



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

This decree concerns a merger involving Saint Bernard Parish, Sharon, Connecticut, Saint Bridget Parish, Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut, and Sacred Heart Parish, Kent, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, Saint Bernard Parish was established in 1885, Saint Bridget Parish in 1883, and Sacred Heart Parish in 1970, originally having been a mission of the parish in Sharon;

WHEREAS, between the parishes there have been significant decreases in the vital statistics that jeopardize the separate existence of each parish: a 9.3 % decrease in registered households, 20% decrease in Mass attendance over the last five years, 55% decrease in the faithful availing themselves of sacraments such as baptism and marriage; and these factors also leading to further difficulties such as economic ones;

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 the “merger,” (following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law), of Saint Bernard Parish, Saint Bridget Parish and Sacred Heart Parish to form a new juridic entity, which will henceforth be named Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. The separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Bernard, Saint Bridget and Sacred Heart Parishes will cease to exist and they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Bernard, Saint Bridget and Sacred Heart church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Bernard, Saint Bridget and Sacred Heart Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises, including the cemeteries attached to Saint Bridget and Sacred Heart, will be based at the premises of Saint Bernard Church. The sacramental registers

along with any other parish records and historical documents shall also be preserved at the premises of Saint Bernard Church, according to the norm of canon 535. The territorial boundaries of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the former Saint Bernard, Saint Bridget and Sacred Heart Parishes.

This decree becomes effective as of June 29, 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 (CIC canon 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