



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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## Decree

Whereas my predecessors, Archbishop Daniel Mark 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 Tell City Deanery; and,

Whereas in the course of this process, information concerning both the current condition of St. Martin of Tours of Siberia, 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:

- the parish has approximately fifty registered households and approximately one hundred and six parishioners;
- the parish church has a capacity of two hundred and thirty-two persons, but the average weekend attendance for the period surveyed was only 50 persons;
- there are no regular evangelization efforts being made in the parish, and the parish has neither had a catechumen baptized nor received a candidate into the parish in the five years for which information was provided by the parish to the planning commission;
- the parish has had only 13 infant baptisms in the five years for which the parish provided information to the Planning Commission, and one additional baptism in the last two years (2016-2017);
- there has been one marriage in the five years for which the parish provided information to the Planning Commission, and no additional weddings in the last two years (2016-2017);
- Saint Martin of Tours has a total of \$77,054.00 in deferred maintenance projects;

- From 2010 to 2015, the net income of the parish has continually decreased from \$13,859 in 2010 to \$3,154 in 2015 and has carried a deficit since 2015 (\$15,319.00 in 2015-2016, and \$27,919.00 in 2016-2017).

Whereas the Planning Commission proposed the merger, canonically known as an extinctive union, of St. Martin of Tours of Siberia, Indiana, into St. Isidore the Farmer of Bristow, 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 St. Martin of Tours Parish might best be addressed; and,

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, after fully considering the issue, recommended by unanimous consultative vote that St. Martin of Tours Parish of Siberia, Indiana, be merged into St. Isidore the Farmer Parish of Bristow, 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 St. Martin of Tours Parish of Siberia, Indiana, the spiritual needs of the Tell City Deanery and Archdiocese of Indianapolis in general, now hereby decree that:

1. St. Martin of Tours Parish of Siberia, Indiana, is to be merged into St. Isidore the Farmer Parish of Bristow, Indiana, effective as of 5 July 2018.
2. The public juridical person of St. Martin of Tours 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 St. Martin of Tours Parish and the unification of its people into St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, the civil corporation of St. Martin of Tours Parish shall immediately transfer all assets and liabilities of the corporation, whether legal or equitable, to the civil corporation of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish.
4. Upon the completion of the transfer of such assets and liabilities, the civil corporation of St. Martin of Tours Parish shall take such actions at civil law as are necessary to dissolve itself.
5. This decree is to be published to the parish administrator of St. Martin of Tours Parish and St. Isidore the Farmer Parish.

6. The parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Parish and the parishioners of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the parish administrator 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 parish administrator.

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