



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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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. Louis Parish in Batesville, Indiana, 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, pursuant to the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and the Archdiocesan Management Council, I have today issued a separate decree mandating that St. Nicholas Parish and St. Anthony Parish shall be linked parishes sharing a single pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator; and

Whereas the information concerning the condition of the three parishes and the pastoral needs of their people demonstrated that the pastoral needs of the three parishes could best be served by the parishes working in partnership in order to develop effective evangelization and faith formation programs, efficiently and rationally coordinate mass and sacramental schedules, and develop an effective stewardship program; and

Whereas the Planning Commission additionally advised that the three parishes should take steps to implement a strategic plan to foster Catholic education for all three parishes by coordinating the efforts of St. Louis School in Batesville and St. Nicholas School in Sunman; and

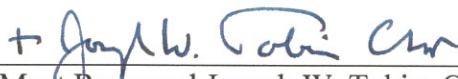
Whereas the Archdiocesan Management Council endorsed the plan to create a partnership among the three parishes;

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 the aforementioned parishes specifically and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that, effective December 1, 2013, while St. Louis Parish in Batesville, Indiana, St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman, Indiana, and St. Anthony Parish in Morris, Indiana shall not be extinguished or in other manner materially altered, they are to be considered in partnership in that 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 parishes.


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