



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.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. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County 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;
- the parishes are only about a ten to fifteen minute drive apart;
- 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

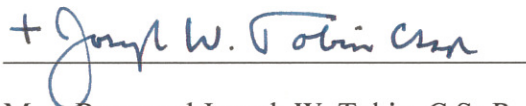
Whereas the Archdiocesan Management Council endorsed the plan to link the parishes;

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. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County specifically and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that, while St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County 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 are encouraged to collaborate where possible in coordinating the sacramental, pastoral, and administrative activities of the parishes. This linking of the parishes shall be effective July 3, 2013.

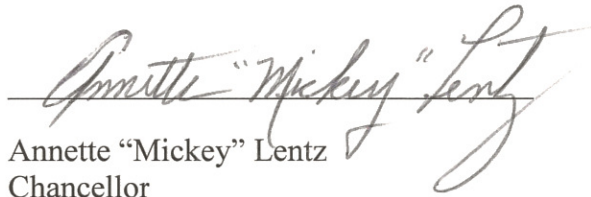
I further decree that this decree is to be published to the pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County, and that:

1. The parishioners of each parish are to be informed of this decree by their current pastors, administrators, or parish life coordinators, 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