



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. Denis Parish in Jennings County, 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 parish has a small membership that has averaged approximately forty households and eighty members in the eleven years from 2002 and 2012, and the parish showed a decline in membership to thirty-four households and fifty-five members in 2012;
- there have been an average of two infant baptisms, no adult baptisms, no receptions of adults into full communion, no weddings, and fewer than one funeral per year for the eleven years from 2002 to 2012;
- there is little evidence of any significant pastoral activity in the parish other than the celebration of the mass and sacraments; and

Whereas the planning commission advised the extinctive union of St. Denis Parish of Jennings County and Immaculate Conception Parish of Millhausen, Indiana, with the extinction of St. Denis Parish and the merger of its members into Immaculate Conception Parish in order to allow the parishioners of the unified parish the following opportunities to:

- develop evangelization programs;
- implement faith formation programs;
- implement vocations programs;
- promote good stewardship of financial and other resources;
- develop a plan to assist parishioners to attend Catholic schools; and

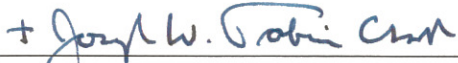
Whereas I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese and sought its counsel concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of St. Denis Parish might best be addressed; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous vote that St. Denis Parish be extinguished and its people become members of Immaculate Conception Parish;

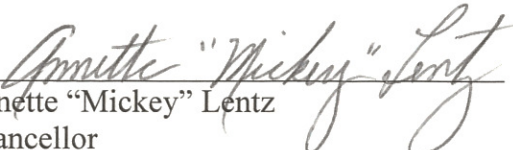
I, Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Archdiocesan Management Council, and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of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

1. St. Denis Parish of Jennings County is to be extinguished and its people are to become members of Immaculate Conception Parish of Millhousen, Indiana on December 1, 2013.
2. The public juridical person of St. Denis Parish is to be extinguished on the same date.
3. Upon the extinction of St. Denis Parish and the unification of its people into Immaculate Conception Parish, the civil corporation of St. Denis Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of Immaculate Conception Parish.
4. Upon the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. Denis Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the parish life coordinator of St. Denis Parish and to the parish life coordinator of Immaculate Conception Parish.
6. The parishioners of St. Denis Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the parish life coordinators of St. Denis Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish that copies of this decree are to be made available at the offices of St. Denis Parish and Immaculate Conception 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