



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

### DECREE

This decree concerns the merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2) of **Saint Mary Parish, Windsor Locks, Connecticut**, with **Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Windsor Locks, Connecticut**, within the Enfield Deanery

WHEREAS, Saint Mary Parish was established in 1852 to care for Irish workers along the Enfield Falls (Windsor Locks) canal, and Saint Bellarmine Parish in Windsor Locks was established in 1962 from the historic Saint Mary Parish, which has existed for over a century, and a modern mission church was erected in the southwest section of the town in 1960, carved from the territory of Saint Mary Parish.

WHEREAS, the two parishes were linked in 2007 and currently share a pastor and their resources;

WHEREAS, the parishes have already enjoyed some success in joint pastoral activities and other resources, and following discussion among the two parish communities, the pastor and respective trustees agree that Saint Mary Parish and Saint Robert Bellarmine should be merged;

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration, and the Presbyteral Council was consulted on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

THEREFORE, the following just causes suggest that Saint Mary Parish and Saint Bellarmine Parish merge:

1. the reasonable proximity of eleven (11) worship communities;
2. the desire to avoid duplication of services and increase in expenses associated with necessary repairs to and maintenance of aging structures;
3. the size and spiritual welfare of the parish communities;
4. the decrease in sacramental activities (9.7%);
5. the decline in parishioners (12.2%);
6. the spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God;

7. the enhancement of collaborative ministry, the better utilization of parish resources and available priest personnel;
8. the good of souls will not thereby be impaired;

I HEREBY DECREE an “extinctive union, type I” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Mary Parish is merged with Saint Bellarmine Parish, to form Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, with two Church buildings: Saint Mary Church and Saint Robert Bellarmine Church; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Mary Parish and Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish will cease to exist, and they will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the administration of the church buildings and premises will be located at the premises of Saint Mary Church.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Mary Parish and Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Mary Church. The territorial boundaries of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of Saint Mary and Saint Bellarmine Parishes, including the cemetery located at the extinct parish of Saint Mary.

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