



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

A decree concerning the merger of Saint Justin Parish, Hartford, Connecticut, and Saint Michael Parish, also in Hartford, Connecticut, within the Hartford Deanery:

WHEREAS, Saint Justin Parish was established in 1924, and Saint Michael Parish, was established in 1900, and the two parishes were “linked” in 2009, sharing pastoral and material resources. This was done due to the lack of a proper pastor for each parish, financial burdens, decreasing attendance of the faithful at both parishes, and the fact that the parishes are two miles apart;

WHEREAS, the linking of the parishes has not resolved these aforesaid difficulties, and the one pastor is excessively burdened with the care of both parishes, there are serious financial burdens in maintaining separate parishes, and the mission of evangelizing the North End of Hartford has been seriously hampered;

WHEREAS, the parishes have already found some success with a joint pastoral council, sharing a religious education program and office, as well as other resources; and following discussion amongst the two parish communities, including a unanimous vote by a group of sixty parishioners, the pastor and respective trustees recommended that Saint Michael Parish be subsumed into Saint Justin Parish;

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 February 27, 2017, in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

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,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Michael Parish is subsumed into Saint Justin Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Michael Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Michael church building will remain at present as a sacred place for divine worship; the administration of the church building and premises will consequently be transferred to Saint Justin Parish. Saint Justin Parish will henceforth be titled as Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish.

The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Michael Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at Saint Justin-Saint Michael. The territorial boundaries of Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Saint Michael Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of April 11, 2017, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to the faithful by means of notice in the weekend bulletins of both parishes, as well as by publication on the Archdiocesan website of *The Catholic Transcript*. 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 (CIC canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery, on the 28th day of February 2017.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor