



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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## Decree

Whereas my predecessor, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, instituted a process called Connected in the Spirit that was designed to assess the pastoral needs of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and

Whereas the Connersville Deanery is currently participating in this process; and

Whereas as part of this process information concerning the pastoral needs of the people of Richmond, Indiana and surrounding areas was presented to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission by the three parishes of Richmond that are currently linked by a common pastor and are commonly known as the Richmond Catholic Community; and

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

- currently the three parishes in Richmond, St. Andrew, St. Mary, and Holy Family, are *de jure* independent parishes but function *de facto* as a single parish in most respects;
- the three parishes share a single pastor, have in the recent past shared a single parochial vicar, and share a common pastoral staff;
- because of their status as independent parishes, however, the parishes have been forced into costly and administratively burdensome practices, to wit:
  - although operating as a single parish in most respects, the parishes have been forced to maintain separate bank and financial accounts, and joint expenses have to be apportioned among those accounts;
  - the parishes have a single pastor and pastoral staff, but each parish has an individual finance council and pastoral council resulting in a multiplication of work for the pastor;
  - the parishioners have come to attend mass at whichever church best meets their needs on a given weekend, but their contributions are apportioned to their individual parish of membership, causing undue administrative burdens and expenses to the parishes;

- the parishes jointly maintain an elementary school and a high school;
- a new parish comprised of the members, assets, and territory of the three currently existing parishes and maintaining the currently existing parish churches would have a reasonable ability to meet the pastoral and liturgical needs of all of the Catholic population of Richmond and the surrounding area without unduly burdening those responsible for the pastoral care and administration of that Catholic population; 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 three existing parishes be unified into a single parish; and

Whereas that recommendation was consonant with the wishes expressed by the leadership of the presently existing parishes; 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 the Catholic population of Richmond; 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 Richmond consisting of the people and territory of the three existing parishes;

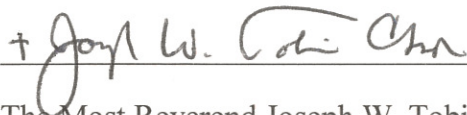
I, Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., in my capacity as Archbishop and Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of Richmond specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Connersville Deanery generally, hereby decree:

1. A new parish is to be erected that will be comprised of the territory of the currently existing St. Andrew, St. Mary, and Holy Family Parishes.
2. The new parish will come into being on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2016.
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 three existing parishes.

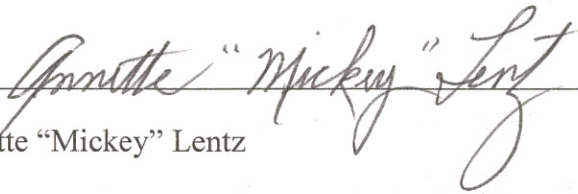


5. The new parish will receive such assets and liabilities of the currently existing parishes as are apportioned to it by the provisions of canon and civil law and by the specific decrees concerning each of those parishes.
6. Prior to the date upon which the new parish will come into existence, representatives of the currently existing parishes are, in cooperation with the designated pastor 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 weekday masses, holy day masses, and Saturday anticipation masses and Sunday masses shall be determined by the pastor of the newly erected parish, after hearing the faithful.
8. This decree is to be published to the pastor of the three currently existing parishes, and, immediately upon receipt of this decree, the pastor is to notify the parishioners of the contents of this decree and to make this decree available for inspection and copying at the parish offices of the Richmond Catholic Community.
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 4th day of February, 2016.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz

Chancellor

