

MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Concerning the Extinctive Union involving the Parishes of Saint Bridget of Sweden, Saint Thomas Becket, and Epiphany, of Cheshire, Connecticut

WHEREAS, Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish was erected in 1871, Saint Thomas Becket in 1971, after having begun as a mission of Saint Bridget of Sweden, and Epiphany established in 1967;

WHEREAS, the reasons for Saint Thomas Becket having been established as a parish, from a mission of Saint Bridget of Sweden, no longer exist (e.g., growing population at the time), there has been an average 23% decrease in registered households between the three parishes in the last five years, Mass attendance has decreased significantly at Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany, and general sacramental attendance has also declined at all three Parishes, and Saint Bridget of Sweden and Saint Thomas Becket already share a pastor; and it seems most prudent for the continued existence of the Catholic community in Cheshire to be united in one parish;

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, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,


I HEREBY DECREE, the extinctive union, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, of Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany Parishes, by which they are subsumed into Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany Parishes will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses at Epiphany.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Parishes of Saint Thomas Becket and Epiphany.

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