



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Merger of Saint Mary Parish, Milford Connecticut, with Saint Agnes, in Woodmont, Connecticut (merger/extinctive union type I), (cc. 121 and 515 §2).

Whereas, Saint Mary Parish has served the Catholic faithful since the 1840s and was established as a parish in 1885, and Saint Agnes Parish, initially a mission of Saint Mary Parish, Milford, in 1906, was formally established as a parish on July 8, 1954, to serve Catholics of Woodmont, Connecticut;

Whereas, during that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and have received the sacraments of the Church in their respective parish communities. Now, in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance and the sacraments, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of these parishes;

Whereas, having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, having received the recommendations of the Pastoral Planning Committee, in line with *Stewards for Tomorrow*, under the careful direction of the Office of Pastoral Planning, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes involved, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canons 121 and 515, §2-3 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, I, the undersigned, in virtue of my authority as Archbishop of Hartford, hereby decree that:

1. The territorial parish of Saint Mary, Milford, Connecticut, be merged with the territorial parish of Saint Agnes, Woodmont, Connecticut, effective June 29, 2017.
2. The new parish will be titled Precious Blood Parish, with two church buildings: Saint Mary Church and Saint Agnes Church.
3. That Saint Mary 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. The consolidated and merged parish shall include the membership of Saint Mary Parish and the membership of Saint Agnes Parish and the new boundaries of Precious Blood Parish shall include the territorial boundaries of the aforementioned Parishes, including the cemetery which is located at the extinct Parish of Saint Mary.

This decision is based upon a number of factors, among which are the marginal increase in the Catholic worshipping community at both Parishes (4.1% 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, the promotion of unity among the People of God, the enhancement of collaborative ministry and the better utilization of available financial resources and priest personnel. If the two parishes merged, they will have an estimated church surplus of \$64,777 in 2018 and an estimated cash and investment of \$1,683,888.


The parish registers of the former Saint Agnes Parish containing the records and registers of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths, along with parish records and historical documents, are to be forwarded to Saint Mary Church premises, 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 these extinct 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 Precious Blood Parish. 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 Mary Parish and Saint Agnes Parish is the termination of the independent juridic personalities of Saint Mary Parish and Saint Agnes Parish. Thus, they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights in canon law corresponding to its nature as a juridic person, 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