



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

Merging Saint Bridget Parish in Manchester, Connecticut, and Saint Bartholomew, Manchester, Connecticut, to form one new juridic entity, named Saint Teresa of Calcutta (merger/extinctive union type I (cc. 121 and 515 §2)).

Whereas, Saint Bridget Parish is the senior Catholic parish in Manchester and has served the Catholic faithful since 1869, and the territory of Saint Bartholomew Parish was carved from Saint Bridget and Saint James and Saint Bartholomew has served the Catholic faithful of Manchester since 1958;

Whereas, Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew Parish were linked in 2009 and have enjoyed some success with joint pastoral work and the sharing of resources with regard to religious education programs and office, as well as other resources;

Whereas, during that time, many people have heard the Word of God, worshiped, and received the sacraments of the Church in these parishes, and in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the Manchester Deanery of the Hartford Vicariate, 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, the sacraments and the continuation of ministries, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of these parishes.

Therefore, after having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires through the pastoral planning process and in consultation with lay leadership and the local pastor, the Pastoral Planning Committee, and the Office of Pastoral Planning, and having heard the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canons 121, 515 §2 §3 and 518 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, I hereby:

DECREE

the following:

1. Merge Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew Parish to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect on June 29, 2017. The new parish shall include the membership of the former Saint Bridget Parish and the former Saint Bartholomew Parish. The existing church edifice of each of the former parishes will remain the sites of worship for the new parish community, until such time that the pastor, with the advice of his parish pastoral and finance councils, and with my consent, determines otherwise.

2. The boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire territory of the former Saint Bridget Parish and the former Saint Bartholomew Parish.
3. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be known effective June 29, 2017, as the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The names of the current Saint Bridget Church and Saint Bartholomew Church edifices shall remain unchanged.
4. Establish that, in accord with canon 519, a pastor will be appointed to foster the pastoral care of the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

This decision is based upon a number of components, among them the spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, the fostering of unity of the People of God in the Hartford Vicariate, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel. All parish registers containing the records of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage, and deaths of the aforementioned parishes shall be preserved at premises of Saint Bridget Church, where they will be faithfully preserved in accordance with canon 535, §§1-5.

According to the norm of canon 121, all assets, whether movable or immovable, and all liabilities of Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew Parish upon this merger will become the assets and liabilities of the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew Parish shall be transferred to the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The merger of Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew Parish will terminate the juridic personalities of Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew Parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Saint Bridget Parish and Saint Bartholomew shall be no longer subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to their nature as juridic persons. In addition, the aforesaid parishes shall no longer be capable of acquiring, retaining, administering, and alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.


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