



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR  
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**DECREE  
ON THE MERGER OF THE PARISHES OF  
SAINT EDMUND CAMPION AND NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS IN  
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**WHEREAS**, the Parishes of Saint Edmund Campion and North American Martyrs were established on June 29, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, both parish pastors have had discussions with the Pastoral Planning Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford on the shape that the “municipal model” merger process would take in East Hartford, with three parishes and five churches. It was decided that the Ghanaian Catholic Quasi Parish, located at Saint Isaac Jogues Church, would remain separate from this merger process and renew its lease for the Saint Isaac Jogues Church premises;

**WHEREAS**, concerning the notification of the merger, the pastors have made bulletin announcements, notifying parishioners that there was an impending merger of parishes in East Hartford, whereby the two above-named parishes will merge. The pastors no doubt recognize that this will be very sad news for many of their faithful parishioners. The pastors plan on having an Interim Transition Team meet with parishioners to open discussions pertaining to activities such as combining choirs, social clubs, and office spaces;

**WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2024, the religious education programs were combined, and began meeting in the vacant Saint Rose School building. Though the Mass schedule has not yet been determined, it will be structured so that one English priest can celebrate all the English Masses, if necessary. The Spanish ministry will most likely see little disruption, as they currently need the larger space of Saint Mary Church. They are the fastest growing part of the new proposed juridic entity. Additionally, the pastors also hope that both parishes will continue to foster the youth, bringing them together in learning, service projects, and team building activities;

**WHEREAS**, On February 7, 2024, the Pastors of Saint Edmund Campion Parish and North American Martyrs Parish in East Hartford, wrote to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair to formally request the merger of the aforementioned parishes into a single juridic entity;

**WHEREAS**, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on March 4, 2024, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

**WHEREAS**, having judged that sufficient just causes, as noted above, are present and the good of the 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 Edmund Campion Parish is subsumed into North American Martyrs Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of the Parish of Saint Edmund Campion will cease to exist, and it will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; the newly merged entity will be known as North American Martyrs Parish, with four sacred edifices: Saint Rose Church, Saint Mary Church, Our Lady of Peace Church, and Saint Christopher Church. Saint Rose Church and Our Lady of Peace Church will remain at present sacred places of divine worship but without regularly scheduled Masses;

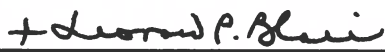
The assets and liabilities of the former Parish of Saint Edmund Campion will become the assets and liabilities of North American Martyrs Parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at North American Martyrs Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall also be preserved at the North American Martyrs Parish, according to the norm of canon 535. The territorial boundaries of North American Martyrs Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and the former Parish Saint Edmund Campion.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2024, 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2024.

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

  
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Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford