



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 Francis Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, with Saint Rose of Lima Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, within the new East Shore Line, West Shore Line & New Haven Deanery (8).

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Parish was established on October 4, 1868, after Irish immigrants began gathering in Fair Haven well before the 19th century because of the opportunities afforded by the local railroads, with their numbers increasing after the Civil War. Saint Rose of Lima was established as on September 18, 1907, out of the territory taken from Saint Francis in the Fair Haven area of New Haven;

WHEREAS, 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, and the Presbyteral Council, consulted on May 1, 2017, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes, posed no objection;

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

Therefore the following just causes suggest that Saint Francis Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish merge:

1. the reasonable proximity of fifteen (15) worship communities;
2. the desire to avoid duplication of services and increase in expenses associated with necessary repairs to and maintenance of aging structures (for 2015, the deficit for both parishes was \$39,785);
3. the size and spiritual welfare of the parish communities;
4. the decline in parishioners at both parishes (from 880 in 2010 to 740 in 2015 for Saint Francis Parish; from 1,300 in 2010 to 1,200 in 2015 at Saint Rose of Lima Parish);
5. the need to minister to new cultural groups coming into the neighborhood;
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 Francis Parish is merged with Saint Rose of Lima Parish, to form Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, with two Church buildings: Saint Francis Church and Saint Rose of Lima Church; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Francis Parish and Saint Rose of Lima 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 Francis Church.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Francis Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at the premises of Saint Francis Church. The territorial boundaries of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of Saint Francis and Saint Rose of Lima Parishes.

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