



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.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 both the current condition of St. Mary of the Rock Parish in Batesville, 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 experienced a decline in both the number of registered households and number of registered parishioners between 2005 and 2010;
- the parish has reported a decrease in the number of infant baptisms per year between 2005 and 2010;
- the parish has received only 4 adults into the Church through RCIA between 2005 and 2010;
- the parish has no adult catechesis program apart from RCIA; and

Whereas the Planning Commission advised the extinctive union of St. Mary of the Rock Parish and the unification of its parishioners into Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, Indiana; and

Whereas the unification of the parishes would allow for stronger evangelization, faith formation, and vocations programs, as well as effective administration and stewardship of the resources of the unified parish; and

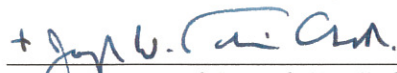
Whereas I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese and sought its counsel concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of St. Mary of the Rock Parish might best be addressed; and

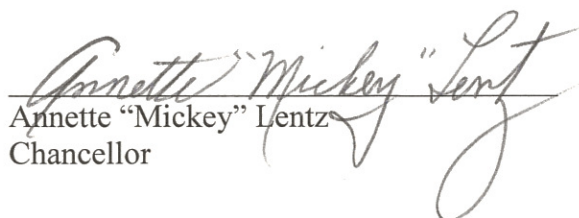
Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by majority vote with a single abstention that St. Mary of the Rock Parish be extinguished and its people become members Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, Indiana;

I, Joseph W 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 of the Rock Parish of Batesville in specific and the spiritual needs of the Batesville Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

1. St. Mary of the Rock Parish in Batesville, Indiana is to be extinguished and its people unified into Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, Indiana on December 1, 2013.
2. The public juridical person of St. Mary of the Rock Parish is to be extinguished on the same date.
3. Upon the extinction of St. Mary of the Rock Parish and the unification of its people into the Holy Family Parish, the civil corporation of St. Mary of the Rock Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of Holy Family Parish.
4. Upon the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. Mary of the Rock 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 of the Rock Parish and to the pastor of Holy Family Parish.
6. The parishioners of St. Mary of the Rock Parish and the parishioners of Holy Family Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastors of St. Mary of the Rock Parish and Holy Family Parish, and copies of this decree are to be made available at the offices of St. Mary of the Rock Parish and Holy Family 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.

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

  
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Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor