



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

EFFECTING THE MERGER OF SAINT BARNABAS PARISH IN NORTH HAVEN,
CONNECTICUT, SAINT THERESE IN NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT AND
SAINT FRANCES CABRINI IN NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, Saint Barnabas Parish was established on October 6, 1920, to serve the largely Italian immigrant population of North Haven; Saint Therese Parish was established on September 10, 1938, to serve Catholics in the Montowese section of North Haven, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish was erected parish on September 28, 1967, with territory carved from Saint Barnabas parish.

WHEREAS, Saint Therese Parish and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish have been linked for a while and are both served by one pastor;

WHEREAS, the Hamden / North Haven Deanery wherein Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish are located include eleven (11) small-to medium-sized churches serving a similar demographic;

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, there has been a decline in sacramental activities at the three parishes; for instance, a 19.6% decline at Saint Barnabas Parish, 3.9% decline at Saint Therese Parish, and 5.7% decline at Saint Frances Cabrini Parish;

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, while there was a slight increase of registered Catholic household at Saint Barnabas Parish of 6.7%, there was a substantial decrease at Saint Therese by 33.9% and Saint Frances Cabrini by 46.6%;

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

WHEREAS, if the three parishes combine their religious education programs (child and adult), and share staff, a central office and communication apparatus, events and programs, they could function more effectively,

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, after hearing the lay leadership, the clergy and the Pastoral Planning Committee, the Office of Pastoral Planning recommended that Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish be merged.

WHEREAS, all canonical requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled.

THEREFORE, after prayerful consideration of the present circumstances, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, that met on May 1, 2017, in accord with canon 515, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, I, the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, holding before me my pastoral responsibilities to the this particular church, hereby declare and

DECREE

the following:

1. That the parishes of Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, all in North Haven, be merged to form one parish.
2. That the new parish formed will be a territorial parish, encompassing the territorial boundaries of the former Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish.
3. That the new parish will be titled Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish, with three church buildings: Saint Barnabas Church, Saint Therese Church and Saint Frances Cabrini Church.
4. That Saint Barnabas Church premises assume the administration of the merged parish and make suitable provision for the faithful of the merged parishes, providing for their pastoral care and meeting their pastoral needs.
5. The consolidated and merged parish shall include the membership of the former territorial Parishes of Saint Barnabas, Saint Therese and Saint Frances Cabrini and the new boundaries of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity shall include the territorial boundaries of Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish.

This decision is based upon a number of factors, among which are the decline in the Catholic worshipping community at the three Parishes, the reasonable proximity of the worship communities and the respective church edifices, the desire to avoid duplication of services and the increasing expenses associated with necessary repairs and maintenance to aging structures, the spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God, the enhancement of collaborative ministry and the better utilization of available priest personnel.

The parish registers of the former Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, containing the records and registers of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths along with parish records and historical documents are to be forwarded to the premises of Saint Barnabas Church where they are to be faithfully preserved and maintained in accord with canon 535, §§1-5. Any registers, records, and historical documents not needed for continued administration of aforementioned parishes are to be forwarded to the Archdiocesan Archives. According to the norm of canon 121, all assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, of the former Parishes, will become the assets and liabilities of the juridic person of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, North Haven, Connecticut. In all financial matters involving wills, trusts and foundations to maintain the patrimony of the three parishes, the intention of the founders and benefactors is to be respected. Any acquired rights are to be safeguarded.

The effect of the merger (*unio extinctiva*) of Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, is the termination of the independent juridic personalities of Saint Barnabas Parish, Saint Therese Parish, and Saint Frances Cabrini Parish. Thus, they will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights in canon law corresponding to its nature as a juridic person, nor will they be capable of acquiring, retaining, administering, or alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.

This decree becomes effective June 29th, 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 (c. 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 2nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor