



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, by my decree of June 6, 2013, the former St. Denis Parish of Jennings County was merged by extinctive union into Immaculate Conception Parish of Millhousen on December 1, 2013; and

Whereas the legal and equitable assets and liabilities of the former St. Denis Parish became assets and liabilities of Immaculate Conception Parish by virtue of the extinctive union; and

Whereas the parish life coordinator and pastoral council of Immaculate Conception Parish wrote to me and requested that the St. Denis Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use and further requested that the proceeds from the anticipated sale of the church building be used to fund the upkeep of the St. Denis Cemetery; and

Whereas the priest moderator of Immaculate Conception Parish has also petitioned that the church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council for consultation on the question of the relegation of St. Denis Church to profane but not sordid use; and

Whereas in the discussion of the question the Presbyteral Council heard evidence of the following facts concerning the former St. Denis Parish Church:

- The parish leadership of Immaculate Conception Parish maintains that the parish does not have sufficient financial resources to continue to maintain St. Denis Church.
- The church building has no indoor plumbing.
- Many of the statues have been removed from the building and placed in the Immaculate Conception Church.
- The building is not being used for any devotional practices or any other religious use at this time.
- The building is not being used or inspected on a regular basis and there are concerns about safety and potential parish liability because of the lack of use or inspection.

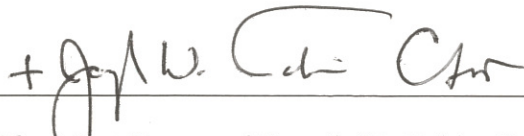
And whereas the Presbyteral Council voted unanimously to recommend that the St. Denis Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

Whereas I have concluded that the economic hardship of maintaining the building and its lack of usefulness to Immaculate Conception Parish constitute grave cause sufficient in law to support the relegation of the church building to profane but not sordid use;

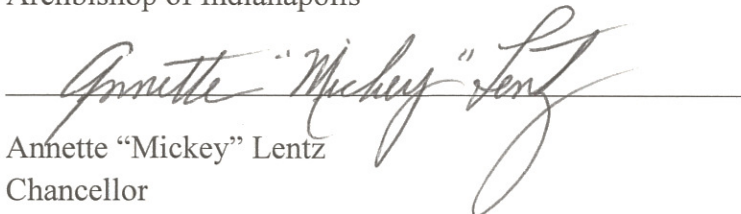
I, Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., in my capacity as Diocesan Bishop and Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of Immaculate Conception Parish specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, hereby decree:

1. The parish church of the former St. Denis Parish shall be relegated to profane but not sordid use fourteen days after the date of the promulgation of this decree.
2. Immaculate Conception Parish, in consultation with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, shall dispose of the church building in a manner that accords with Catholic faith and morals and its dignity as a former place of Divine worship.
3. This decree is to be published to the parish life coordinator of Immaculate Conception Parish.
4. The parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastor of the parish. Copies of this decree are to be made available for inspection at the office of the parish, and the parishioners shall be given notice as soon as is possible after its receipt by the pastor.
5. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
6. This decree is to be posted to the website of the Archdiocese.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2014.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor