



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
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 both the current condition of St. John the Baptist Parish in Dover, Indiana, and the pastoral needs of the people of the parish was made available to both the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and to myself as the Diocesan Bishop and Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and

Whereas the information concerning the condition of the parish and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- the number of registered households declined from 226 to 210 between 2005 and 2010;
- the number of parishioners declined from 655 to 538, a decline of approximately 18%, between 2005 and 2010;
- the parish does not maintain a Catholic grade school and is incapable of supporting such a school on its own;
- the parish has experienced stagnation in both the number of infant baptisms and the number of confirmations of young persons;
- the parish has received only 2 adults into the Church through RCIA between 2005 and 2010, and both of these were in a single year;
- the parish reported no adult, adolescent, or elementary catechesis programs;
- the cohort representing the currently existing parishes have recognized that St. John the Baptist Parish, like the other currently existing parishes in northern Dearborn County, has a need for improved catechesis and evangelization; and

Whereas the Planning Commission advised the extinctive union of St. John the Baptist Parish and a parish to be comprised of the people and the territory of the four currently existing parishes of northern Dearborn County;

Whereas I have today decreed, with the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and the Archdiocesan Management Council, that a new parish be erected in northern Dearborn County, and that this new parish shall be comprised of the people and territory of the four currently existing parishes; and

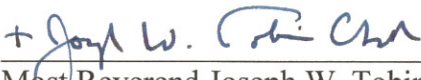
Whereas I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese and sought its counsel concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of St. John the Baptist Parish might best be addressed; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by majority vote with a single abstention that St. John the Baptist Parish be extinguished and its people become members of a new parish to be erected in northern Dearborn County;

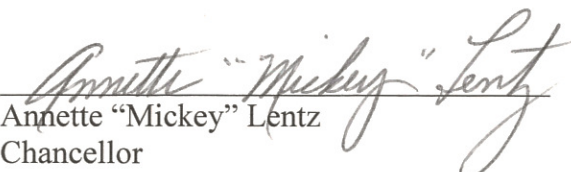
I, Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Archdiocesan Management Council, and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of St. John the Baptist Parish of Dover specifically and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

1. St. John the Baptist Parish of Dover, Indiana is to be extinguished and its people unified into the new parish which will be erected in northern Dearborn County on December 1, 2013 pursuant by my decree dated June 6, 2013.
2. The public juridical person of St. John the Baptist Parish is to be extinguished on the same date.
3. Upon the extinction of St. John the Baptist Parish and the unification of its people into the new parish erected in northern Dearborn County, the civil corporation of St. John the Baptist Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of the newly erected parish.
4. Upon the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. John the Baptist Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish and to the priest whom I shall appoint to be the pastor of the newly erected parish.
6. The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish and that copies of this decree are to be made available at the offices of St. John the Baptist Parish.
7. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
8. This decree is to be posted to the website of the Archdiocese.

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



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor