



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

## DECREE

### *In nomine Domini*

*This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of St. Augustine Parish in North Branford, Connecticut, and St. Monica Parish in Northford, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of "St. Ambrose" to the newly created parish in North Branford, Connecticut. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).*

WHEREAS, St. Augustine Parish was erected as a territorial parish in 1941 to serve primarily North Branford's growing Catholic population, and St. Monica, initially a mission Church of St. Augustine, was later erected as a territorial parish in 1964 to serve the growing Catholic population of Northford;

WHEREAS, the East Shore Line and Hamden-North Haven Deaneries wherein St. Augustine and St. Monica Parish are located include eighteen (18) small-to medium-sized parishes serving a similar demographic;

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2013, the parishes of St. Augustine and St. Monica were linked and share a Pastor;

WHEREAS, the two parishes are located in the same municipality, sharing the same school system and socio-economic composition;

WHEREAS, the two parishes have one religious education program (child and adult), shared staff, a central office and communication apparatus, shared events and programs, and combined regular parish council meetings;

WHEREAS, the finances and pastoral and material resources of the two parishes are more or less similar so that when merged they will be strengthened for the mission of evangelization in the New Haven Vicariate;

WHEREAS, only the Diocesan Bishop can significantly alter a parish in his jurisdiction according to the prescriptions of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and in accord with

prescriptions of c. 121, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having heard the parishioners of both parishes through parish leadership with input from the parishes at large, having received the recommendation of the Pastoral Planning Committee, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes party to this decree, and under the careful direction of the Vicar for Pastoral Planning, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on November 30, 2015, in accord with c. 515 §2,

THEREFORE, I hereby **DECREE** that:

The Parish of St. Augustine and the Parish of St. Monica, are to be merged, and from the merger form a new parish, to be called and named St. Ambrose Parish in North Branford, with two church buildings, that is, St. Augustine Church in North Branford and St. Monica Church in Northford.

The merger is an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the East Shore Line and Hamden-North Haven Deaneries, 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. St. Augustine Parish and St. Monica Parish, as separate juridic entities, will cease to exist. All Catholics having domicile or quasi-domicile within the current boundaries of the aforementioned parishes are hereby considered members of St. Ambrose Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacy and history of St. Augustine Parish and St. Monica Parish will be promoted and honored at St. Ambrose 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 St. Augustine and the extinct Parish of St. Monica, 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 St. Ambrose in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121). The Parish of St. Ambrose shall comprise all the territories of the former Parishes of St. Augustine and St. Monica namely:

**Northern Boundary:** Starting at the point of intersection of Augur Road at the East Haven-North Branford town lines; proceeding along Augur Road and Augur Road Extension, excluding both sides, to the intersection of Augur road and State Highway 22; from this point on an imaginary line continuing due East to Lake Gaillard; continuing northeasterly along the shore of Lake Gaillard to the confluence of Crooked Brook; following Crooked Brook north-easterly to the North Branford-Guilford town lines.

**Western Boundary:** East Haven Town Line

**Southern Boundary:** Branford Town Line

**Eastern Boundary:** Guilford Town Line.


This parish is assigned to East Shore Line Deanery.

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of St. Augustine and the extinct Parish of St. Monica are to be properly preserved and safeguarded in St. Ambrose Parish in North Branford, in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 535 §§1-5).

This decree becomes effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to the parishioners by means of notice in the weekend bulletins of both parishes, as well as by publication in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Transcript*. Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015.

  
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford



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Reverend George S. Mukuka  
Chancellor