



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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## 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. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood, Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, and St. Denis Parish in Jennings County and the pastoral needs of the people of these parishes 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, pursuant to the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and the Archdiocesan Management Council, I have today issued a separate decree mandating that St. Denis Parish be extinguished and its people be made part of Immaculate Conception Parish; and

Whereas the information concerning the condition of the three remaining parishes and the pastoral needs of their people demonstrated that, at the present time, the pastoral needs of the three parishes could best be served by a single priest providing sacramental ministry to all three parishes; and

Whereas the Planning Commission accordingly advised that the three parishes should be designated as partnership parishes; and


Whereas the Archdiocesan Management Council endorsed the plan to create a partnership among the three parishes;

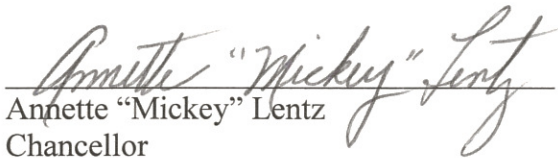
I, Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and the Archdiocesan Management Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of the aforementioned parishes specifically and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that, effective December 1, 2013, while St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood, Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, and St. Denis Parish in Jennings County shall not be extinguished or in other manner materially altered except for the extinctive unification of St. Denis Parish into Immaculate Conception Parish described above and decreed by my separate decree issued today, they are to be considered in partnership in that the parishes are encouraged to coordinate times for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments; to coordinate evangelization, religious education, and pastoral programs insofar as is possible; and to cooperate in all other ways that are advantageous to the spiritual wellbeing of the parishioners of the partnership parishes.

I further decree that this decree is to be published to the pastors and administrators of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood, Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, and St. Denis Parish in Jennings County, and that:

1. The parishioners of each parish are to be informed of this decree by their current pastors, and copies of this decree shall be maintained at each parish office and shall be made available for inspection and copying by interested parties.
2. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
3. 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.

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

  
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Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor