



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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Decree

Whereas my predecessors, Archbishop Daniel Mark Buechlein, OSB, and Joseph William Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R., 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 it was deemed beneficial to consider the pastoral needs of the parishes of the New Albany Deanery; and,

Whereas in the course of this process, information concerning both the current condition of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish of New Middletown, 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 Archbishop 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 parishioners at Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish has declined from 150 parishioners to 94, a decline of 37%, between 2010 and 2017;
- from 2010 through 2017, the parish has experienced one infant baptism, five confirmations of young persons, one marriage, and one funeral;
- Adult, adolescent, and elementary catechesis programs are already a shared ministry with St. Joseph Parish in Corydon, Indiana;
- Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish has few liturgical ministries;
- Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish has few social outreach programs;
- the extinctive union of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish and the merger of the people of the parish into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana; will provide the opportunity for an increase in ministry, evangelization, and outreach in Harrison County;

- since 2011, Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish has incurred deficits in two of the seven years from 2011 through 2017;
- the Planning Commission reached the conclusion that the income problems of the parish could be ameliorated by an extinctive union with St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana;
- such an extinctive union and merger should be readily accepted, as both parishes already share a common pastor.

Whereas the Planning Commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish of New Middletown, Indiana, into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana; and,

Whereas the unification of the parishes would allow for effective administration and stewardship of the resources of the unified parish; and

Whereas, while such a unification is sufficiently justified for the reasons *in rem* related above, it also allows for a prudent allocation of limited resources and personnel, particularly priests; 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 Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish might best be addressed; and,

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous consultative vote that Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish of New Middletown, Indiana, be merged into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana;

I, Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish of New Middletown, Indiana, the spiritual needs of the New Albany Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis in general, now hereby decree that:

1. Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish of New Middletown, Indiana, is to be merged into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana, on 5 July 2018.
2. The public juridical person of Most Precious Blood of Jesus 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 Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish and the unification of its people into St. Joseph Parish, the civil corporation of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Joseph Parish.

4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of Most Precious Blood of Jesus 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 Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish and St. Joseph Parish.

6. The parishioners of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish and the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastor 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 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 19th day of April, 2018.

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Indianapolis



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor