



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, the territorial parish of Saint Lawrence in South Williamsport has as its sole church Saint Lawrence Church, 800 West Central Avenue, South Williamsport, and;

WHEREAS, the personal (German) parish of Saint Boniface in Williamsport has as its sole church Saint Boniface Church, 326 Washington Boulevard in Williamsport, and;

WHEREAS, both parishes entered into a linkage under the directives of *Called to Holiness and Mission*, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Glenn E. McCreary, V.E., Pastor of both Saint Boniface Parish and Saint Lawrence Parish, with the consent of their Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils and after extensive consultation with the affected parishioners, and with the recommendation of the clergy of the Williamsport Deanery, has petitioned the undersigned, for a consolidation of both parishes wherein Saint Boniface Parish is modified from a personal to a territorial parish, and wherein, in accord with canon 121 of the *Code of Canon Law*, Saint Lawrence Parish will be suppressed in an extinctive union with Saint Boniface Parish, and the territory of Saint Boniface parish is modified, and;

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024 I consulted with the Presbyteral Council on the questions of these modifications and the Presbyteral Council voted in unanimous support, and;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the aforementioned modifications of Saint Boniface Parish and Saint Lawrence Parish, in accord with canon 51 I find the following motivating just causes:

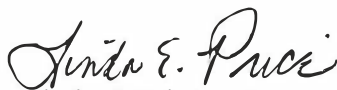
- The demographic changes of the parish communities, which have resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance and sacramental participation
- The availability of fewer priests within the Diocese of Scranton to attend to the current number of parishes
- The concurrence of the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, the Presbyteral Council, the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils in favor of the consolidation, wherein there will be an extinctive union of Saint Lawrence Parish and the modification of Saint Boniface Parish from a personal to territorial 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 Saint Boniface Parish and Saint Lawrence 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:

- Saint Boniface Parish will be modified from a personal to territorial parish
- In accord with canon 121, Saint Boniface Parish and Saint Lawrence Parish are consolidated wherein there will be a suppression of Saint Lawrence Parish
- Saint Boniface Church will be the principal church and Saint Lawrence Church will be a secondary church
- The newly consolidated parish will be titled "Saint Boniface Parish"
- This decree is to be published to the Pastor and Parishioners of Saint Boniface Parish and Saint Lawrence Parish through publication in the parish bulletins on the weekend of October 19-20th and on the website of the Diocese of Scranton
- The effective date of this decree is the second date of the announcement, October 20, 2024. These changes will be implemented on November 3, 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, on October 16, 2024


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



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