



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

D E C R E E

**ON THE MERGER OF SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH OF NEW HAVEN,
WITH SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA PARISH OF EAST HAVEN,
CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, Saint Bernadette Parish, New Haven, Connecticut, was originally established in 1938, and Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, of East Haven, Connecticut, was formed from a merger of three parishes on June 29, 2017, as a result of a pastoral planning process in the Archdiocese of Hartford; and

WHEREAS, due to such issues as changing demographics the number of parishioners of Saint Bernadette has notably diminished, and the Parish, with its school, has significant financial debt, and the physical plant has deteriorated, and due to such factors it is unlikely to survive as a separate Parish going into the future; and

WHEREAS, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina has a stable existence and will thus provide a steady, new home for the parishioners from Saint Bernadette, which includes the ability to absorb the debt of the latter; and a merger with Saint Pio of Pietrelcina at this time will provide a gradual transition for all concerned while keeping in mind the long term organization of the Archdiocese; and

WHEREAS, the Pastor of Saint Bernadette consulted the Pastoral Council, Trustees, Finance Committee, and School Board, who voiced unanimous support for a merger; and

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on June 22, 2020, in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection; and

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

I HEREBY DECREE the “merger,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Bernadette Parish is subsumed into the Parish of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Bernadette Parish will cease to exist and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Bernadette church building will remain as a sacred place of worship at present.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Bernadette Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall also be preserved at Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, according to the norm of canon 535. The territorial boundaries of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Saint Bernadette Parish.


This decree becomes effective as of August 1, 2020, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including the display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the church. It will also be available on the website, www.stewardsfortomorrow.org. Canonical recourse may be made within the preemptory 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 6th day of July in the Year of Our Lord 2020.



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford