



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Altering the Canonical Status of Holy Trinity Parish in Hartford, from Parish to Quasi-Parish (Mission) of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford

WHEREAS, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph was erected in 1872 and Holy Trinity Parish in 1900 as a Lithuanian Parish as Lithuanian immigrants were already numerous by 1898 to warrant a priest;

WHEREAS, by Holy Trinity Parish's golden jubilee in 1950, the creation of new suburban parishes and changes within its Hartford neighborhood resulted in a drain of parishioners;

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Parish and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph are only 1.1 miles apart and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph consists of people from different ethnicities including Lithuanians;

WHEREAS, after 2015, there were about 260 core families making up the households of the Holy Trinity ethnic parish, and 692 registered Catholic households at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph;

WHEREAS, on Sundays, loyal communicants commute to Holy Trinity Church from the suburbs, the Lithuanian Mass at Easter and the breakfast on Palm Sunday are but two well-attended parish celebrations of Holy Trinity traditions;

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Parish has a strong outreach program providing food, services and material needs to people in the city of Hartford;

WHEREAS, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph has similar outreach program targeting the same population group in the city of Hartford;

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Parish and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph are only 1.1 miles apart and the Cathedral comprises people from different ethnicities including Lithuanians. It therefore seems best to coordinate certain activities between the two parishes;

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 an “alteration” following from canons 515 §2 and 516 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Holy Trinity Parish becomes a Quasi-Parish (Mission) of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Holy Trinity Quasi-Parish will continue to exist, and it will be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law as a quasi-parish is equivalent to a parish (c. 516). The church building of Holy Trinity will remain at present as a sacred place for divine worship until pastoral planning determines otherwise. The Rector of Saint Joseph Cathedral will set other specific conditions with regard to its financial and pastoral relationship with Holy Trinity Mission.

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