



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In nomine Domini, Amen.

WHEREAS, by my decree of February 28, 2017, Saint Justin Parish of Hartford, Connecticut was merged by extinctive union with Saint Michael Parish of Hartford, Connecticut on April 11, 2017, creating the new juridic entity named Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish of Hartford, which subsumed the legal and equitable assets and liabilities of the former Saint Michael Parish;

WHEREAS, no recourse was filed against this decree in the Congregation for the Clergy;

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2017, the pastor supported by the trustees, finance council, and pastoral council members of the above-mentioned parish requested by letter that Saint Michael Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use, and that the building be sold to an appropriate buyer for some other appropriate use;

WHEREAS, the letter described the church building of Saint Michael as a financial burden on the parish due to the financial health of the parish and the annual operating costs associated with the buildings;

WHEREAS, I convened the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on September 18, 2017, for consultation on the question of the relegation of Saint Michael Church to profane but not sordid use in light of the following facts:

- The building was a financial burden on the merged Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish.
- After the merger decree the buildings at Saint Michael Church premises were scheduled to be sold because neither the former parish of Saint Michael nor the newly merged parish had the financial resources to maintain old buildings and the new parish was better accommodated at Saint Justin Church.
- Saint Michael Parish was experiencing financial difficulties even before the extinctive union, and these did not change thereafter.

WHEREAS, the Presbyteral Council voted unanimously to recommend that Saint Michael Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use; and

WHEREAS, I have concluded that the economic hardship of maintaining the building and its lack of usefulness to Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish constitute grave cause sufficient in law to support the relegation of the church building to profane but not sordid use;

I, Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., in my capacity as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of the former Saint Michael Parish specifically and the needs of the Archdiocese of Hartford generally, hereby decree:


1. The parish church of the former Saint Michael Parish shall be relegated to profane but not sordid effective November 28, 2017. Should any interested party file a petition seeking recourse against this decree, the decree shall be held in abeyance until the final resolution of such petition.
2. Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish, in consultation with the Archdiocese of Hartford, shall dispose of the church building in a manner that accords with Catholic faith and morals and its dignity as a former place of Divine worship.
3. This decree is to be published to the pastor of Saint Justin-Saint Michael Parish.
4. The substance of the decree 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.
5. 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 of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 7th day of November in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford