

May, 1793.

An A C T incorporating certain Persons, by the Name of the *Catholic Baptist Society*, at *Pawtucket*, in *North-Providence*, in the County of *Providence*, and State of *Rhode-Island* and *Providence-Plantations*.

THE Governor and Company of the State of *Rhode-Island* and *Providence-Plantations*, to all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

Charter to  
*Pawtucket*  
*Catholic Society*  
19.

WHEREAS sundry Persons of the Village called *Pawtucket*, in *North-Providence*, in the County of *Providence*, and others, have presented to us, that they have subscribed towards building a Meeting-House in said *Pawtucket*, for the Worship of Almighty GOD, which said House is, on the First Days of the Week, for ever hereafter, to be and remain for the *Baptist* Denomination of Christians, if they have an Occasion for the same; and on other Times and Occasions indifferently for the Use of any or all Denominations of Christians, and to be opened and used accordingly, at the Request of any Four of the reputable Householders of the said Village of *Pawtucket*; and have petitioned this General Assembly to grant them a Charter of Incorporation, with the Privileges and Powers hereafter mentioned.

Now, therefore, Know Ye,

THAT we, the Governor and Company, do, for ourselves and our Successors, enact, grant, ordain, constitute and declare, that *Samuel Healy*, *Jerathmeel Jenks*, *Oliver Bucklin*, *Nathaniel Croad*, *Benjamin Jenks*, *James Mayson*, *James Durfee*, *James Weeden*, *Nathaniel Walker*, jun. *David Jenks*, *Thomas Speare*, *Stephen Jenks*, jun. *Levi Jenks*, *Moses Jenks*, *John Pitcher*, *Moses Baker*, *Daniel Towler*, *Stephen Jenks*, *George Jenks*, *Benjamin Kingly*, *John Bucklin*, *Sylvester Bowers*, jun. *Comfort Jenks*, *Samuel Berchley*, *William Bagley*, jun. *Ezra Barrows*, *Josiah Armington*, *David Walker*, *Ezekiel Carpenter*, *Samuel Jenks*, *George Nicholas*, *Samuel Slack*, *Oliver Carpenter*, *Samuel Slator*, *Jesse Salisbury*, *Jesse Busbee*, *Ephraim Jenks*, *Luther Hawkins*, *Peter Bicknal*, *Ezek Jenks*, *Ebenezer Tyler*, *Eleazar Jenks*, *George Benson*, *John Brown*, *Nicholas Brown*, *Thomas P. Ives*, and *Anetas Sweland*, or such or so many of them as shall convene on the Second *Wednesday* of *May*, A. D. 1793, at the House of *Samuel Healy*, in *North-Providence*, on the Business of their Charter, and their Successors, shall be forever hereafter one Body corporate and politic in Fact, and remain, with perpetual Succession, to be known in the Law, by the Name of the *Catholic Baptist Society*, at *Pawtucket*, in *North-Providence*, in the County of *Providence*, and State of *Rhode-Island* and *Providence-Plantations*. And the said *Catholic Society* is hereby empowered to take, receive and hold, all and any voluntary Subscriptions, Contributions, Legacies and Donations, of any Sum or Sums of Money, or of any real and personal Estate; also to have, take, possess, purchase, acquire, or otherwise receive and hold, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels, or other Estates, of all which they shall and may stand seized, notwithstanding any Misnomer of this Corporation, and by whatever Name, or however imperfectly the same shall be described in Donations, Legacies, Assignments and Grants; provided the true Intent and Meaning of the Assignor or Benefactor be evident. Also the said *Catholic Society* is hereby empowered to take, hold, and stand seized of, all Estates aforesaid, fully to and for the Use and Benefit of the said Corporation and their Successors forever, and the same to use, occupy and improve, towards the Support of Pastors, Relief of the Poor, in schooling their Children, or otherwise, or any other religious Uses, according to the Will of the Donors, and to the Purposes, Trusts and Uses, to which they shall be seized thereof; or the same shall be designed: Also to lease the real Estate, or the same to grant, demise, aliene or hold in Perpetuity, according to the Tenor of each particular Donation, or their Property therein, and to let Monies on Bonds, Mortgages, or other Securities; and shall and may be Persons capable in the Law, as a Body corporate, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto, to defend and pursue to final Judgment and Execution thereon, in all Courts and Places, and before all proper Judges whatever, in all and singular Suit and Suits, Cases and Actions, of what  
Kind

And ever, in the fullest and amplest Manner, by and in the Name of their Treasurers for the Time being.

And furthermore, the said Body corporate, and their Successors forever hereafter, shall and may have a public Seal, which they may use for any Purposes or Affairs as to them shall seem expedient; also it shall be lawful for them the same Seal to break, alter and make anew, from Time to Time, at their Will and Pleasure.

*AND it is further Enacted*, That there shall be an annual Meeting of the said *Catholic Society*, in said *Pawtucket*, on the Second *Monday in June* forever, at which Time they shall, out of their own Body politic, elect a Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk, and such other Officers as they shall think needful: And the Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk, shall be sworn to the faithful Performance of their respective Trusts: And furthermore, there shall be a Quarterly Meeting of said *Catholic Society*, on the Second *Monday in September, December and March*, forever: That the said *Catholic Society* shall have full Power to appoint any other Meetings, at such Times and Places as to them from Time to Time shall seem necessary or expedient, more fully and effectually to accomplish the charitable Purposes aforesaid; and that they have Power at any such Meetings to appoint Committees, and transact all such Business as according to their Charter may regularly come before them: All which shall be done and determined by a Majority of the Members present.

*AND it is further Enacted*, That *Stephen Jenks* be Moderator, *Jeremiah Jenks*, Treasurer, and *Stephen Jenks, jun.* Clerk, of said *Catholic Society*, to continue in their respective Offices until the Second *Monday in June, 1793*.

*AND it is further Enacted*, That the said *Catholic Society*, at any of their Meetings, may elect such Persons as they shall think proper to become Members of the same, and make such Rules, Orders and By-Laws, and alter the same, as they, from Time to Time, shall judge necessary for the good Order of said *Society*: Provided that such Rules, Orders and By-Laws, are not contrary to the Laws of this Government; and that any Seven Members of said *Catholic Society*, convened at any regular Meeting, the Moderator, Treasurer or Clerk, always to be one, are hereby declared to be a Quorum of said *Society*.

*AND it is further Enacted*, That all Donations, of whatsoever Kind, or howsoever made to said *Catholic Society*, together with the Names of the Donors, and the Purposes and Uses for which said Donations shall be made, shall be entered on Record by the Clerk for the Time being: as also their yearly Income, and its Appropriations from Time to Time forever: And that the Treasurer's Accounts be exhibited and audited at every annual Meeting of the said *Society*.

*PROVIDED nevertheless, and be it further Enacted*, That if ever the whole Number of the said *Catholic Society* for the Time being shall be reduced below Seven, then and in such Case all Monies, Bonds, Mortgages, Deeds, Notes, Obligations, Books and Papers of every Kind, together with all the Estate, both real and personal, at the Time belonging to the said *Catholic Society*, shall be given up to, and the sole Property thereof be vested in, the *Baptist Church* or Churches in said *North-Providence*, for whose Use and Benefit the said *Catholic Society* is instituted, to be received by a Committee by them appointed for the Purpose, and shall be punctually appropriated by them to the said Purposes, Trusts and Uses, specified by the Donors to the said *Catholic Society*, or to which they are by this Charter empowered to appropriate the same, and no otherwise.

*PROVIDED furthermore, and it is further Enacted*, That the said *Catholic Society* shall have Power to raise Monies by selling the Pew-Ground, to finish the said House, and for the Good of said *Society*, as they may think necessary; but that no Taxes shall ever be laid on said Pews hereafter, without the Consent of the Owner or Owners of such Pew or Pews: And in case at any Time hereafter, through Misapprehensions or mistaken Constructions of the Powers contained in this Charter, any Laws shall be enacted, or any Matters done and transacted by this Corporation, contrary to the Tenor hereof, such Laws, Acts and Doings, shall be in themselves null and void, but shall never be adjudged into an Avoidance, Defeasance or Forfeiture of this Charter; but the same shall remain entire to the said Corporation in perpetual Succession forever, and all their Acts conformable to its Powers, Tenor, true Intent and Meaning, shall be and remain of full Force and legal Validity.