



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

**DECREE
ON THE AMALGAMATION OF THE PARISHES OF SAINT LOUIS,
SAINT LAWRENCE, AND SAINT PAUL, OF WEST HAVEN,
CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, 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; 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;

WHEREAS, Saint Louis Parish was erected in 1886 partly as a French Parish, Saint Lawrence was also established in 1886, while Saint Paul was erected in 1916, but a recommendation to merge the Parishes has been made for the following reasons:

- 1) Saint Paul has experienced a 21% decrease in registered households in the last five years, 15% decrease in Mass attendance, 51% decrease in general sacramental attendance, and has only approximately 385 registered households.
- 2) Saint Lawrence has also experienced a decrease in Mass attendance (10%) and sacramental attendance (16%).
- 3) Due to the unavailability of priests, separate pastors for each Parish are not possible and Saint Paul and Saint Lawrence already share a pastor.

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and it is no longer feasible for the three Parishes in question to continue in separate existence,

I HEREBY DECREE, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, the amalgamation of Saint Lawrence and Saint Paul Parishes, by which they are subsumed into Saint Louis Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Lawrence and Saint Paul Parishes will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Lawrence and Saint Paul church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled masses at Saint Paul. Saint Louis will henceforth be named as Saint John, XXIII Parish.

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 The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Saint John, XXIII Parish.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

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