



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

### **DECREE**

This decree concerns the amalgamation of the Parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Ascension, Saint Ann, and Saint John the Baptist, of Hamden, Connecticut.

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

WHEREAS Saint John the Baptist Parish was erected in 1893, Blessed Sacrament Parish in 1939, Saint Ann in 1919, as an Italian Parish, and Ascension established in 1964; and the Italian community for which Saint Ann was created no longer exists in the same numbers, while said Parish has experienced a 53% decrease in registered households in the last five years and decrease in Mass attendance, also bringing with it significant financial difficulties; and Ascension Parish has experienced a 42% decrease in mass attendance within the last five or so years; Saint John the Baptist has also experienced significant decreases in the attendance of the faithful while there were only 80 registered households there as of 2015; and there are not enough priestly personnel to serve as proper pastors for each parish;

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 it is no longer feasible or prudent for Ascension, Saint Ann, and Saint John the Baptist Parishes to exist separately, and there are sufficient just causes present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

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

scheduled Masses at Saint Ann and Saint John the Baptist. Blessed Sacrament will henceforth be named as Christ the Bread of Life Parish.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Christ the Bread of Life Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Ascension, Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Ann Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Christ the Bread of Life Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Christ the Bread of Life Parish. The territorial boundaries of Christ the Bread of Life Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Ascension, Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Ann 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