



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECRETUM
In nomine Domini

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type II (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of Corpus Christi Parish in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and Sacred Heart Parish in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and Saint Luke Parish, Hartford, Connecticut. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi Parish was erected as a territorial parish in 1941, carved from Sacred Heart Parish. The major consideration in creating Corpus Christi was the increase in Wethersfield's Catholic population. Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1897, the first Catholic parish in historic Wethersfield. In 1881, it became a mission of Saint Lawrence O'Toole, Hartford, until it was made a parish on September 1, 1897. Saint Luke Parish was established in 1920, the territory of Saint Luke Parish in Hartford's south end was taken from Saint Augustine in Hartford and Sacred Heart in Wethersfield.

WHEREAS, the Suburban Deanery, wherein Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart and Saint Luke Parishes are located, includes twenty-six (26) small-to-medium-sized Churches including other parishes from nearby deaneries serving a similar demographic;

WHEREAS, the sacramental activities of Corpus Christi Parish have declined by 18.7% and those of Sacred Heart by 3.8% and Saint Luke by 47.4%;

WHEREAS, on September 1, 1995, the parishes of Corpus Christi and Sacred Heart were linked and share a Pastor;

WHEREAS, the three parishes are located in adjacent municipalities, sharing the similar socio-economic composition, educational systems and other services;

WHEREAS, although the three parishes have different religious education programs (child and adult), if merged, they will have shared events and programs;

WHEREAS, the finances and pastoral and material resources of the Corpus Christi Parish are more sound than those of Sacred Heart Parish (from 2010 to 2015, the annual offertory average at Corpus Christ Parish was \$659,019, while at Sacred Heart Parish, it was a mere \$142,101, and Saint Luke Parish only \$146,729), so that if the parishes merge they will be strengthened for the mission of evangelization in the Hartford Vicariate;

WHEREAS, only the Diocesan Bishop can significantly alter a parish in his jurisdiction according to the prescriptions of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and in accordance with prescriptions of c. 121, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having heard the parishioners of the aforementioned parishes through parish leadership with input from the parishes at large, and having received the recommendation of the Pastoral Planning Committee, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes party to this decree, and under the careful direction of the Vicar for Pastoral Planning, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accordance with c. 515 §2,

THEREFORE, I hereby DECREE:

The amalgamation of Sacred Heart and Saint Luke Parishes, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which they are subsumed into Corpus Christi Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Sacred Heart and Saint Luke Parishes will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Sacred Heart and Saint Luke church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses at Saint Luke. Corpus Christi Parish will henceforth be named Christ the King Parish.

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

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).

Anything 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