



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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May 21, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Sixteen months ago, pastoral leaders and lay representatives from the 47 parishes in the four deaneries of greater Indianapolis entered an important planning process called *Connected in the Spirit*. This process is an effort to discern where God is leading the Church in central and southern Indiana and to discuss how the Archdiocese of Indianapolis should change its structures in order to carry out its mission today and in the future. This planning process was inaugurated under the leadership of Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, and the parishes of the Terre Haute Deanery were the first to have participated in *Connected in the Spirit*. Last year the Batesville Deanery completed the process and the remaining five deaneries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will eventually take part.

After careful study, personal prayer and a broad consultation that included representatives from the four greater Indianapolis deaneries, the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, the Council of Priests and the Management Council of the Archdiocese, I have given my approval to a series of recommendations that originated with the group of deanery representatives. I thank everyone who took part in this planning process. I am especially grateful for the feedback that so many people in the Indianapolis deaneries gave me as I studied these recommendations.

Every parish in the four deaneries of greater Indianapolis will be affected by these decisions. I believe that this plan represents a better stewardship of our resources and will strengthen our ability to carry out the mission that Christ has entrusted to us.

Three Indianapolis parishes will be merged. Holy Trinity Parish will merge into St. Anthony Parish, Church of the Holy Cross Parish into St. Philip Neri Parish and St. Bernadette Parish into Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The remaining parishes will be asked to share a pastor and other resources, or to partner with another parish by creating joint ministries and programs. Please note that this letter is not a decree with canonical effects. The proper decrees for merged parishes will be available for inspection and copying at the respective parish offices.

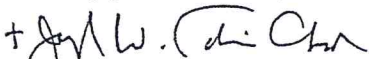
Holy Trinity Parish will merge into Saint Anthony Parish on November 30, 2014. Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Christopher Parish will establish a partnership. Under a partnership model, the parishes will create joint programs and share staff and services.

The coming months will bring changes that touch all the faithful of the Indianapolis deaneries, as well as a particular grief for the members of the three parishes that will close. I truly regret the pain these decisions will cause. While I personally know the anguish that comes when having your home parish

closed, I am also certain that the God is constantly working through us to advance the work of His Church, leading us through sorrow to new and more abundant life.

I pray for you each day and ask that you please pray for me. May the Holy Spirit continue to fill our hearts with love and give us the wisdom and courage live out our baptismal call as disciples of our risen Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Tobin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

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