



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Concerning the amalgamation of Saint Peter and Sacred Heart Parishes of Hartford, Connecticut.

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, Saint Peter was established as a parish in 1859 and Sacred Heart in 1897; and Sacred Heart has experienced a decline in registered households and had only 412 as of 2015, the latter also leading to financial deficits; and Saint Peter also has a smaller amount of households and decreasing attendance and has incurred financial debts; and considering the overall number of parishes in Hartford;

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and that it is advantageous for the future existence of both communities to merge one into the other;

I HEREBY DECREE an extinctive union, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Sacred Heart Parish is subsumed into Saint Peter Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Sacred Heart Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Sacred Heart church building will remain at present as a sacred place for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint Peter Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Sacred Heart Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Peter Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Peter Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint Peter Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Sacred Heart Parish.

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