



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 Buechlein, OSB, had instituted a process to assess the pastoral needs of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and

Whereas this process, known as Connected in the Spirit, was designed to consider the needs of the parishes according to deaneries; and

Whereas as it was deemed beneficial to consider the four Indianapolis deaneries, that is the North, West, South, and East deaneries, simultaneously since it was obvious that decisions concerning the parishes of any one of the deaneries would necessarily affect the parishes of the adjoining deaneries; and

Whereas as part of this process information concerning both the current condition of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish of Indianapolis, 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 Church of the Holy Cross Parish church is in need of significant structural repairs and there is no reserve funding available to pay for the necessary repairs;
- while there may be some potential for growth in membership in the parish, it is insufficient to generate funds sufficient to finance the necessary repairs on the church building;
- the sacramental records for the parish, while not complete, suggest that there is little if any growth in the numbers of baptisms, adults entering the Church through the RCIA program, or weddings in the parish; and
- there is a need for and a potential for enhanced collaborative ministry in the parish should the Church of the Holy Cross Parish be merged with St. Philip Neri Parish; and

Whereas the planning commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, between the Church of the Holy Cross Parish and St. Philip Neri Parish, with the extinction of both parishes and the erection of a new parish to be comprised of the members of the Church of the Holy Cross and St. Philip Neri Parishes; and

Whereas the unification of the parishes would allow for stronger evangelization, faith formation, and vocations programs, as well as effective administration and stewardship of the resources of the unified parish; and

Whereas such an extinctive union with the extinction of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish is sufficiently justified for the reasons *in rem* related above, there do not exist sufficient reasons *in rem* to extinguish St. Philip Neri Parish; and

Whereas an extinctive union of the parishes would also allow for a pastorally necessary allocation of limited resources and personnel, particularly priests; and

Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Management Council and presented to the Council the findings and recommendations of the Planning Commission; and

Whereas the Management Council recommended that the findings and recommendations of the Commission be accepted and implemented; 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 the Church of the Holy Cross Parish might best be addressed; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous vote that the Church of the Holy Cross Parish be merged into St. Philip Neri Parish; and

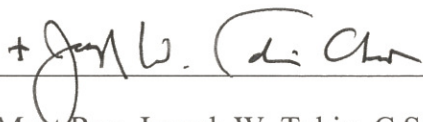
Whereas, upon my own consideration of the facts and the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, I have reached the conclusion that the recommendations are sound and supported by the facts;

I, Joseph 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 the Church of the Holy Cross Parish of Indianapolis in specific and the spiritual needs of the four Indianapolis Deaneries and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

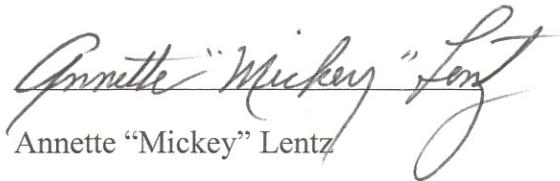
1. The Church of the Holy Cross Parish of Indianapolis, Indiana is to be merged into St. Philip Neri Parish of Indianapolis, Indiana on November 30, 2014.

2. The public juridical person of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish is to be extinguished on the same date, or, if the matter should be appealed, upon the resolution of any such appeal.
3. Upon the extinction of the public juridical person of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish and the unification of its people into St. Philip Neri Parish, the civil corporation of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Philip Neri Parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the administrator of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish and to the administrator of St. Philip Neri Parish.
6. The parishioners of the Church of the Holy Cross Parish and the parishioners of St. Philip Neri Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the administrator of the parishes. Copies of this decree are to be made available for inspection at the offices of both parishes, and the parishioners shall be given notice as soon as is possible after its receipt by the administrator and pastor.
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 21st day of May, 2014 .



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz

Chancellor

