



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
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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. Mary Magdalene Parish in New Marion, 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 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 parish has a small membership that has demonstrated a large degree of instability, with membership ranging from lows of thirty-two households and fifty-nine members to highs of sixty-two households and one hundred and fifty parishioners in the eleven years between 2002 and 2012;
- in some years, the parish reported the loss of as many as nine households and fifty parishioners;
- there have been an average of slightly more than two infant baptisms, slightly more than zero adult baptisms, fewer than one receptions of adults into full communion, fewer than one weddings, and one funeral per year for the eleven years from 2002 to 2012;
- the parish church is a converted bank building;
- the primary attachment of the parishioners is reported to be to the parish cemetery and not the church; and

Whereas the planning commission advised the extinctive union of St. Mary Magdalen Parish of New Marion and Prince of Peace Parish of Madison, Indiana, with the extinction of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and the merger of its members into Prince of Peace Parish in order to allow the parishioners of the unified parish the following opportunities to:

- develop evangelization programs;
- implement faith formation programs;
- implement vocations programs;
- promote good stewardship of financial and other resources;
- develop a plan to assist parishioners to attend Catholic schools; and

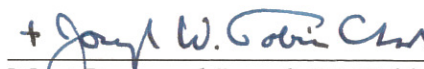
Whereas I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese and sought its counsel concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of St. Mary Magdalen Parish might best be addressed; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous vote that St. Mary Magdalen Parish be extinguished and its people become members of Prince of Peace Parish;

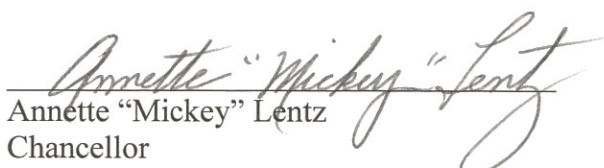
I, Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, having considered the advice of the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Archdiocesan Management Council, and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of St. Mary Magdalen Parish of New Marion in specific and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

1. St. Mary Magdalen Parish of New Marion is to be extinguished and its people are to become members of Prince of Peace Parish of Madison, Indiana on December 1, 2013.
2. The public juridical person of St. Mary Magdalen Parish is to be extinguished on the same date.
3. Upon the extinction of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and the unification of its people into Prince of Peace Parish, the civil corporation of St. Mary Magdalen Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of Prince of Peace Parish.
4. Upon the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. Mary Magdalen 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. Mary Magdalen Parish and to the pastor of Prince of Peace Parish.
6. The parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and the parishioners of Prince of Peace Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastors of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and Prince of Peace Parish and that copies of this decree are to be made available at the offices of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and Prince of Peace Parish.
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 6th day of June, 2013.



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



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor