



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

concerning the extinctive union of the Parishes of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Therese, and Saint Elizabeth, of Branford, Connecticut

WHEREAS, Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish was erected in 1868, Saint Therese in 1947, and Saint Elizabeth in 1966, the latter initially a mission of Saint Clare Parish of East Haven;

WHEREAS, Saint Elizabeth has experienced a 20% decline in registered households in the last five years and has only approximately 431 registered households, and Saint Mary and Saint Therese have incurred decreases in Mass attendance and general sacramental practice; it poses an undue burden to attempt to maintain three separate parishes in Branford, and it seems most prudent for the future existence of the Catholic community in Branford to unite in one parish;

WHEREAS, 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; 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;

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

I HEREBY DECREE, the amalgamation, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, of Saint Therese and Saint Elizabeth Parishes, by which they are subsumed into Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Therese and Saint Elizabeth Parishes will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Therese and Saint Elizabeth church buildings will remain at present as sacred places for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses at Saint Elizabeth. Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception will henceforth be named as Saint John Bosco Parish.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint John Bosco Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Therese and Saint Elizabeth Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint John Bosco Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Saint John Bosco Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint John Bosco Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Parishes of Saint Therese and Saint Elizabeth.

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