



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

This decree concerns the merger of Saint Augustine Parish in Seymour, Connecticut, with Good Shepherd Parish in Seymour, Connecticut, within the Ansonia-Derby Deanery.

WHEREAS, Saint Augustine Parish was established in October 1885 to serve Catholics who had settled in Seymour, and Good Shepherd Parish was established on September 28, 1967, due to a dramatic increase in Catholics within Saint Augustine Parish. The territory of the new parish included towns west of the Naugatuck River;

WHEREAS, the Ansonia-Derby Deanery wherein Saint Augustine Parish and Good Shepherd Parish are located includes eleven (11) small-to medium-sized churches serving a similar demographic;

WHEREAS, the two parishes are located in the same municipality, sharing the same school system and socio-economic composition;

WHEREAS, if the two parishes combined their religious education programs (child and adult) and shared staff, a central office and communication apparatus, events and programs, as well as other resources, they could function more effectively;

WHEREAS, the finances and pastoral and material resources of the two parishes are more or less similar so that when merged they will be strengthened for the mission of evangelization in the Waterbury Vicariate;

WHEREAS, following discussions with the Pastoral Planning Office, the Pastoral Planning Committee and among the two parish communities, the pastor and respective trustees, it was recommended that Saint Augustine Parish and Good Shepherd Parish be merged to create a new parish;

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors and 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 May 1, 2017, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes, and posed no objection;

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, of Saint Augustine Parish with Good Shepherd Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Augustine and Good Shepherd Parishes will cease to exist, and they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; a new parish is now established, namely, Saint Nicholas, and both church buildings of the former Parishes will remain as sacred places for divine worship.

The assets and liabilities of the former Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of the new parish, Saint Nicholas. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at the premises of Saint Augustine Church, Seymour, Connecticut. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall also be preserved at the aforementioned premises, according to the norm of canon 535. The territorial boundaries of the new parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the former Saint Augustine Parish and the former Good Shepherd Parish.

This decree becomes effective June 29th, 2017, 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, *stewardsfortomorrow.org*. 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 (c. 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 2nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor