

The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367  
317-236-1403

## Decree

Whereas my predecessors, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, and Joseph William Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R., 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 the pastoral needs of the parishes of the New Albany Deanery; and,

Whereas in the course of this process, information concerning both the current condition of the Saint Peter Parish of Elizabeth, 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 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:

- apart from Mass there is little pastoral activity on the parish campus;
- there are no regular evangelization efforts being made in the parish, and the parish had one person in RCIA in the six years for which information was provided by the parish to the planning commission;
- Adult, adolescent, and elementary catechesis programs are already a shared ministry with St. Joseph Parish in Corydon, Indiana;
- there have been five baptisms, twenty-three funerals, and four marriages in the last seven years;
- since 2011, Saint Peter Parish has experienced a steady decline in both gross and net income and has incurred deficits in three of the seven years from 2011 through 2017 (the year ending in 2015 did not run a deficit because of capital campaign grant);
- that Saint Peter Parish has \$17,427.00 in deferred maintenance, which was 28% of the parish's income for the fiscal year of 2016-2017;

- the Planning Commission reached the conclusion that the income problems of the parish could be ameliorated by an extinctive union with St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana;
- the extinctive union of the parish would allow for an enhanced staff and increased administrative efficiency, thus enhancing the pastoral service available to the people in Elizabeth, Indiana.

Whereas the Planning Commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, of Saint Peter Parish of Elizabeth, Indiana, into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana; and,

Whereas the unification of the parishes would allow for 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 a 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 Saint Peter Parish might best be addressed; and,

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous consultative vote that Saint Peter Parish of Elizabeth, Indiana, be merged into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana;

I, Charles C. Thompson, 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 Saint Peter Parish, the spiritual needs of the New Albany Deanery and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in general, now hereby decree that:

1. Saint Peter Parish of Elizabeth, Indiana, is to be merged into St. Joseph Parish of Corydon, Indiana, effective as of 5 July 2018.
2. The public juridical person of Saint Peter 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 Saint Peter Parish and the unification of its people into St. Joseph Parish, the civil corporation of Saint Peter Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Joseph Parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of Saint Peter Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.

5. This decree is to be published to the administrator of Saint Peter Parish and pastor of St. Joseph Parish.

6. The parishioners of Saint Peter Parish and the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the parish administrator of Saint Peter Parish and the pastor of St. Joseph Parish. 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 parish administrator/pastor.

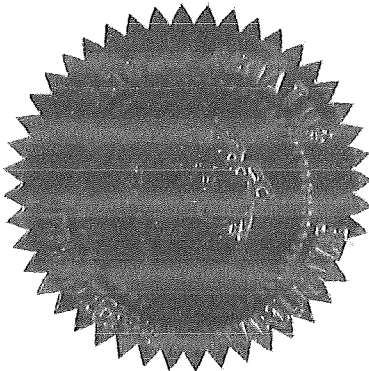
7. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*.

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 19th day of April, 2018.

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.  
Archbishop of Indianapolis



*Annette "Mickey" Lentz*  
Annette "Mickey" Lentz  
Chancellor