



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

### DECREE

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of **Saint Mary Parish**, East Hartford, Connecticut, with **Saint Rose of Lima Parish**, East Hartford, Connecticut and with **Saint Isaac Jogues Parish**, also in East Hartford, Connecticut, within the Manchester Deanery.

WHEREAS, Saint Mary Parish was established on July 1, 1873, to serve the largely Irish constituency of East Hartford; Saint Rose of Lima Parish was established on October 25, 1920, as a parish in the Burnside section of East Hartford in territory taken from Saint Mary Parish, East Hartford; and Saint Isaac Jogues was established in 1965, at a time of growth in East Hartford that began after World War II when people came from all over New England to seek employment at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft;

WHEREAS, the three parishes were linked on January 31, 2005, and share a pastor;

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

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, there was a decrease in the number of registered household, with 20.9% decrease at Saint Mary Parish; and 22% decrease at Saint Isaac Jogues Parish, nevertheless, there was 13.6% increase of registered households at Saint Rose of Lima Parish;

WHEREAS, the above decrease in the number of registered Catholic households has brought about a sharp decline in the sacramental activities of the three parishes; for instance from 2010 to 2015, there was a 31.4 % decrease in sacramental activity at Saint Mary Parish; 68.9% decrease at Saint Rose of Lima but a sharp increase at Saint Isaac Jogues due to the ministry to Hispanics;

WHEREAS, the parishes have already found some success with a joint pastoral work and sharing of different aspects of their religious education programs, one bulletin, and one office, as well as other resources;

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

the Hartford Vicariate; for instance, in 2015, the offertories of the three parishes was as follows: Saint Mary, \$226,032; Saint Rome of Lima, \$282,472 and Saint Isaac Jogues \$141,829. The projected revenue for 2018 merger is \$1,018,098;

WHEREAS, following discussions with the Pastoral Planning Office, the Pastoral Planning Committee and among the three parish communities, the pastors and respective trustees, the merger of the three parishes of Saint Mary Parish, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, and Saint Isaac Jogues was recommended;

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 May 1, 2017, in accord 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 an “extinctive union, type I” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Mary Parish, Saint Rose of Lima and Saint Isaac Jogues be merged, and the three juridic entities form a new parish, titled “North American Martyrs Parish,” with three church buildings: Saint Mary Church, Saint Rose of Lima Church and Saint Isaac Jogues Church; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Mary Parish, Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Saint Isaac Jogues Parish will cease to exist, and they will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the administration of the church buildings and premises will be located at the premises of Saint Mary Church.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Mary Parish, former Saint Rose of Lima Parish and former Saint Isaac Jogues Parish will become the assets and liabilities of “North American Martyrs Parish”. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Mary Church. The territorial boundaries of North American Martyrs Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the extinct parishes of Saint Mary, Saint Rose of Lima, and Saint Isaac Jogues.

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](http://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.

*+ Leonard P. Blair*

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Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford



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Reverend Ryan M. Lerner  
Chancellor