



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

## DECREE

### *Decree on the Merger of Most Holy Trinity Parish of Wallingford, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish of Yalesville, Connecticut*

**WHEREAS**, Most Holy Trinity Parish of Wallingford, Connecticut was initially established on September 1, 1856, and reestablished on August 4, 1867, and Our Lady of Fatima of Yalesville, Connecticut was established in September 1960; the merger responds to the on-going pastoral plan process of the Archdiocese of Hartford to create a single unified parish in the Wallingford/Yalesville municipality; the aforementioned parishes were formally linked on March 1, 2021, and share a pastor, and the merger will actualize the municipal pastoral restructuring model envisioned for the Archdiocese of Hartford;

**WHEREAS**, by crafting a common vision, joining gifts, and working together in a shared mission, the parishioners of both parishes will lay the foundation for a sustainability unattainable with two distinct and separate juridic entities;

**WHEREAS**, the merger will alleviate parishioners' concerns about parochial stability raised by the restructuring process in the municipality; parishioners of the above-named parishes have recognized that the union of the parishes will foster and strengthen the faith and provide a vibrant parish community for forthcoming generations; and given the Archdiocese of Hartford's lack of available clergy and insufficient numbers of practicing Catholics to sustain the two separate juridic entities as in the mid-twentieth century, it is crucial that these two entities merge to form one unified parish in the Wallingford/Yalesville area;

**WHEREAS**, in March 2021, I, the undersigned, as Archbishop, notified the parishioners of the aforementioned parishes of the forthcoming merger, and a Transition Team with members and leadership from both parishes was created, has met several times thus far, and is in the process of establishing subcommittees which will expand the involvement of parishioners in the areas of pastoral care, buildings, finance, evangelization, and communications; and the Transition Team has evinced an openness to constructive dialogue and has embraced this merger as an opportunity from the start, promising more fruitful discussions and actions;

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2021, the pastor wrote a letter recommending the merger after he had consulted his parishioners, parish councils, finance councils, and trustees of the respective parishes; and the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration; the Presbyteral Council was

consulted on September 27, 2021, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection; and

**WHEREFORE**, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,


**I HEREBY DECREE** the “merger,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Our Lady of Fatima Parish is subsumed into Most Holy Trinity Parish. The separate juridic (legal) personalities of Our Lady of Fatima Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the new merged entity will be known as Most Holy Trinity Parish, with the two sacred edifices: Our Lady of Fatima Church and Most Holy Trinity Church.

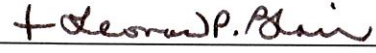
The assets and liabilities of the former Our Lady of Fatima Parish will become the assets and liabilities of Most Holy Trinity Parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Most Holy Trinity Church premises. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall also be preserved at Most Holy Trinity premises, according to the norm of canon 535, §§1-5. The territorial boundaries of Most Holy Trinity Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former parish of Our Lady of Fatima.

This decree becomes effective as of January 1, 2022, 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 churches. It will also be available on the Archdiocese of Hartford website, under News-Public Notices: [<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/public-notices/>]. 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of September in the Year of Our Lord 2021.

  
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Reverend Ryan M. Lerner  
Chancellor

  
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Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford