



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

DECREE

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of Saint Anthony Parish, New Haven, Connecticut, with Sacred Heart Parish, New Haven, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, Saint Anthony Parish was established in 1902, in response to the surge of Italian immigration in the Hill section of New Haven and Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1875, taken from the territory of Saint John the Evangelist;

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Parish community was reassigned to St. Anthony Parish in September 2009, and the church property has been abandoned since September 2009;

WHEREAS, Saint Anthony Parish has inadequate financing to maintain the 165-year-old church property in its deteriorating condition;

WHEREAS, the two parish communities share one church building of Saint Anthony;

WHEREAS, there has not been any Mass or other liturgical services at Sacred Heart Parish since September 2009;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned parishes share a Pastor;

WHEREAS, the abandoned church property of Sacred Heart Parish located at 200-208 Columbus Avenue was relegated to profane but not sordid use on March 6, 2017, and the property was sold to St. Martin de Porres Academy for the sum of \$900,000;

WHEREAS, a petition for relegation and consent were received from the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, who legitimately has the right of a claim for himself in the church in accord with canon 1222 §2 and canon 127 §2, 2^o;

WHEREAS, it has been determined the care of souls will not be harmed in accord with canon 1222, §2;

WHEREAS, the New Haven Deanery region wherein Sacred Heart Church is located include fifteen (15) small-to-medium-sized parish churches;

WHEREAS, the new parish community formed when Sacred Heart was reassigned to Saint Anthony has experienced the desired parish unity by worshipping together at a single Church;

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration, and the Presbyteral Council was consulted on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

THEREFORE, the following just causes suggest that Saint Anthony Parish and Sacred Heart Parish merge:

1. the reasonable proximity of eleven (11) worship communities;
2. the desire to avoid duplication of services;
3. the size and spiritual welfare of the parish communities;
4. the decrease in sacramental activities;
5. the decline in parishioners;
6. the spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God;
7. the enhancement of collaborative ministry, the better utilization of parish resources and available priest personnel;
8. the good of souls will not thereby be impaired;

I HEREBY DECREE an “extinctive union, type I” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Anthony Parish is merged with Sacred Heart Parish, the merged parish is to be named Saint Anthony Parish, with one church building: Saint Anthony Church; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of the former parishes will cease to exist, and they will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the administration of the church building and premises will be located at Saint Anthony Parish.

The assets and liabilities of the former parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Anthony Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Anthony Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint Anthony Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the two former 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).

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.

+ Leonard P. Blair

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor