



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 Saint Pius X Parish in Wolcott, Connecticut, and Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Wolcott, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of “Saint Basil the Great” to the newly created parish in Wolcott, Connecticut. The principal motive is to provide more suitably for the good of souls (Christus Dominus no. 32).

WHEREAS, Wolcott Catholics attended Sacred Heart and Saints Peter and Paul parishes in Waterbury before Saint Pius X was officially established on January 7, 1956, and Saint Maria Goretti was established as a mission of Saint Pius X, on June 24, 1971, to serve the northeast section of Wolcott. Canonical events kept pace with mission enthusiasm as Saint Maria Goretti was designated a full parish on September 8, 1973.

WHEREAS, Saint Pius X, Parish and Saint Maria Goretti Parish were “linked” on June 30, 2014, and share a pastor;

WHEREAS, the Waterbury Deanery wherein Saint Pius X, Parish and Saint Maria Goretti Parish are located include eighteen (18) 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 programs (child and adult), weekly bulletins, shared staff, a central office and communication apparatus, 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 Waterbury Vicariate;

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 Saint Pius X, and the Parish of Saint Maria Goretti, are to be merged, and from the merger form a new juridic entity, to be named Saint Basil the Great Parish in Wolcott, with two church buildings, that is, Saint Pius X Church, and Saint Maria Goretti Church.

The merger is an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the Waterbury 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. Saint Pius X Parish and Saint Maria Goretti 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 Basil Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacy and history of Saint Pius X and Saint Maria Goretti Parishes will be promoted and honored at Saint Basil the Great 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 Saint Pius X and the extinct Parish of Maria Goretti, 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 Basil the Great in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121). The Parish of Saint Basil the Great shall comprise all the territories of the former Parishes of Saint Pius X and Saint Maria Goretti.

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Saint Pius X, and the extinct Parish of Saint Maria Goretti are to be properly preserved and safeguarded in the premises of Saint Pius X Church in Wolcott, 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