



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367  
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 parishes of the Seymour Deanery; and

Whereas, as part of this process, information concerning both the current condition of Our Lady of Providence Parish of Brownstown, 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 of Indianapolis; and

Whereas the information concerning the condition of the parish and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- there are very limited ministries at Our Lady of Providence;
- Our Lady of Providence has no catechetical program and few resources to support catechesis;
- Our Lady of Providence has few liturgical ministries;
- Our Lady of Providence has few social outreach programs;
- the number of members of the parish is small and is continuing to decline even as the population of the county in which it is located is growing;
- the extinctive union of Our Lady of Providence and the merger of the people of the parish into St. Ambrose Parish of Seymour will provide the opportunity for an increase in ministry, evangelization, and outreach in Jackson County;
- such an extinctive union and merger should be readily accepted as both parishes already share a common pastor.

Whereas the planning commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, of Our Lady of Providence Parish into St. Ambrose Parish; 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, while such a unification is sufficiently justified for the reasons *in rem* related above, it also allows for the 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 Our Lady of Providence Parish might best be addressed; and

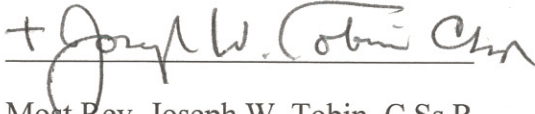
Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by consultative vote that Our Lady of Providence Parish be merged into St. Ambrose Parish in an extinctive union;

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 Our Lady of Providence Parish of Brownstown in specific and the spiritual needs of the Seymour Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis generally, now hereby decree that:

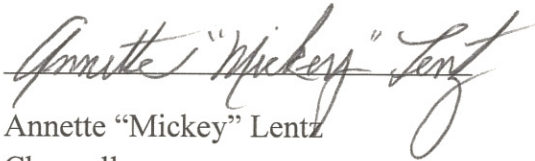
1. Our Lady of Providence Parish of Brownstown, Indiana, is to be merged into St. Ambrose Parish of Seymour, Indiana on July 1, 2016.
2. The public juridical person of Our Lady of Providence Parish is to be extinguished on the same date, or, if the matter should be appealed, upon the resolution of any such appeal.
3. Upon the extinction of the public juridical person of Our Lady of Providence Parish and the unification of its people into St. Ambrose Parish, the civil corporation of Our Lady of Providence Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Ambrose Parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of Our Lady of Providence 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 Our Lady of Providence and St. Ambrose Parishes.
6. The parishioners of Our Lady of Providence Parish and the parishioners of St. Ambrose Parish 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 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 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

