



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

**DECREE
ON THE MERGER OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH OF
MIDDLEBURY, WITH SACRED HEART PARISH OF SOUTHURY,
CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, Saint John of the Cross Parish of Middlebury, Connecticut, was originally established in 1904, and Sacred Heart Parish of Southbury, Connecticut was established in 1884, and erected as a parish in 1940;

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2021, permission was granted to the aforementioned juridic entities to commence deliberations on a pastoral restructuring process and to investigate ways the entities could merge into one new and vibrant parish community;

WHEREAS, with the guidance and support of the Pastoral Planning Department of the Archdiocese of Hartford, the pastors of the two parishes formed a Transition Team comprising members from both parishes;

WHEREAS, over the past months, the Transition Team has reviewed the status, structures, and resources of both parishes and determined the following objectives regarding certain areas of parish life: to share one common intergenerational faith formation program modeled on the program that has served the needs of Sacred Heart Parish for the past sixteen (16) years; to amalgamate the financial holdings of both parishes; and to unite the respective parish offices, staff, and ministries into one with a single focus to serve the new merged entity;

WHEREAS, the Pastors of the above-named parishes consulted their Finance Councils and Trustees, and 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 April 26, 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

WHEREAS, 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 Saint John of the Cross Parish is subsumed into Sacred Heart Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint John of the Cross Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; Sacred Heart Parish will henceforth be named “The Roman Catholic Parish of Middlebury and Southbury.”


The territorial boundaries of “The Roman Catholic Parish of Middlebury and Southbury” will be the combined boundaries of it and the former parish of Saint John of the Cross. All Catholics having domicile with the current boundaries of the aforementioned parishes are hereby considered members of the new merged parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of that parish. The new parish will have two church buildings: Sacred Heart Church and Saint John of the Cross Church.

The assets and liabilities of the former parish of Saint John of the Cross will become the assets and liabilities of “The Roman Catholic Parish of Middlebury and Southbury”. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Sacred Heart Church premises. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall also be preserved at Sacred Heart Church premises, according to the norm of canon 535 §§1-5.

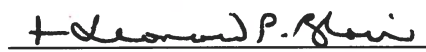
This decree becomes effective as of June 1, 2021, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including by way of display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the church. It will also be available on the Archdiocese of Hartford website, under News-Public Notices: [<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/public-notice/>]. 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 28th day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2021.



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford