



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**D E C R E E**

*In Nomine Domini. Amen.*

**DECREE OF DECONSECRATION AND RELEGATION TO PROFANE BUT NOT  
SORDID USE OF SAINT PAUL CHURCH IN WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, by my decree of May 2, 2017, Saint Paul, Saint Lawrence, and Saint Louis Parishes of West Haven, Connecticut, were amalgamated on June 29, 2017, creating the new juridic entity named Saint John XXIII Parish, which subsumed the legal and equitable assets and liabilities of the three aforementioned parishes with three church buildings; and

WHEREAS, no recourse was filed against this decree; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2018, the pastor of Saint John XXIII Parish, supported by the trustees and finance council, requested by letter that Saint Paul Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use, and that the building, including the rectory, and also a convent, be sold to an appropriate buyer for some other appropriate use; and

WHEREAS, the letter described the church building of Saint Paul as a financial burden on the parish due to the financial health of the parish and the annual operating costs associated with the buildings; and

WHEREAS, I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on August 21, 2018, for consultation on the question of the relegation of Saint Paul Church to profane but not sordid use in light of the following facts:

- There are inadequate finances to maintain the church building and facilities and doing so would constitute a significant drain on the finances of Saint John XXIII Parish;
- The strategic pastoral planning for the Archdiocese was to reduce the number of churches so that our local churches are characterized by spiritual vitality, organizational efficacy and accountability, and social and financial responsibility;
- The number of parishioners has decreased;
- Closure will not harm the good of souls;
- The unity of the parish will be promoted.

And WHEREAS, the Presbyteral Council voted unanimously to recommend that Saint Paul Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

WHEREAS, I have concluded that the economic hardship of maintaining the building and its lack of usefulness to Saint John XXIII Parish constitute grave cause sufficient in law to support the relegation of the church building to profane but not sordid use;

Wherefore: Having carefully considered the law and the facts; having received a formal written request on July 31, 2018, from the Pastor and the Trustees with the support of the Parish Finance Council and having heard the Presbyteral Council on August 21, 2018; having ensured by means of the original deeds and other documents as well as having heard from others that there are no donors and/or their heirs whose consent is needed to perform this juridic act, in accordance with the norm of canon 1222 §2; and having ensured that its altars, sacred objects, and religious artifacts will be removed from the church in accordance with canonical norms; and

**WHEREFORE,**

I, the undersigned Archbishop of Hartford, do pronounce, declare, and **DECREE** that the former parish church of Saint Paul, located at 41 Alling Street, West Haven, Connecticut, be relegated to profane but not sordid use (c.1222 §2), effective September 24, 2018. It shall no longer be a sacred place for divine worship, and herewith will lose its blessing, dedication, and consecration. It will no longer be used for divine worship.

This decree is to be published to the pastor of Saint John XXIII Parish. The substance of the decree is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parish, including by way of display in appropriate places so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the churches. It will also be available online on the *Catholic Transcript* and the [stewardsfortomorrow.org](http://stewardsfortomorrow.org) websites.

Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (*CIC* canon 1734 §2).


All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August in the Year of Our Lord 2018.



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Reverend Ryan M. Lerner  
Chancellor



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Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford