



**MOST REVEREND CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD**

DECREE

*On the Merger of the Parishes of
Saint Ambrose, North Branford and Northford, Connecticut
and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish, North Haven, Connecticut*

WHEREAS, Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish was created on June 29, 2017 and Saint Ambrose Parish was created on January 1, 2016 and were “linked” with Reverend Robert L. Turner serving as Pastor of both parishes on September 16, 2024;

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2026, the Pastor and the four trustees of the two parishes upon the recommendation of the Finance Councils and the Parish Pastoral Councils (which functioned as a committee known as the “Transition Team”), and the faithful of both parishes present at the “Town Hall” meeting held on October 23, 2025 wrote recommending the merger, stating that the aforementioned entities have been working closely together successfully to establish a single religious education program, combined staff and communications systems, proposed central office location, shared events and evangelization programs such as Alpha and Relit;

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 9, 2026, 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 souls will not thereby be impaired;

I HEREBY DECREE the amalgamation of the Parishes of Saint Ambrose and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which they are subsumed into a new parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of Saint Ambrose Parish and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish will cease to exist and will no longer be subjects of obligations and rights under canon law; Saint Augustine, North Branford, Saint Monica, Northford, Saint Barnabas, North Haven and Saint Therese, North Haven, Church buildings will remain as sacred places for divine worship, the new parish will henceforth be named Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at 1331 Middletown Avenue, Northford, Connecticut. The assets and liabilities of the former Saint Ambrose and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parishes will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical records, shall be preserved at 1331 Middletown Avenue, Northford. The territorial boundaries of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish will encompass the entire of Towns North Haven, Northford and North Branford. This new parish will be assigned to Deanery 7.

This decree is to be published by the Pastor of Saint Ambrose Parish and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of April 7, 2026 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/category/news/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 16th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2026.



Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford



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