



**MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD**

**DECREE
OF AMALGAMATION OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND
SAINT JOAN OF ARC PARISHES OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Hartford has had to undertake a planning process in relation to its parishes and churches;

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish was erected in 1891 and Saint Joan of Arc was established in 1971, originally having been a mission of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; and a recommendation has been made to merge Saint Joan of Arc into Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the following causes:

- 1) the reasons for having made Saint Joan of Arc a distinct parish no longer exist (e.g., growing population at the time).
- 2) Saint Joan of Arc has experienced significant decline in the number of registered parishioners, Mass attendance, sacramental practice, and offertory contributions.
- 3) Our Lady of Mount Carmel has also had a decrease in the above-mentioned areas.
- 4) It seems most prudent for the future existence of both communities to combine.

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; and 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, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Joan of Arc Parish is subsumed into Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Joan of Arc Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Joan of Arc 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 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Joan of Arc Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The territorial boundaries of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Saint Joan of Arc 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