



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

**EFFECTING THE MERGER OF ALL SAINTS-TODOS LOS SANTOS PARISH AND
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH IN WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Xavier Parish was established on December 3, 1895. Prior to its creation, about five-hundred families in Waterbury South were attending either Saint Patrick Parish or Immaculate Conception Parish. Bishop Michael A. Tierney recognized their need for autonomy and appointed Reverend Jeremiah J. Curtin as their first pastor on the aforementioned date;

WHEREAS, All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish was created by decree on May 2, 2017, with the merger of the following parishes: the Shrine of Saint Anne for Mothers, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart-Sagrado Corazón Saint Lucy, Saint Margaret, and Saint Stanislaus Kostka, of Waterbury, Connecticut;

WHEREAS, in May, 2022, I, the undersigned as Archbishop, wrote a letter to the Catholic Faithful of Waterbury, in which I outlined the future pastoral plan for Waterbury, noting that mergers would most likely occur between All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish and Saint Francis Xavier Parish and between the Basilica and Saint Michael Parish;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2022, Reverend Diego A. Jimenez was named Pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, while remaining Pastor at All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish so that the two parishes now share one pastor; subsequently, a merger transition committee was established, which has met regularly to take steps to bring the parishioners together in their understanding of the vision and reality of one new parish community. This committee has had fruitful discussions and provided helpful guidance for the proposed parish. Mass schedules have been rearranged and rescheduled to accommodate the parishioners from both parishes;

WHEREAS, the proposed merger will afford the parishioners of Saint Francis Xavier Parish evangelization and religious education opportunities and programs currently unavailable there;

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2022, a successful combined parish picnic was organized; in October, 2022, a “get to know each other” was held at Saint Francis Xavier Church premises; and meetings including members from both parishes, the Finance Councils, and the Saint Francis Xavier Ladies Guild allowed parishioners to express their concerns with regard to the proposed merger;

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2022, after having heard the Trustees, Finance Councils and parish communities of the two parishes, the pastor wrote a letter recommending the merger of Saint Francis Xavier Parish into All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish;

WHEREAS, all canonical requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled;

WHEREAS, after prayerful consideration of the present circumstances, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, which met on March 6, 2023, in accordance with canon 515, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, and voted unanimously on the matter;

WHEREFORE, I, the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, holding before me my pastoral responsibilities to this particular church, and having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

HEREBY DECREE

1. The “merger,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which the parish of Saint Francis Xavier is subsumed into All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish, effective on April 1, 2023.
2. The new parish formed will encompass boundaries of the former parish of Saint Francis Xavier and All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish. The consolidated and merged parish shall include the membership of it and the former parish of Saint Francis Xavier.
3. The new parish will henceforth be named All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish, with four sacred edifices, that is, the Shrine of Saint Anne for Mothers, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart-Sagrado Corazón, and Saint Francis Xavier church buildings.
4. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish, which shall provide for the pastoral care and meeting all the parish’s pastoral needs.

The parish registers of the former Saint Francis Xavier containing the records and registers of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage and deaths along with parish records and historical documents are to be forwarded to the premises of All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish, where they are to be faithfully preserved and maintained in accordance with canon 535, §§1-5. According to the norm of canon 121, all assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, of the former Parish of Saint Francis Xavier, will become the assets and liabilities of the juridic person of All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish in Waterbury. In all financial matters involving wills, trusts and foundations to maintain the patrimony of both parishes, the intention of the founders and benefactors is to be respected. Any acquired rights are to be safeguarded.

The effect of the merger (*unio extinctiva*) of Saint Francis Xavier and All Saints-Todos Los Santos Parish is the termination of the independent juridic personalities of Saint Francis Xavier Parish. Thus, it will no longer be subject of obligations and rights in canon law corresponding to its nature as a juridic person, nor will it be capable of acquiring, retaining, administering, or alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.

As indicated above, this decree becomes effective as of April 1, 2023, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including by way of a 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 10th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2023.



Reverend Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L.
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford