



# Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



## DECREE

In the name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, utilizing the Diocese of Scranton's *Vision 2030: Creating Parish Communities Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ* process, a pastoral planning process addressing the long-range needs and challenges of the Diocese of Scranton that aims to look proactively at the realities of our local church in the present moment while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade, with the goal of creating vibrant parish communities rooted in the life of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish is a territorial parish with Sacred Heart of Mary Church, located at 624 Madison Avenue in Jermyn, as its principal church, and;

WHEREAS, Christ the King Parish is a territorial parish with Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, 429 Church Street, Archbald, Pennsylvania, as its principal church and Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, 417 Main Street, Eynon, as a subsidiary church, and;

WHEREAS, both parishes have experienced a significant reduction of the Christian Faithful participating in the liturgical and sacramental life of both parishes due to an aging population and relocation of residents of the territory, and;

WHEREAS, the diminishing number of faithful whose donations principally sustain the parish communities, has resulted in the continued inability to sustain ordinary maintenance and operations, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Ryan P. Glenn, Pastor of the linked Christ the King Parish and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, with the collaboration of the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils and in consultation with the effected parishioners, and with the recommendation of the clergy of the Carbondale Deanery, has petitioned the undersigned that there be a suppression of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish and that Sacred Heart of Mary Church become a subsidiary church of Christ the King Parish, and;

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2024, following a presentation to the Presbyteral Council by Father Glenn to provide the information necessary to make an informed consultation, in accord with the norm of canon 515 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I consulted with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council on the question of the suppression of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, by which Sacred Heart of Mary Church and Saint Mary of

Czestochowa Church will be subsidiary churches and that Saint Thomas Aquinas Church will remain as the principal church of Christ the King Parish, and;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of the suppression of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, in accord with canon 51 I find the following motivating just causes:

- The demographic changes in both parishes, which have resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance and sacramental participation
- The inability to sustain operational financial obligations
- The availability of fewer priests within the Diocese of Scranton to attend to the current number of parishes
- The concurrence of the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, the Presbyteral Council in favor of the suppression of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish

THEREFORE, I, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the Christian Faithful of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish and Christ the King Parish specifically and the needs of the Diocese of Scranton generally, and after invoking the Holy Spirit and satisfying myself that the good of souls will suffer no detriment, I hereby decree the following:

- The territorial parish of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn, is hereby suppressed and amalgamated into Christ the King Parish.
- Sacred Heart of Mary Church, Jermyn, Pennsylvania, is designated as a subsidiary church of Christ the King Parish.
- This decree is to be published to the Pastor and the parishioners of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish and Christ the King Parish through publication in the parish bulletins on the weekend of June 8-9<sup>th</sup> and on the website of the Diocese of Scranton.
- The effective date of this decree is the second day of the public announcement, June 9, 2024. These changes will be implemented on July 1, 2024.

I am confident that the good of souls would not be harmed by this decree.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton, June 4, 2024.



Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Scranton



Linda E. Price, J.C.L.  
Chancellor