

C H A P.
XXXVIII.

have, by their petition to this general assembly, prayed that a law might pass to incorporate them, and to enable them to manage the temporalities of their church, as other religious societies within this state have been enabled to do; and it appearing reasonable that the prayer of said petition be granted,

Members erected into a body corporate, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the members of the religious society of Roman catholics belonging to the congregation worshipping at the church of Saint Mary, in the vicinity of Bryan-town, in Charles county, from and immediately after the passing of this act shall be, and they are hereby erected into and declared to be, one body politic and corporate, in deed and law, by the name, style and title, of The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Society worshipping at the Church of Saint Mary, in the vicinity of Bryan-town, in Charles 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 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, rents, hereditaments or real estate, by grant, gift, bargain, sale, will, devise or otherwise, and also to purchase, take, hold, possess and enjoy, any monies, goods, chattels or personal estate whatsoever, by gift, grant, will, legacy or bequest, so as the said real and personal property shall not exceed in the whole the yearly value of two hundred pounds current money of Maryland; and provided also, that the lands which shall be acquired by and vested in the said corporation by virtue of this act shall not exceed, in the whole, the quantity of three hundred acres; and the same lands, tenements, rents, hereditaments, and real and personal estate, (excepting always the said church called Saint Mary, and the lot of ground, grave-yard and appertinances thereto belonging, or therewith now used and occupied,) to give, grant, demise, or otherwise dispose of, as to them shall seem meet, for the use of 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, and in all or any courts or jurisdictions whatsoever; 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 private or religious corporation or body politic in this state has right to have, hold and enjoy.

First trustees appointed, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the first trustees of the said corporation shall be and consist of the following persons, to wit: The reverend John David, the present pastor of the church, Henry Boarman, Richard Edelen, Francis Bowling, John Francis Gardiner and Charles Boarman, members of the congregation worshipping in the said church; and the future trustees of the said corporation shall be and consist of the pastor of the said church for the time being, having been duly appointed, and five lay members of the congregation worshipping in the said church, to be appointed and elected in the manner herein after mentioned.

Members to meet, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all and every the members of the said congregation holding a pew, or part of a pew, in the said church, and paying for the same, or otherwise contributing towards the support of the same church, or the pastor thereof, shall meet at their usual place of worship on Monday after Whitsunday in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, and so on in every year for ever thereafter, (of which notice shall be given in the said church at the close of the divine worship on the morning of the preceding Sunday,) and then and there shall choose, by ballot, the said five lay trustees, in manner aforesaid, by a majority of those members so qualified; and the trustees so chosen shall continue to be trustees of the said corporation until the next election, whose names, on such elections, shall be openly declared by the pastor, and entered in the books of the said corporation, for that purpose to be kept.

Trustees to meet, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees, and their successors, from time to time, as occasion shall require, to meet together for the purpose of transacting the business of the society under their care, of the time and place of which meetings due notice shall be given to all the said trustees at least one day before, at which meetings the pastor shall be president, and if four of the said trustees shall attend, they shall form a quorum or board, and shall have power, by a majority of voices present, to make, ordain and establish, such rules, orders and regulations, for the management of the temporal business, and disposing of the estate of the said corporation, as to them shall seem proper, provided that such rules, orders and regulations, be reasonable in themselves, and not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state,

VI. AND