



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

This decree concerns the merger of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Woodbury, Connecticut, and Nativity Parish in Bethlehem, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of “Prince of Peace” to the newly created parish.

Whereas, canon 515 §, stipulates that it is only for the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress, or alter parishes, willingly desires in all things to promote the greater glory of God and desirous of providing for the good of souls. Nor is he to erect, suppress, or alter notably parishes, unless he has heard the Presbyteral Council (see also, Christus Dominus no. 32).

Whereas, considering the recommendations from the Pastoral Planning Committee and the Vicar of Pastor Planning in consultation with several members of the clergy and lay faithful that Saint Teresa of Avila Parish and Nativity Parish be merged to form a new parish in Woodbury/Bethlehem, Connecticut;

Whereas, having ascertained that there are sufficient means and resources for the support of the pastor and for the proper maintenance of the temporal goods of the parish, since the merged parish will have an estimated cash and investment of \$1,761,469 and an estimated parish revenue of \$916, 853;

And, having heard the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017:

I have decided that the proper care of souls requires the merger of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish and Nativity Parish and the creation of a new juridic entity named “Prince of Peace Parish.”

Wherefore, having faithfully observed the requirements of the law, and to provide more suitably for the spiritual and pastoral care of souls, invoking the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His Mother, the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, I, the undersigned Archbishop of Hartford, exercising my ordinary power, herewith create and erect, in accordance of canon 515 §2, the Parish of Prince of Peace, with all the rights, obligations, and privileges granted it by law.

The geographical boundaries of this Parish shall include the former boundaries of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Woodbury, Connecticut, and Nativity Parish in Bethlehem. Therefore, all Catholics having domicile or quasi-domicile within the current boundaries of the aforementioned parishes are hereby considered members of Prince of Peace Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The rich legacies and histories of Saint Teresa of Avila Parish and Nativity Parish will be promoted and honored at Prince of Peace Parish, with two church buildings: Saint Teresa of Avila Church and the Nativity Church. 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 Teresa of Avila and the extinct Parish of Nativity, 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 the Parish of Prince of Peace in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121).

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Saint Teresa of Avila and Nativity Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded at the premises of Saint Teresa of Avila Church in Woodbury, 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, this 2nd day of May, 2017.


Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford


Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor