



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Concerning the extinctive union involving the Parishes of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Peter, Sacred Heart, and Saint Mary, of Torrington, Connecticut

WHEREAS Saint Francis of Assisi Parish was erected in 1877, Saint Peter established in 1910 as an Italian Parish, Sacred Heart erected in 1910 for the Slovak community, and Saint Mary erected in 1919 as a Polish Parish;

WHEREAS the ethnic communities for which three of these parishes were created no longer exist, and all four parishes have experienced decreases in registered parishioners and Mass attendance, and Saint Mary has only about 282 registered households and Sacred Heart 386, and the Parishes are already sharing a pastor and other resources as a “cluster;”

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, and deeming it prudent that this cluster of Parishes formally merge,


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


The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint John Paul the Great Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Peter, Sacred Heart, and Saint Mary Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint John Paul the Great Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at the premises of Saint John Paul the Great Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint John Paul the Great Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Parishes of Saint Peter, Sacred Heart, and Saint Mary.

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