



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

EFFECTING THE MERGER OF SAINT ANDREW PARISH IN NEW BRITAIN,
CONNECTICUT, AND SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN NEW BRITAIN,
CONNECTICUT

Whereas, Saint Andrew Parish was established on October 1, 1895, as an ethnic parish to serve the Lithuanian immigrants in New Britain, Connecticut, and Saint John the Evangelist was established as territorial parish on September 9, 1916, with territory taken from New Britain's Saint Mary and Saint Joseph Parishes. Until the Church was ready, parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist had attended Mass in the basement of nearby Saint Andrew Church.

Whereas, the two parishes have seen a substantial decline in parishioners and those attending Masses and other liturgical services at the respective parish churches during the last few decades because of changes in demographics, deaths, parishioners moving out or no longer practicing their faith and attending Mass. For instance from 2010 to 2015, Saint Andrew Parish experienced a 6.7% decrease in registered households, and Saint John the Evangelist Parish experienced a 44% decrease.

Whereas, after hearing the lay leadership, the clergy and the Pastoral Planning Committee, the Office of Pastoral Planning recommended that Saint Andrew Parish and Saint John the Evangelist Parish be merged.

Whereas, all canonical requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled.

Therefore, after prayerful consideration of the present circumstances, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, which met on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canon 515, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, I, the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, holding before me my pastoral responsibilities to this particular church, hereby declare and

DECREE

The following:

1. That the ethnic parish of Saint Andrew Parish, New Britain, Connecticut, established in 1895, be merged with the territorial parish of Saint John the Evangelist, New Britain, Connecticut, effective on June 29, 2017.
2. That the new parish formed will be a territorial parish, encompassing the territorial boundaries of the former Saint John the Evangelist and taking care of the souls of the former Saint Andrew Parish.
3. That the new parish will be titled as Holy Apostles Parish, with two church buildings: Saint Andrew Church and Saint John the Evangelist Church.
4. That Saint Andrew Church premises assume the administration of the merged parish and make suitable provision for the faithful of the merged parishes, providing for their pastoral care and meeting their pastoral needs.
5. That the consolidated and merged parish shall include the membership of the former ethnic Parish, Saint Andrew Parish and the membership of the former territorial Saint John the Evangelist, and the new boundaries of Holy Apostles Parish shall include the territorial boundaries of the Saint John the Evangelist and all the souls belonging to the former Saint Andrew Parish.

This decision is based upon a number of factors, among which are the decline in the Catholic worshipping community at both Parishes (a decline of 28.4% for both parishes from 2010 to 2015), the reasonable proximity of the worship communities and the respective church edifices, the desire to avoid duplication of services and the increasing expenses associated with necessary repairs to and maintenance of aging structures, the spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, decline in sacramental activities from 2010 to 2015 (a decline of 60% at Saint Andrew Parish and 15.4% at Saint John the Evangelist), the promotion of unity among the People of God, the enhancement of collaborative ministry and the better utilization of available priest personnel.

The parish registers of the former Saint John the Evangelist containing the records and registers of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths along with parish records and historical documents are to be forwarded to the premises of Saint Andrew Church, where they are to be faithfully preserved and maintained in accordance with canon 535, §§1-5. Any registers, records and historical documents not needed for continued administration of aforementioned parishes are to be forwarded to the Archdiocesan Archives. According to the norm of canon 121, all assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, of the former Parishes, will become the assets and liabilities of the juridic person of Holy Apostles Parish, New Britain. In all financial matters involving wills, trusts and foundations to maintain the patrimony of both parishes, the intention of the founders and benefactors is to be respected. Any acquired rights are to be safeguarded.


The effect of the merger (*unio extinctiva*) of Saint Andrew Parish and Saint John the Evangelist Parish is the termination of the independent juridic personalities of Saint Andrew Parish and Saint John the Evangelist Parish. Thus, they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights in canon law corresponding to their natures as a juridic persons, nor will they be capable of acquiring, retaining, administering, or alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.


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.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor