



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

This decree concerns the merger of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, South Windsor, Connecticut, with Saint Margaret Mary Parish, also in South Windsor, Connecticut, within the Manchester Deanery.

WHEREAS, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish was established in 1941, and Saint Margaret Mary Parish was established in 1961 from the division of Saint Francis of Assisi; and the two parishes went on to be “linked” in 2016, out of necessity to share pastoral and material resources, as the reasons why Saint Francis was divided and a second parish established in South Windsor no longer exist;

WHEREAS, the linking of the parishes has also met with success in having a shared pastor, staff, religious education program, and office, as well as other resources; following discussion amongst the two parish communities, the pastor and respective trustees recommended that Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Parishes be merged to create a new parish;

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 February 27, 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, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

I HEREBY DECREE the “merger,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Parishes; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Parishes will cease to exist, and they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; a new parish is now established, while both church buildings of the former parishes will remain as sacred places for divine worship; the name of the new parish will be determined at a later date.

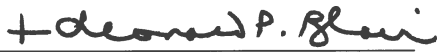
The assets and liabilities of the former parishes will become the assets and liabilities of the new parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at the new parish in South Windsor, Connecticut. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall also be preserved at the new parish, according to the norm of

canon 535. The territorial boundaries of the new parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the former Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Parishes.

This decree becomes effective as of March 31, 2017, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to the faithful by means of notice in the weekend bulletins of both parishes, as well as by publication on the Archdiocesan website of *The Catholic Transcript*. 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, on the 2nd day of March 2017.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor