



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

This decree concerns the merger of Saint Mary Parish in Newington, Connecticut, with Holy Spirit Parish in Newington, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, on July 31 1919, Newington was made a mission of Elmwood's Saint Bridget (later Brigid) Parish, the mission was dedicated as Saint Mary mission and erected as a full parish in September 1924; and Holy Spirit Parish was established as a territorial parish on September 10, 1964, in Newington's southern portion.

WHEREAS, following discussion among the two parish communities, including their pastoral councils, the Office of Pastoral Planning of the Archdiocese, and the respective Pastors in consultation with the lay leadership, i.e., trustees, Finance Councils, Parish Councils, it was recommended that Saint Mary Parish merge with Holy Spirit Parish;

The recommendation was made for the following reasons:

- a) The geographic distribution of churches relative to people being served;
- b) Downward trends in births and baptisms;
- c) Dwindling numbers of registered households and Mass counts (a decrease of 7.3 % in registered Catholic households at Holy Spirit Parish and a mere 16.6% rise at Saint Mary Parish);
- d) Downward trends in school enrollment and the recent closure of Saint Mary School;
- e) Minimal sacramental activity (a decrease of 4% at Holy Spirit Parish and 32% at Saint Mary Parish);
- f) Redundant ministries in local parishes; leveraging economies of scale;
- g) Aging Presbyterate, that is, fewer capable priests;

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. 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.

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that 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 to merge with Holy Spirit Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of the Parish of Saint Mary and the Parish of Holy Spirit will cease to exist, and they will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the juridic entity to be formed will be titled “Annunciation Parish,” with two church buildings: Saint Mary Church and Holy Spirit Church; the administration of the church buildings and premises will consequently be transferred to Saint Mary Parish, effective at midnight at the end of June 29, 2017.


The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Mary Parish and former Holy Spirit Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Annunciation 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 Annunciation Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of the extinct parishes of Saint Mary and Holy Spirit.

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, this 2nd day of May, 2017.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor