



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06105-3784

OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

April 14/15, 2018

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishioners
785 Highland Avenue
Waterbury, Connecticut 06708

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish,

As you are aware, on June 29, 2017 a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Hartford was implemented whereby the number of parishes was reduced from 212 to 128. Of the original 212 parishes, some were merged and others were closed. Among those merged were the parishes of Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick in Waterbury which had been administered as a linkage since September 2002. The merger of these two parishes last year created the new parish of Saint Blaise with Father John Williams serving as Administrator.

Pastoral planning is envisioned to be an ongoing process in the life of the Church as we strive to meet present day realities. I write at this time to inform you of a transition which will affect Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Blaise Parishes in Waterbury. Father John Williams, the current Administrator of Saint Blaise Parish, has experienced health issues for some time and has now requested a medical leave of absence from active ministry. Based upon the documentation presented, I have granted his request. Unfortunately, upon Father Williams' departure for a period of medical leave, I do not have another priest available to assign to full-time ministry at Saint Blaise Parish. Therefore, after consultation with the Secretariat for Pastoral Services, the Episcopal Vicar for the Western Vicariate, the Vicar for Clergy, and the regional Dean, it is apparent that it would be beneficial to link Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Blaise Parish with Father Frederick Aniello serving as Pastor of both parishes. Such a linkage is also an initial step in the process of being good stewards of the gifts, talents, and resources which God has blessed the people of the Archdiocese of Hartford and the local parish communities. The date of April 30, 2018 has been set for the implementation of this linkage.

With the linkage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Blaise Parish, it is intended at this time that both parishes remain open with the canonical rights and obligations of separate parishes. Because the two parishes will share one pastor, I encourage combining programs and events that would benefit both parishes. Also, I ask that careful planning take place for the scheduling of liturgies, and that consideration be given to the properties and staffs of both parishes. Be assured that every effort will be made to achieve a respectful and efficient transition that will honor each parish's traditions and sensibilities of all parishioners.

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I have asked the Secretariat for Pastoral Services to work together with the pastor and parishioners of both parishes to bring about the most effective and efficient use of the Church's resources in the Town Plot and Brooklyn neighborhoods of Waterbury. I am certain that the knowledge and experience which has been gained through the recent implementation of the Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Hartford will be of great assistance as you move forward.

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard P. Blair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

cc: Reverend Robert B. Vargo



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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

April 14/15, 2018

Saint Blaise Parishioners
50 Charles Street
Waterbury, Connecticut 06708

Dear Parishioners of Saint Blaise Parish,

As you are aware, on June 29, 2017 a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Hartford was implemented whereby the number of parishes was reduced from 212 to 128. Of the original 212 parishes, some were merged and others were closed. Among those merged were the parishes of Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick in Waterbury which had been administered as a linkage since September 2002. The merger of these two parishes last year created the new parish of Saint Blaise with Father John Williams serving as Administrator.

I write at this time to inform you of a transition which will further affect both Saint Blaise and Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes in Waterbury.

Father John Williams, the current Administrator of Saint Blaise Parish, has experienced health issues for some time and he has now requested a medical leave of absence from a parish assignment. Based upon the documentation presented, I have granted his request.

Unfortunately, upon Father Williams' departure, there is no other priest available to assign full-time ministry at Saint Blaise Parish. Therefore, after consultation with the Secretariat for Pastoral Services, the Episcopal Vicar for the Western Vicariate, the Vicar for Clergy, and the regional Dean, it is apparent that it would be beneficial to link Saint Blaise Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, with Father Frederick Aniello serving as Pastor of both parishes. The date of April 30, 2018 has been set for the implementation of this linkage.


With the linkage of Saint Blaise Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, it is intended at this time that both parishes remain open with the canonical rights and obligations of separate parishes. Because the two parishes will share one pastor, I encourage combining programs and events that would benefit both parishes. Also, I ask that careful planning take place for the scheduling of liturgies, and that consideration be given to the properties and staffs of both parishes. Be assured that every effort will be made to achieve a respectful and efficient transition that will honor each parish's traditions and sensibilities of all parishioners.

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I have asked the Secretariat for Pastoral Services to work together with your new pastor and the parishioners of both parishes to bring about the most effective and efficient use of the Church's resources in the Town Plot and Brooklyn neighborhoods of Waterbury. I am confident that the knowledge and experience gained as a result of the recent implementation of the Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Hartford will be of great assistance as you move forward.

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonard P. Blair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning of the first letter.

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

cc: Reverend Robert B. Vargo