



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**DECREE**  
**ON THE AMALGAMATION INVOLVING THE PARISHES OF OUR  
LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, SAINT JOSEPH, SAINT LAURENT, AND  
SAINT MARY, OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT, AND HOLY ANGELS OF  
SOUTH MERIDEN, 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 Our Lady of Mount Carmel was erected in 1894, as an Italian Parish, Holy Angels established in 1887, Saint Joseph in 1900, Saint Laurent was erected in 1880 as a French Parish, and Saint Mary in 1890 as a German Parish; but a recommendation has been made to merge the Parishes for the following reasons:

- 1) The ethnic communities for which three of these Parishes were created no longer exist.
- 2) Among four of the Parishes there has been a 42% decrease in registered households in the last five years.
- 3) Mass attendance at three of the Parishes has decreased substantially, along with a decrease in general sacramental practice at four of them.
- 4) Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Laurent already share a pastor and other resources.
- 5) Saint Joseph and Saint Mary are already entrusted to the care of one pastor.
- 6) Considering the overall number of parishes in Meriden and the need to coordinate the pastoral care of all of them.

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

I HEREBY DECREE, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, the amalgamation of Holy Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Laurent, and Saint Mary Parishes, by which they are subsumed into Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Holy Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Laurent, and Saint Mary Parishes will cease to

exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Holy Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Laurent, and Saint Mary church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses at Saint Laurent and Saint Mary. Our Lady of Mount Carmel will henceforth be named as Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish.

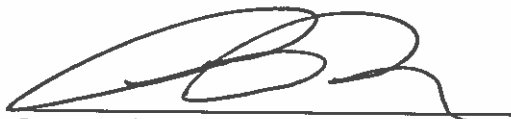
The administration of the church buildings and premises, including the cemeteries attached to Saint Laurent and Saint Mary, will be based at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Holy Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Laurent, and Saint Mary Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish. The territorial boundaries of Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Parishes of Holy Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Laurent, and Saint Mary.

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](http://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