



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of Saint Mary Parish in New Britain, Connecticut, and Saint Ann Parish in New Britain, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of "Saint Joachim" to the newly created parish in New Britain, Connecticut. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).

WHEREAS, canon 515 §, stipulates that: "It is only for the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress, or alter parishes. He is neither to erect, suppress, nor alter notably parishes, unless he has heard the Presbyteral Council." Willingly desiring in all things to promote the greater glory of God and desirous of providing for the good of souls;

WHEREAS, considering the recommendations from the Pastoral Planning Committee and the Vicar of Pastor Planning in consultation with several members of the clergy and lay faithful for the creation of a new parish in New Britain, Connecticut;

THEREFORE, the following just causes suggest that Saint Mary Parish and Saint Ann Parish merge:

1. The reasonable proximity of thirteen (13) worship communities;
2. Dwindling numbers of registered households and Mass counts: from 2010-2015 a decrease of 61.1% and 39.2% of registered households in Saint Mary Parish and Saint Ann Parish respectively;
3. Migration out of urban areas to the suburbs;
4. Minimal sacramental activity: from 2010 to 2015, a decrease of 13.7% in sacramental activities at both parishes;
5. Reductions in monetary contributions and surplus money: from 2010 to 2015, a decrease of 13.9% of offertory at Saint Mary Parish and 17.8% at Saint Ann Parish;
6. The desire to avoid duplication of services and increase in expenses associated with necessary repairs to and maintenance of aging structures: liabilities for both parishes in 2015 totaled \$200,868;

7. The spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God;
8. The enhancement of collaborative ministry, the better utilization of parish resources and available priest personnel.

WHEREAS, having ascertained that there are sufficient means and resources of \$1,513,674 for the support of the pastor and for the proper maintenance of the temporal goods of the parish;

And, having heard the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, I have decided that the proper care of souls requires the creation of a new parish in New Britain, Connecticut, titled as Saint Joachim.

WHEREFORE, having faithfully observed the requirements of the law, and to provide more suitably for the spiritual and pastoral care of souls,

Invoking the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and of His Mother, the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary,

I, the undersigned Archbishop of Hartford, exercising my ordinary power, herewith create and erect, in accordance of canon 515 §2, the Parish of Saint Joachim, New Britain, Connecticut, with all the rights, obligations, and privileges granted it by law.

The geographical boundaries of this Parish shall include the former boundaries of Saint Mary and Saint Ann Parishes. Therefore, all Catholics having domicile or quasi-domicile within the current boundaries of the aforementioned parishes are hereby considered members of Saint Joachim Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacy and history of Saint Mary Parish and Saint Ann Parish will be promoted and honored at Saint Joachim Parish. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite with the newly merged parish through the union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Parish of Saint Mary and the extinct Parish of Saint Ann, as well as the acquired rights, shall be honored and respected. In addition, the temporal goods, patrimonial rights, and the obligations of each of the extinct parishes shall be assumed by Saint Joachim in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121).

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Saint Mary and the extinct Parish of Saint Ann are to be properly preserved and safeguarded at the premises of Saint Mary Church in New Britain, in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 535 §§1-5).


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).

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, this 2nd day of May, 2017.



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford