



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In nomine Domini

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of Holy Family Parish in Enfield, Connecticut, and Saint Bernard Parish in Enfield, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of “Saint Jeanne Jugan” to the newly created parish in Enfield, Connecticut. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).

WHEREAS, Holy Family Parish was erected as a territorial parish in 1965, and Saint Bernard was established in 1888 as a territorial parish due to the ecumenical fraternity which helped the rise of Catholicism in Hazardville;

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, there was a 17.7% decrease in registered households at Holy Family Parish and only a 1.1% increase at Saint Bernard Parish, for a total decrease of 12.2% for the combined Parishes;

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, Mass attendance decreased 43.3% at Holy Family Parish and 4.5% at Saint Bernard Parish and the combined parishes saw a 20.6% decline in sacramental activities;

WHEREAS, the Enfield Deanery wherein Holy Family Parish and Saint Bernard Parish are located includes eleven (11) small-to-medium-sized churches serving a similar demographic;

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

WHEREAS, if the two parishes combined their religious education program (child and adult) and shared staff, a central office and communication apparatus, and 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 Hartford Vicariate, given that, for 2018, the estimated net operating surplus is \$56,779 and the estimated total Church operating revenue is \$1,351,419.

WHEREAS, only the Diocesan Bishop can significantly alter a parish in his jurisdiction according to the prescriptions of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and in accord with prescriptions of c. 121, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having heard the parishioners of both parishes through parish leadership with input from the parishes at large, having received the recommendation of the Pastoral Planning Committee, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes party to this decree, and under the careful direction of the Vicar for Pastoral Planning, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accord with c. 515 §2,

THEREFORE,

I hereby **DECREE** that:

The Parish of Holy Family and the Parish of Saint Bernard are to be merged and from the merger form a new parish to be named Saint Jeanne Jugan Parish in Enfield, with two church buildings: Holy Family Church and Saint Bernard Church in Enfield.

The merger is an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the new Enfield and Manchester Deanery, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance, and the sacraments. Holy Family Parish and Saint Bernard Parish, as separate juridic entities, will cease to exist. All Catholics having domicile or quasi-domicile within the current boundaries of the aforementioned parishes are hereby considered members of Saint Jeanne Jugan Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacies and histories of Holy Family Parish and Saint Bernard Parish will be promoted and honored at Saint Jeanne Jugan Parish. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite with the newly merged parish through the union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.


The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Parish of Holy Family and the extinct Parish of Saint Bernard, as well as the acquired rights, shall be honored and respected. In addition, the temporal goods, patrimonial rights, and the obligations of each of the extinct parishes shall be assumed by Saint Jeanne Jugan in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121). The Parish of Saint Jeanne Jugan shall comprise all the territories of the former Parishes of Holy Family and Saint Bernard.

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Holy Family and the extinct Parish of Saint Bernard are to be properly preserved and safeguarded at the premises of Holy Family Church in Enfield, in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 535 §§1-5).

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).

Anything 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