



COPY

MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

D E C R E E

In nomine Domini. Amen.

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of Saint Maurice Parish in New Britain, Connecticut, and Saint Jerome Parish, also in New Britain, Connecticut. The conferral of the new title of the newly created parish in New Britain will be determined at a later date. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).

WHEREAS, Saint Maurice Parish was erected as a territorial parish in 1946, with parishioners coming from Saint Joseph and Saint Mary Parishes, and Saint Jerome, was erected as a territorial parish in 1958, due to population shifts and a required Catholic presence in the vicinity;

WHEREAS, the New Britain Deanery wherein Saint Maurice and Saint Jerome are located includes thirteen (13) small-to-medium-sized parishes serving a similar demographic;

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2009, the parishes of Saint Maurice and Saint Jerome 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, one website, one bulletin, and a central office, share events and programs, and have recently formed a single pastoral council and have begun meeting together;

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 Hartford 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, 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 February 27, 2017, in accord with c. 515 §2;

THEREFORE, I hereby **DECREE** that:

The Parish of Saint Maurice and the Parish of Saint Jerome are to be merged and from the merger form a new parish, the name of which will be determined at a later date, with two church buildings, that is, Saint Maurice Church and Saint Jerome Church, both in New Britain.

The merger is an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the New Britain Deanery, 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. Saint Maurice Parish and Saint Jerome 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 the new parish and as such are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacy and history of Saint Maurice and Saint Jerome will be promoted and honored at the new 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 and acquired rights proper to the extinct Parish of Saint Maurice and the extinct Parish of Saint Jerome 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 the new parish in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121).

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Saint Maurice and the extinct Parish of Saint Jerome are to be properly preserved and safeguarded at the new parish in New Britain, in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 535 §§1-5).

This decree becomes effective June 1, 2017, 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 on the Archdiocesan magazine website, *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 6th day of March 2017.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor