



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE
ON THE AMALGAMATION OF SACRED HEART PARISH AND
SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1884 and Saint Joseph Parish in 1916, for the Polish community;

WHEREAS, the ethnic community for which Saint Joseph was created no longer exists in the area and it only has about 210 registered households, and recent years have brought financial burdens, decreasing attendance of the faithful at both parishes, and two parishes are simply no longer needed for this small town;

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 May 1, 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 an“extinctive union,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Joseph Parish is subsumed into Sacred Heart Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Joseph Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Joseph church building will remain at present as a sacred place for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled masses.

The administration of the church buildings and premises, including that of the Saint Joseph Parish cemetery, will be based at Sacred Heart Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Joseph Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Sacred Heart Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at Sacred Heart Parish. The territorial boundaries of Sacred Heart Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Saint Joseph Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of June 29, 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 2nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor