

Passed 31st of
Dec. 1801.

An ACT to incorporate the Roman catholic congregation worshipping at Saint-Joseph's church, in Saint-Mary's county.

Members incorporated, &c.

BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the members of the Roman catholic congregation at Saint-Joseph's 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.

First trustees appointed, &c.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the first trustees of the 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.

Members to meet, &c.

III. 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 said corporation until the next election, whose names, on such election, shall be declared by the pastor, and entered in the books of the said corporation for that purpose to be kept.

Trustees to meet, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees above named, and their successors, from time to time, as occasion shall require, to meet together for the purpose of transacting the business of the congregation under their care, of the time and place of which meetings due notice shall be given to all the said trustees at least two days before, and of which the pastor shall be president, if attending, 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, 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 they shall judge proper; provided, that such rules, order and regulations, be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state.

Pastor, &c. may adjourn, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the pastor, or any member of the said corporation, shall have full power and authority to adjourn from day to day until a quorum shall attend; and the said corporation are hereby authorised and empowered to appoint and employ a fit and proper person as
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