



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, Saint Anne Parish of Hamburg was merged by extinctive union into Holy Family Parish of Oldenburg on December 1, 2013; and

Whereas the legal and equitable assets and liabilities of the former Saint Anne Parish became assets and liabilities of Holy Family Parish by virtue of the extinctive union; and

Whereas the pastoral leaders of Holy Family Parish petitioned me requesting that the parish church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

Whereas, the petition expressed concerns about the financial effects of continuing to maintain Saint Anne Church; and

Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on January 27, 2015 for consultation on the question of the relegation of Saint Anne 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 Saint Anne Church:

- The building is a financial burden on Holy Family Parish, which has absorbed two former parishes by means of extinctive union and is thus maintaining two auxiliary campuses.
- There have been no requests to use the church building for any sacraments or devotions.
- Most of the former parishioners of Saint Anne Parish have joined parishes other than Holy Family Parish and thus are not contributing to the upkeep of the church building.
- Holy Family Parish assumed a debt from the former Saint Anne Parish which had to be addressed.
- Holy Family Parish is paying \$13,000 per year for insurance and utility costs for the church building.
- Holy Family Parish would like to use the proceeds from the sale of the church building to finance the ongoing maintenance of the Saint Anne Cemetery.

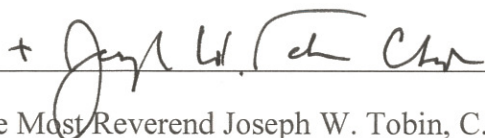
And whereas the Presbyteral Council voted unanimously to recommend that Saint Anne Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

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

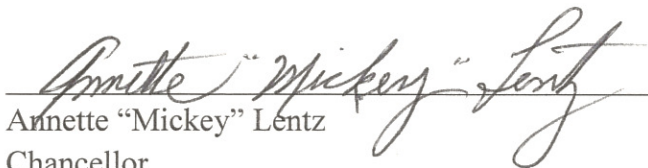
I, Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., in my capacity as Diocesan Bishop and Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of Holy Family Parish specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, hereby decree:

1. The parish church of the former Saint Anne Parish shall be relegated to profane but not sordid use fourteen days after the date of the promulgation of this decree that is, March 10, 2015. Should any interested party file a petition seeking recourse against this decree, the decree shall be held in abeyance until the final resolution of such petition.
2. Holy Family 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 pastor of Holy Family Parish.
4. The parishioners of Holy Family 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 24th day of February 2015.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor