



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

This decree concerns the extinctive union involving the Parishes of Saint Francis of Assisi, Naugatuck, Connecticut, and Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary, of Union City, Connecticut.

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

WHEREAS, Saint Francis of Assisi was established in 1866, Saint Hedwig in 1906 as a Polish Parish, and Saint Mary in 1907, initially a mission of Saint Francis of Assisi, and a recommendation to merge the Parishes has been made for the following reasons:

- 1) The Polish community for which Saint Hedwig was created no longer exists in the same numbers and there are only approximately 145 registered households at present.
- 2) The reasons for Saint Mary having been established as a Parish from being a mission of Saint Francis of Assisi no longer exist (e.g., growing population at the time).
- 3) Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary have experienced significant decline in registered households (21 and 27% respectively in the last five years) and Mass attendance has decreased at Saint Hedwig by 24%.
- 4) Saint Hedwig has only about 240 registered households.
- 5) Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary already share a parochial administrator.

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

I HEREBY DECREE the amalgamation of Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary Parishes, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which they are subsumed into Saint Francis of Assisi Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary Parishes will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights

under canon law; Saint Hedwig and Saint Mary church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled masses.

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 The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.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

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