



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. Nicholas Parish in Sunman, Indiana and St. Anthony Parish in Morris, Indiana 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 the information concerning the condition of the parish and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- the parishes have demonstrated substantial stability in numbers of registered households and registered parishioners between 2005 and 2010;
- the parishes have reported active sacramental lives;
- the parishes have room to develop or improve evangelization and vocations awareness;
- linking the parishes would enable a more efficient allocation of the pastoral and staff resources of the parishes as well as fostering greater cooperation between the parishes with regard to evangelization other pastoral activities; and

Whereas the Planning Commission, on the basis of the facts referenced above, advised that the two parishes could be linked by sharing a single pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator; and

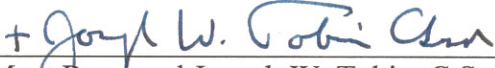
Whereas the Archdiocesan Management Council endorsed the plan to link the parishes;

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 St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman and St. Anthony Parish in Morris specifically and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that, effective December 1, 2013, while St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman and St. Anthony Parish in Morris shall not be extinguished or in other manner materially altered, they are to be linked in that they shall share a single pastoral leader, that is, a pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator, and 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 ways that are advantageous to the spiritual wellbeing of the parishioners of the two parishes.

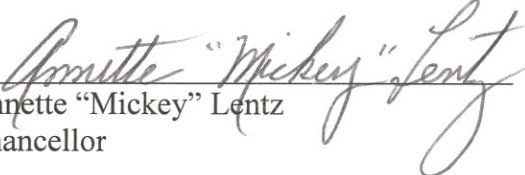
I further decree that this decree is to be published to the pastors or administrators of St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman and St. Anthony Parish in Morris, and that:

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.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor