

DECREE

Demolition of the Former Saint Martin Rectory in Whitfield in Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Loogootee

Due to the deteriorating condition of the former Saint Martin rectory in Whitfield in Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the building, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient just cause exists for the demolition of the former rectory.

Whereas the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, in whose territory the former Saint Martin rectory in Whitfield is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in order to request that the former rectory be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the former rectory, located within the boundaries of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, should be demolished:

Whereas the property is no longer being used for the purpose of which it was built, and there is no possibility that it will be used for that or any other purpose;

Whereas the structure of the former rectory has deteriorated to the extent that major and expensive repairs are necessary, including but not limited to mitigation of mold and moisture problems, replacement of insulation, drywall and trim, painting, and the cost of insurance, coupled with concerns which relate to safety and liability issues for a vacant building;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the former rectory, particularly because of expense, safety, and liability concerns related to a vacant building;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the former rectory have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 16 June 2026, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted and obtained the consent of the members of the College of Consultors on 16 October 2026, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted and obtained the consent of the members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 25 June 2026, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Diocesan Finance Council voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having ascertained by means of the original deeds and other documents of the property as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs who may have donated the former rectory; and

Having ensured that the demolition has been approved by civil authorities, and if any special permits are needed, they shall be obtained.


Therefore, in accord with canon 1290 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient just cause is indeed present, I hereby decree that the former Saint Martin rectory in Whitfield in Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Loogootee, is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 14 July 2026, all things to the contrary notwithstanding. This decree is to be communicated to all interested persons. These provisions may be appealed according to the norm of law, canon 1734 §§1 and 2.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
26 June 2026



Dean Happe
Chancellor



Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville