



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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## 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 the pastoral needs of the people of northern Decatur County was presented to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission by the parishes of northern Decatur County; and

Whereas the information established that the current disposition of parishes in northern Decatur County is inadequate to meet the current and future pastoral needs of the people of northern Decatur County in that:

- currently there are two small parishes, St. John the Evangelist in Enochsburg, and St. Maurice in St. Maurice, in northern Decatur County;
- each of the parishes has a membership of under two hundred households;
- each of the parishes has a single Sunday mass;
- the parishes cannot individually support effective evangelization, catechesis, or vocations awareness programs;
- a new parish comprised of the members, assets, and territory of the two currently existing parishes would have a reasonable ability to successfully establish and to maintain viable evangelization, catechesis, and vocations programs;
- neither parish has experienced significant growth in the last decade; and

Whereas the Archdiocesan Planning Commission based its recommendations on the data obtained from the parishes, the cohort representatives, and the Archdiocese; and

Whereas the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, after reviewing the facts, presented to me the recommendation that the two existing parishes be unified into a single parish that would initially conduct worship at the churches of the two currently existing parishes subject to periodic review; and


Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council to advise me concerning the question of whether a new parish should be created pursuant to the recommendations of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission or whether some other course of action should be taken to address the pastoral needs of northern Decatur County; and

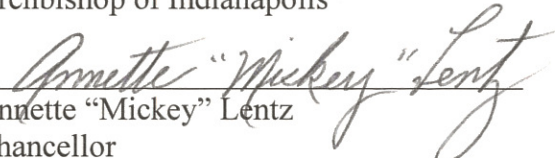
Whereas the presbyteral council, after full discussion and opportunity to suggest alternate courses of action, by a majority consultative vote with one opposed and one abstention recommended to me the creation of a new parish in northern Decatur County;

I, Joseph William 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 northern Decatur County specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Batesville Deanery generally, hereby decree:

1. A new parish is to be erected that will be comprised of the territory of the current parishes of St. John the Evangelist in Enochsburg and St. Maurice in St. Maurice, in northern Decatur County.
2. The new parish will come into being on the 1st day of December, 2013.
3. The public juridic person of the parish, which is created by operation of law, shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to create a civil not for profit parish corporation pursuant to the current practice of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the law of the State of Indiana.
4. The status of the currently existing parishes and the disposition of the assets and liabilities of those parishes will be determined by the provisions of canon and civil law and by decrees specific to each of the two parishes.
5. The new parish will receive such assets and liabilities of the currently existing parishes as are apportioned to it by the provisions of canon and civil law and by the specific decrees concerning each of those parishes.
6. Prior to the date upon which the new parish will come into existence, representatives of the currently existing parishes are, in cooperation with the person who will be designated to be pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator of the new parish, to propose to the Archbishop of Indianapolis a name for the new parish.
7. The number and location of the parish Saturday anticipation masses and Sunday masses shall be determined by the pastor with the advice and consent of the Ordinary.
8. This decree is to be published to the pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators of the two currently existing parishes, and the pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators are both to notify their parishioners of the contents of this decree and to make this decree available for inspection and copying at the parish offices of the four currently existing parishes.
9. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
10. This decree is also to be published to the Archdiocesan website.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this 6th day of June, 2013.

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

  
Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor