
CHAPTER 385

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH INCORPORATION AND VESTING ACT

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH INCORPORATION AND VESTING

(12th December, 1972.)

12/1972.

WHEREAS on the 4th day of July, 1971 the Diocese of Roseau was divided and a new Diocese of St. John was set up comprising the islands of Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla, Montserrat, Sombbrero and the British Virgin Islands with a Bishop styled as the Bishop of St. John's:

AND WHEREAS real property has from time to time been acquired by and on behalf of the parishioners:

AND WHEREAS on the acquisition of such real property the deeds of conveyance thereof and other evidence of title thereto were usually taken out in the name of the Bishop of Roseau or of the ministers for the time being of the church:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to incorporate the Bishop of St. John's as a corporation sole and to vest in such corporation the real and personal property acquired in Antigua and Barbuda for and on behalf of the Roman Catholic parishioners in Antigua and Barbuda.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Roman Catholic Church Incorporation and Vesting Act.

Incorporation of
the Bishop of St.
John's.

2. The Right Reverend Joseph Oliver Bowers S.V.D., D.D. The Roman Catholic Bishop of St. John's and his successors in office shall be and is hereby constituted a corporation under the style and title of the "Bishop of St. John's" with perpetual succession and a common seal and authority by that corporate name to sue and be sued to acquire and hold real and personal property in trust for all purposes connected with the affairs of the Roman Catholic Church in Antigua and Barbuda and with power to sell, mortgage, alienate or lease the said property.

Vesting of
Property.

3. All real and personal property in Antigua and Barbuda now held or vested in the Bishop of Roseau or held by or vested in any person or persons on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church Parishioners in Antigua and Barbuda are hereby transferred to and vested in the Bishop of St. John's and his successors and assigns for the same estates and interests and to the extent to which the same were respectively at the time of the passing of this Act held or vested as aforesaid subject to the rights, reservations and charges (if any) now affecting the same and the trusts upon which the same are now held.

Powers of the
said corporation.

4. The Bishop of Saint John's shall have the following powers:—

(a) To acquire, hold, purchase, receive, lease, possess, and enjoy any lands or hereditaments whatsoever in fee simple, leasehold or for any other estate or interest and all property real, personal or mixed.

(b) To give, grant, let, charge, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage, sell, convey, assign, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with all

or any of the property both present and future so held or vested or any part thereof.

(c) To borrow, raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as may be thought fit and in particular by the issue of debentures or scrip charged upon all or any of the property (both present and future) held by or vested in the Corporation and to redeem and pay off any such securities.

(d) To appoint an attorney or attorneys for such time and purposes and with such powers as may be stated in the instrument of appointment and to revoke any such appointment and to confer on any such attorney or attorneys appointed as aforesaid power to appoint a substitute in his or their stead.

5. Nothing in this Act shall prejudice or affect the Saving of rights. rights of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs and Successors or any body politic or corporate of any other person or persons except such as are mentioned in this Act and those claiming by from through or under them.
