



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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317-236-1403

DECREE

Whereas my predecessor, Archbishop Daniel Marcus Buechlein, O.S.B., had instituted a process to assess the pastoral needs of the parishes in the Batesville Deanery; and

Whereas as part of this process information concerning the pastoral needs of the people of northern Dearborn County was presented to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission by the parishes of northern Dearborn County; and

Whereas the information established that the current disposition of parishes in northern Dearborn County is inadequate to meet the current and future pastoral needs of the people of northern Dearborn County in that:

- currently there are four small parishes, St. John the Baptist in Dover, St. Joseph in St. Leon, St. Martin in Yorkville, and St. Paul in New Alsace, in northern Dearborn County;
- each of the four parishes has a membership of between one hundred and fifty and three hundred households;
- in order to serve the catechetical needs of the youth of northern Dearborn County, the parishes would like to establish a regional Catholic elementary school;
- none of the existing parishes can support such a school individually;
- one of the parishes, St. Paul in New Alsace, currently operates a small Catholic elementary school with an enrollment of approximately fifty children, but this school has caused the parish some financial difficulties;
- a new parish comprised of the members, assets, and territory of the four currently existing parishes would have a reasonable ability to successfully establish and to maintain a school capable of serving the catechetical needs of all of the Catholics of northern Dearborn County;
- the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education supports the effort to establish a regional Catholic school;
- all four parishes have experienced either stagnation or a decline in membership for the last decade; and
- the numbers of infant and adult baptisms, receptions into the Church, youth confirmations, and marriages have all been stagnant or in decline in the four parishes; and

Whereas the Archdiocesan Planning Commission based its recommendations on the data obtained from the parishes, the cohort representatives, and the Archdiocese; and

Whereas the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, after reviewing the facts, presented to me the recommendation that the four existing parishes be unified into a single parish that would initially conduct worship at the churches of the four currently existing parishes but which would eventually have a single parish church; and

Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council to advise me concerning the question of whether a new parish should be created pursuant to the recommendations of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission or whether some other course of action should be taken to address the pastoral needs of northern Dearborn County; and

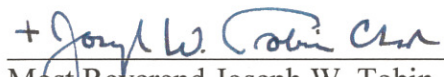
Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after full discussion and opportunity to suggest alternate courses of action, by unanimous consultative vote recommended to me the creation of a new parish in northern Dearborn County;

I, Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., in my capacity as Diocesan Bishop and Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of northern Dearborn County specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Batesville Deanery generally, hereby decree:

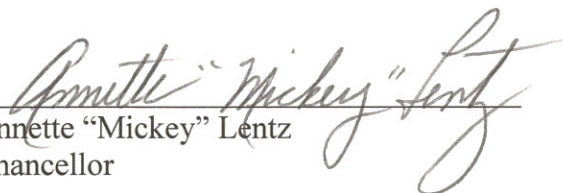
1. A new parish is to be erected that will be comprised of the territory of the currently existing parishes of St. John the Baptist in Dover, St. Joseph in St. Leon, St. Martin in Yorkville, and St. Paul in New Alsace, in northern Dearborn County.
2. The new parish will come into being on the 1st day of December, 2013.
3. The public juridic person of the parish, which is created by operation of law, shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to create a civil not for profit parish corporation pursuant to the current practice of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the law of the State of Indiana.
4. The status of the currently existing parishes and the disposition of the assets and liabilities of those parishes will be determined by the provisions of canon and civil law and by decrees specific to each of the four parishes.
5. The new parish will receive such assets and liabilities of the currently existing parishes as are apportioned to it by the provisions of canon and civil law and by the specific decrees concerning each of those parishes.
6. Prior to the date upon which the new parish will come into existence, representatives of the currently existing parishes are, in cooperation with the person who will be designated to be the pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator of the new parish, to propose to the Archbishop of Indianapolis a name for the new parish.

7. The number and location of the parish Saturday anticipation masses and Sunday masses shall be determined by the pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator with the advice and consent of the Ordinary.
8. This decree is to be published to the pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators of the four currently existing parishes, and the pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators are both to notify their parishioners of the contents of this decree and to make this decree available for inspection and copying at the parish offices of the four currently existing parishes.
9. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
10. This decree is also to be published to the Archdiocesan website.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this 6th day of June, 2013.

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Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Indianapolis



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor