltimore, and the senior pastor of the Roman catholic congregation of said town, (appointed according to the usage and discipline of that church,) for the time being, and of seven lay members thereof, to be annually elected in the manner herein after mentioned.

Of whom to consist.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That all lay male members of the society of Roman catholics, being at least twenty-one years of age, and holding a pew in the Roman catholic church of said town, or contributing to the support of divine service therein not less than the value of three bushels of wheat every year, nor being in arrear for said contribution more than six months, may and shall meet on the Monday immediately after Whitsunday, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, and so in every year thereafter, or within ten days next succeeding the said Monday in each year, at the Roman catholic church, or such other place in said town, at such time as shall be appointed by the said trustees for that purpose, by public notice given during the morning service of the preceding Sunday, and then and there shall elect, *viva voce*, seven lay members of said congregation as trustees, and the seven lay members who shall have the majority of legal votes, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, the lay trustees of said corporation, and shall succeed those herein appointed, and continue until the next annual election shall take place.

Lay members to meet, &c.

V. *And be it enacted,* That in case any of the lay members of said church, appointed trustees in virtue of this act, or who may hereafter be elected trustees, shall die, or remove with a view to reside out of this state, that from and immediately after such death or removal, the surviving trustees, or a majority of them, shall have full power and authority, at their next, or at any subsequent meeting, to elect a lay member in the room of such person so deceased or removed, which lay member shall be elected by a majority of the votes of the trustees present, and shall continue in office until the next annual election takes place.

How vacancies are to be filled.

VI. *And be it enacted,* That the said trustees now appointed, and who may hereafter be elected, or a majority of them, and their successors, from time to time, as occasion may require, may and shall meet together to transact the business and superintend and protect the property put under their trust and care, and shall make, constitute and alter, such rules and orders for regulating their own

Trustees to meet, &c.