

To Bishop Peter Paul Lefevre of Detroit?

Regarding title (legal?) of the new church of St. Joseph [Bertrand] not the title to the land, but of the building; it is all that the Congregation (?) parish? Community? has been able to do so far here; the parish?

Three adjacent lots have been set aside for the church structure & a church having the value of \$3,000. the new building ^{should not exceed?} is not worth \$3,000.

Until ^{Meanwhile?} the Catholics of St. Joseph (Mission, Bertrand) have obtained a lot of their choice for their church. I do not think that another? title could ever be

~~canons~~ If your lordship cannot dispense ... of the diocesan

canons which ordain that the Ordinary [Bishop - and Lefevre was not the Ordinary - only the titular of Zela and Coadjutor - Administrator of Detroit] ought to be in possession of the ^{1st} title [property title ought to be in name of Ordinary for the Diocese]

I do not see that one can make these poor people who - nothing less than ... actually buy a lot and - - move their church. That is - not? - all ...? that

I have been told myself regarding these circumstances.

p. 2 The benediction - blessing? approval? - to the great disappointment of the Congregation [Holy Cross? - parishioners?] and Fr. Cointet who is about to leave for Calamazoo [Kal.] told me you decided? he asked that this be (ought to be) done. I ... that it will be extremely difficult? if he is unable to get permission? and usage.

We await you for the distribution of? - - until the value

I sincerely regret that your duties will not permit you to ^{accept} accede to my invitation.

Accept, my lord Bishop, the assurance of the respect and deep veneration - esteem - - -

of your Lordship

Your very humble and devoted servant

R. Sorin