

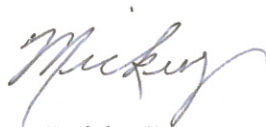
Greetings In Christ,

April 19, 2018

After prayerful discernment, Archbishop Thompson has made his decisions concerning the *Connected in the Spirit* recommendations for the New Albany and Tell City Deaneries and asked that they be publicized. Archbishop Thompson read the recommendations made by the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, he listened to concerns raised at the listening sessions and he read the written feedback given to us at those sessions or mailed to us at the Catholic Center. After consulting and receiving overwhelming support from the Council of Priests and the College of Deans, Archbishop Thompson made the following decisions. For those parishes impacted by mergers there is also an accompanying official decree that is included as an attachment to this newsletter. Parish leaders are to publish this newsletter in their bulletins and if there is a decree, to make copies available for any parishioner at their request.

The effective date for implementation of his decisions is July 5, 2018. Soon after this date parish leaders will be contacted by the Archdiocesan Facilitator for the *Connected in the Spirit* process whose role is to accompany all parishes as they implement these decisions.

Your patience and cooperation in this lengthy process is much appreciated. Know of our prayers for you and your parishes.



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor



Rev. Joseph Feltz
Vicar for Clergy, Religious and Parish Life Coordinators

Decisions of Archbishop Thompson for the *Connected in the Spirit* Process

New Albany Deanery

Mergers

St. Peter, Harrison County to be merged into St. Joseph, Corydon

Most Precious Blood, New Middleton to be merged into St. Joseph, Corydon

Linkages

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville continue to be linked with St. Augustine, Jeffersonville

St. Bernard, Frenchtown continue to be linked with St. Michael, Bradford and with St. Joseph, Marengo

St. John the Baptist, Starlight to be linked with St. Mary of the Annunciation, Navilleton

St. Michael, Charlestown continue to be linked with St. Francis Xavier, Henryville

Partnerships

Holy Family, New Albany to be partnered with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany and with St. Mary of the Annunciation, New Albany and with St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

St. Joseph, Corydon to be partnered with St. Mary, Lanesville

St. John the Baptist, Starlight to be partnered with St. Mary of the Annunciation, Navilleton and with St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd Knobs

St. Michael, Charlestown to be partnered with St. Francis Xavier, Henryville and with St. John Paul II, Sellersburg

Tell City Deanery

Mergers

St. Martin of Tours, Siberia to be merged into St. Isidore the Farmer, Perry County

Linkages

St. Augustine, Leopold will continue to be linked with Holy Cross, St. Croix

St. Meinrad, St Meinrad will continue to be linked with St. Boniface, Fulda

St. Michael, Cannelton to be linked with St. Pius V, Troy, St. Mark, Tell City and St. Paul, Tell City

Partnerships

St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad to be partnered with St. Boniface, Fulda and with St. Isidore the Farmer, Perry County

Merged parishes are entirely joined to another; in these cases, the independent identity of one of the parishes will cease with the merger, and its members and assets will be incorporated into another.

Linked parishes share a single pastoral leader and cooperate in as many ways as possible, since the pastor or administrator is striving to serve two separate parishes.

Partnerships are created through the implementation of joint programs, the appropriate sharing of staff with a view to enhancing the quality of ministry as well as the practice of good stewardship of resources and the use of joint councils and commissions.