



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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317-236-1403

## Decree

Whereas my predecessor, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, instituted a process to assess the pastoral needs of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and

Whereas this process, known as Connected in the Spirit, was designed to consider the needs of the parishes according to deaneries; and

Whereas it was deemed beneficial to consider the pastoral needs of the parishes of the Connersville Deanery; and

Whereas in the course of this process, information concerning both the current condition of St. Rose of Lima Parish of Knightstown, Indiana, and the pastoral needs of the people of the parish was made available to both the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and to myself as the Archbishop 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:

- since 2009, St. Rose of Lima Parish has experienced a steady decline in both gross and net income and has incurred deficits in four of the six years from 2009 through 2015;
- the Planning Commission reached the conclusion that the income problems of the parish could be ameliorated by an extinctive union with St. Anne Parish of Newcastle;
- the parish church has a capacity of two hundred, but the average weekend attendance for the period surveyed was only eighty;
- the extinctive union of the parish would allow for an enhanced staff, a residential pastor, and increased administrative efficiency, thus enhancing the pastoral service available to the people of Knightstown;

Whereas the Planning Commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, of St. Rose of Lima Parish into St. Anne Parish of New Castle, Indiana; and

Whereas the cohort representatives agreed with this proposal; and

Whereas the unification of the parishes would allow for effective administration and stewardship of the resources of the unified parish; and

Whereas, while such a unification is sufficiently justified for the reasons *in rem* related above, it also allows for a prudent allocation of limited resources and personnel, particularly priests; and

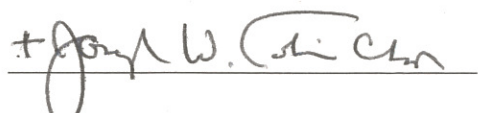
Whereas I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese and sought its counsel concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of St. Rose of Lima Parish might best be addressed; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by consultative vote that St. Rose of Lima Parish be merged into St. Anne Parish;

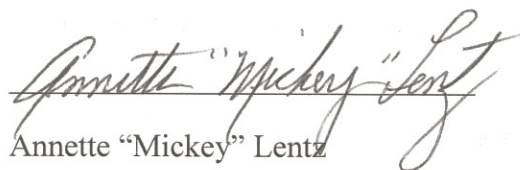
I, Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of St. Rose of Lima Parish of Knightstown in specific and the spiritual needs of the Connersville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

1. St. Rose of Lima Parish of Knightstown, Indiana is to be merged into St. Anne Parish of New Castle, Indiana on July 1, 2016.
2. The public juridical person of St. Rose of Lima Parish is to be extinguished on the same date, or, if the matter should be appealed, upon the resolution of any such appeal.
3. Upon the extinction of the public juridical person of St. Rose of Lima Parish and the unification of its people into St. Anne Parish, the civil corporation of St. Rose of Lima Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Anne Parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. Rose of Lima Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the parish life coordinator and the moderator of St. Rose of Lima Parish and St. Anne Parish.
6. The parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Parish and the parishioners of St. Anne Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the parish life coordinator of the parishes. Copies of this decree are to be made available for inspection at the offices of both parishes, and the parishioners shall be given notice as soon as is possible after its receipt by the parish life coordinator.
7. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.
8. This decree is to be posted to the website of the Archdiocese.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Archdiocese on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor

