



**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 Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish, Derby, Connecticut, with Saint Jude Parish, Derby, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, Immaculate Conception Parish was established in 1851, and Saint Jude Parish in 1961;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned parishes are linked and share a Pastor;

WHEREAS, it has been determined the care of souls will not be harmed;

WHEREAS, the Ansonia-Derby Deanery region wherein Saint Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Jude Parish are located include ten (10) small-to-medium-sized parish churches;

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 Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Jude Parish merge:

1. the reasonable proximity of ten (10) worship communities;
2. the desire to avoid duplication of services and increase in expenses associated with necessary repairs and maintenance to aging structures;
3. the size and spiritual welfare of the parish communities;
4. the decline in parishioners of both parishes;
5. the spread of the Gospel and the promotion of unity among the People of God
6. the enhancement of collaborative ministry and the better utilization of parish resources and available priest personnel.
7. 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 Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish is merged with and Saint Jude Parish, to form Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles, with two Church buildings: Immaculate Conception Church and Saint Jude Church; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Jude Parish will cease to exist, and they will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the administration of the church buildings and premises will be located at the premises of Saint Mary the Immaculate Conception Church.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Jude Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Mary the Immaculate Conception Church. The territorial boundaries Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the extinct parishes of Saint Mary the Immaculate Conception and Saint Jude.

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