



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**DECREE
CONCERNING THE AMALGAMATION
OF SAINT LAWRENCE O' TOOLE AND SAINT PETER PARISHES
IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on November 6, 2017, in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

WHEREAS, Saint Peter Parish was merged with the former Sacred Heart Parish in Hartford on June 29, 2017, and soon-after the merger, the issue of the roof and ceiling of Saint Peter Church was brought to my attention;

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2017, a review of itemized expenditure was conducted, whereby the evaluation of the roof and ceiling of Saint Peter Church itemized repairs totaled \$1,050,500. The repairs would include roof replacement, plaster reparation, pinning of ornamental bosses (architectural decorations), priming, and painting the interior of the church. Based on the result of the evaluation, the main level of the church was unsafe to occupy. These costs did not include additional and critical repairs needed to trusses in the attic that supported the roof. The extent of the damage and associated costs to the trusses would have to be determined by conducting an additional evaluation. At that time, it was determined that Saint Peter Church does not have the money to finance the renovations;

WHEREAS, after reviewing the findings of a structural evaluation that took place at Saint Peter Church with the finance and parish committees, the Office of Pastoral Planning recommended that Saint Peter Parish and Saint Lawrence O'Toole should merge due to their reasonable proximity and as an enhancement of collaborative ministry with the Pastoral Planning efforts of the Archdiocese of Hartford;

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and that it is advantageous for the future existence of both communities to merge one into the other,

I HEREBY DECREE an extinctive union, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Peter Parish is amalgamated with and subsumed into Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Peter Parish will cease to exist,


and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law. The new parish shall be named Maria, Reina de la Paz (Mary, Queen of Peace) with one church building, Saint Lawrence O'Toole Church.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Maria, Reina de la Paz Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Peter Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Maria, Reina de la Paz Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Maria, Reina de la Paz Parish. The territorial boundaries of Maria, Reina de la Paz will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Saint Peter Parish.


This decree becomes effective on the First Sunday of Advent, i.e., December 3, 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 (CIC canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 7th day of November in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford