



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**DECREE**

*Merger of Saint Therese Parish, Granby, Connecticut, with Saint Bernard Parish Tariffville, Connecticut (merger/ amalgamation - extinctive union type II (cc. 121 and 515 §2).*

**Whereas**, Saint Bernard Parish has served Catholic faithful since 1832 and was established as a parish in 1881 and Saint Therese Parish was established in 1958, after eight people met the Pastor at Saint Bernard so that they could establish a mission church in Granby, to serve the Irish, Lithuanian and Polish immigrants;

**Whereas**, during that time, many people have heard the Word of God, worshiped, and received the sacraments of the Church in their respective parish communities. Now, in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance and the sacraments, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of these parishes;

**Whereas**, having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, having received the recommendations of the Pastoral Planning Committee, in line with *Stewards for Tomorrow*, under the careful direction of the Office of Pastoral Planning, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes involved, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accord with canons 121 and 515, §2-3 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, I, the undersigned, in virtue of my authority as Archbishop of Hartford, hereby **DECREE** that:

1. Saint Bernard Parish and Saint Therese Parish be merged or amalgamated, effective June 29, 2017. Saint Bernard is to be subsumed into Therese and only Saint Therese will remain (analogous to c. 121, *merger or amalgamation/extinctive union type II*).
2. The separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Bernard will cease to exist and will no longer be subject of obligations and rights under canon law. The new parish will be named Saint Therese Parish.
3. Saint Bernard and Saint Therese church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses at Saint Bernard.
4. Saint Therese Church premises will assume the administration of the merged parish and make suitable provision for the faithful of the merged parishes, providing for their pastoral care and meeting their pastoral needs.

5. The consolidated and merged parish shall include the membership of Saint Therese Parish and the membership of the former Saint Bernard Parish, and the new boundaries of Saint Therese shall include the territorial boundaries of the aforementioned parishes, including the cemetery located at the extinct parish of Saint Bernard.


This decision is based upon a number of factors, among which are the decline in the Catholic worshipping community at both parishes, the reasonable proximity of the worship communities and the respective church edifices, the desire to avoid duplication of services and the increasing expenses associated with necessary repairs to and maintenance of aging structures, the spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God, the enhancement of collaborative ministry and the better utilization of available priest personnel and parish staff.

The parish registers of the former Saint Bernard Parish containing the records and registers of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths, along with parish records and historical documents, are to be forwarded to premises of Saint Therese Church, where they are to be faithfully preserved and maintained in accordance with canon 535, §§1-5. Any registers, records and historical documents not needed for continued administration of the aforementioned parishes are to be forwarded to the Archdiocesan Archives. According to the norm of canon 121, all assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, of the former Parishes, will become the assets and liabilities of the juridic person of Saint Therese Parish. In all financial matters involving wills, trusts and foundations to maintain the patrimony of both parishes, the intention of the founders and benefactors is to be respected. Any acquired rights are to be safeguarded.

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