



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 the parishes of St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Hill, Clark County and St. Paul Parish of Sellersburg have shared in the operation of St. Paul School since 1999; and

Whereas the parishes have collaborated in order to expand the school building; and

Whereas the parishes have shared staff members beginning in 2010; and

Whereas the merger of the parishes would allow the parish that would result from the merger to better administer personnel, financial, and material resources and thus facilitate the mission of the Church in the territory currently served by the two parishes; and

Whereas the merger of the parishes would offer expanded services and opportunities for spiritual growth to the parishioners of the currently existing parishes while eliminating inefficient and counterproductive duplication of services; and

Whereas in 2004, during the tenure of my predecessor as Archbishop of Indianapolis, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, the Archdiocese formulated a parish staffing plan that provided that St. Joseph Parish and St. Paul Parish would share a single pastor; and

Whereas in 2006 the two parishes established a joint committee called the Joint Vision 2020 Committee to consider the relationship between the two parishes; and

Whereas that committee issued a final report which recommended that the parishes be merged into a single parish with one campus and with a single parish school serving pre-school through eighth grade students; and

Whereas this plan was approved by the pastoral councils of both parishes, ratified by the pastors of both parishes, and approved by Archbishop Buechlein; and

Whereas the parishes entered into an agreement to purchase a large parcel of land to serve as a possible site for a new parish campus, and whereas the option to purchase the property must be exercised by November of 2014; and

Whereas the parishes currently share a single pastor, Fr. Thomas Clegg, who was appointed to the pastorates of both parishes in 2013; and

Whereas the households of the parishes were sent a survey in January 2014 seeking their opinion concerning the question of whether the parishes should be merged; and

Whereas 74.8% of the respondents to this survey voted in favor of merging the parishes; and

Whereas on February 23, 2014 a joint parish assembly was held with 355 members of the parishes in attendance; and

Whereas 78% of those in attendance voted that they could accept the merger of the parishes; and

Whereas the merger of the parishes would allow for a mass schedule which would encourage fuller participation in the liturgy; and

Whereas the joint pastoral councils of St. Joseph Parish and St. Paul Parish petitioned me to erect a new parish in the territory of the currently existing parishes and to merge the existing parishes into the new parish in an extinctive union; and

Whereas I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council to advise me concerning the question of whether a new parish should be created pursuant to this petition; and

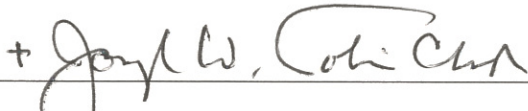
Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after full discussion and opportunity to suggest alternate courses of action, by unanimous consultative vote recommended to me extinctive union of St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Hill and St. Paul Parish of Sellersburg into a new parish (to be known as St. John Paul II Catholic Church) to be created in the territory currently belonging to the parishes;

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 St. Joseph and St. Paul Parishes specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, hereby decree:

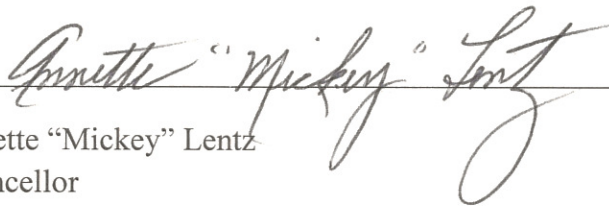
1. St. Paul Parish of Sellersburg is to be extinguished on November 30, 2014 and its people are to be merged into a new parish (to be known as St. John Paul II Catholic Church) which will be erected in the territory of the current St. Joseph and St. Paul Parishes as of the same date.
2. The public juridical person of the St. Paul 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 the St. Paul Parish and the unification of its people into the parish to be erected in the territory of the current St. Joseph and St. Paul Parishes, the civil corporation of the St. Paul Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of the newly erected parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of the St. Paul Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the pastor of St. Paul and St. Joseph Parishes.
6. The parishioners of St. Paul Parish and the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Hill are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastor 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 administrator and pastor.
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 the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this 11th day of August, 2014.

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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor