



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

DECREE

This decree concerns the extinctive union involving the Parish of the Resurrection and the Parish of Most Holy Trinity in Wallingford, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, Resurrection Parish gained its full canonical status as a parish in the fall of 1963;

WHEREAS, Most Holy Trinity Parish was initially established on September 1, 1856, and reestablished on August 4, 1867;

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2022, Most Holy Trinity Parish merged with Our Lady of Fatima Parish of Yalesville, Connecticut, which was established in September 1960;

WHEREAS, the merger responded 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 shared a pastor, thereby actualizing the municipal pastoral restructuring model envisioned for the Archdiocese of Hartford;

WHEREAS, in March 2021, a letter from Archbishop Leonard Blair indicated that in 2024, the Parish of the Resurrection, “would join what would be one single parish in Wallingford with multiple campuses/churches”;

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2024, the parishes of the Resurrection and Most Holy Trinity were formally linked, and one pastor was appointed for the two juridic entities;

WHEREAS, in July 2024, with the assistance of Archdiocesan officials, the above-named parishes held a “town hall” meeting at the premises of the Church of the Resurrection and thereafter for both campuses of Most Holy Trinity Parish at Most Holy Trinity Church Hall in English and Spanish. These town hall meetings presented the reasons for the proposed merger and provided a forum for parishioners’ initial questions and concerns to be voiced;

WHEREAS, in September 2024, a Transition Team was formed with members from both juridical entities. The team currently meets bi-monthly. The Transition Team has developed written parish communications regarding the merger, gathered feedback, answered questions from parishioners after Masses, and has given invaluable counsel to the pastor;

WHEREAS, the pastor has initiated discussions with the Archdiocesan Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life and directors of faith formation at both juridic entities engaged in the merger, regarding unifying this ministry by utilizing a family faith formation model;

WHEREAS, on-going sharing of information has taken place with both pastoral councils and finance councils. Additionally, the Universal Prayer in each parish contains a unique weekly petition asking God's guidance on the establishment of a new unified parish. Consequently, both parishes are informed of spiritual and social gatherings occurring at each of the premises and they have found that many parishioners from both juridic entities are embracing these events and accepting invitations;

WHEREAS, with the assistance and counsel of the Transition Team, it is envisioned that an interim schedule of Sunday Masses will be implemented and finalized upon the completion of the merger;

WHEREAS, the merger will enable the new parish to unify parishioners in the Town of Wallingford and further the plan of the Archdiocese of Hartford to reduce the number of parishes. Thus, creating a single Catholic parish in Wallingford will ensure a vibrant and sustainable future supported by spiritual vitality, organizational efficiency, and accountability. Additionally, the merger will not harm the good of souls and will empower the parishioners to accompany and welcome those who either no longer practice the Faith or who are new to it;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2025, the pastor wrote a letter recommending the merger after he had consulted with his Transition Team, parishioners, parish councils, finance councils, and trustees of the respective parishes; 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 March 10, 2025, 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 that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

I HEREBY DECREE an "extinctive union," following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, by which the Church of the Resurrection Parish is subsumed into Most Holy Trinity Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of the Church of the Resurrection Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; and the new parish will henceforth be named Saint Benedict of Nursia Parish, with three sacred edifices: Most Holy Trinity Church, the Church of the Resurrection, and Our Lady of Fatima Church.

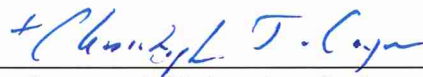
The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Most Holy Trinity Church. The assets and liabilities of the former Parish of the Church of the Resurrection will become the assets and liabilities of Saint Benedict of Nursia Parish. The sacramental registers

along with any other parish records and historical documents, shall be preserved at Most Holy Trinity Church premises. The territorial boundaries of Saint Benedict of Nursia Parish henceforth will be the combined boundaries of it and the former Church of the Resurrection Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2025, on the Feast Day of Saint Junipero Serra, an American Saint, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including by way of a display in appropriate places 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-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 17th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2025.



Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford



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