



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Bridgeport

DECREE

+ In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

After prayerful consideration and analysis of the overall financial situation of the Diocese, in accord with c. 1263 of the Code of Canon Law, I, Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, have determined that the current tax assessment (commonly known as the *Cathedraticum*) for the parishes (including quasi-parishes and shrines) of the diocese will be modified in the following manner:

Proceeds from the sale of any parish property will be classified as ordinary income for the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received, subjecting it to the tax assessment. An appeal process will also be established by which pastors may request a partial or total exemption from the assessment to be levied on such proceeds. This process will be distributed among the pastors of the Diocese and published for the faithful no later than May 31, 2021.

In addition, solely for the fiscal year 2021-22, the method by which the assessment is calculated will be modified in the following manner. A three year average (fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020) of all eligible revenue subject to the assessment as stipulated in the 2017 decree will serve to determine the amount that will be assessed for the 2021 fiscal year. The formula stipulated in the 2017 decree will return into effect for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Specific instructions regarding the above assessments will be sent from the Diocesan Finance Office to all pastors, administrators or clerics responsible for parish finances.

These new assessments supersede any previous assessments established by me.

I order that the provisions of this decree have firm and stable effect, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, even if worthy of special mention, and that they be promulgated by inclusion in the official diocesan newspaper, *The Fairfield County Catholic*, entering into force on July 1, 2021. Furthermore, I order that the present provisions be communicated both electronically and by ordinary mail to all pastors, administrators or clerics in charge of parishes, quasi-parishes and shrines that are subject to these provisions.

Given at the Catholic Center on May 4, 2021.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

Reverend Robert M. Kinnally
Chancellor