



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECREE

In the Name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church, 1217 Prospect Avenue in Scranton, is the primary church and Nativity of Our Lord Church, 633 Orchard Street in Scranton, is the secondary church of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish has been challenged with declining and aging membership, with a resultant offertory that is insufficient to sustain operational costs, and;

WHEREAS, the Nativity of Our Lord Church structure and rectory is in need of substantial and prohibitively expensive repairs and renovations, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, in holding the assets and liabilities of maintenance and operating expenses for Nativity of Our Lord Church, has been unduly burdened with buildings and costs it does not need and cannot reasonably use or afford, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, has consulted with the Pastoral Council and Finance Council of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, and they support the relegation of Nativity of Our Lord Church to profane but not sordid use, and;

WHEREAS, the Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish had engaged in extensive consultation with the members of the Parish in regard to the proposed relegation, and;

WHEREAS, in collaboration with the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Pastoral and Finance Councils and the members of the Parish, Father Kuhar has petitioned for the relegation to profane but not sordid use of the Church of Nativity of Our Lord, and;

WHEREAS, there are no individuals who can claim any rights over this church, and;

WHEREAS, according to the norm of canon 1222, §2, having heard the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and receiving its favorable recommendation on January 21, 2025 that the Church of Nativity of Our Lord be relegated to profane but not sordid use, and;

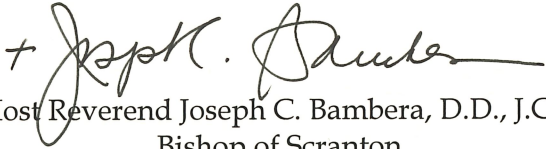
WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of the reduction of Nativity of Our Lord Church, I have identified and evaluated the following grave causes:

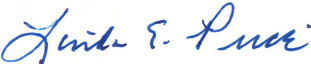
1. Changing demographics of the community, resulting in dwindling Mass attendance;
2. Concentration of available Mass time at principal parish churches in the immediate geographic area;
3. Declining number of priests;
4. In holding the assets and liabilities of Nativity of Our Lord Church, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish is financially burdened;
5. Ready and effective assistance available to the parish from the sale of Nativity of Our Lord Church; and

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 Teresa of Calcutta 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:

- Nativity of Our Lord Church, located at 633 Orchard Street, Scranton, is hereby relegated to profane but not sordid use in accordance with canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*;
- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish through notification in the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish bulletin on the weekend of March 1-2, 2025, and the decree is to be published on the diocesan website on March 1, 2025.
- On Sunday, June 8, 2025, the clergy and parishioners of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish will celebrate the closing Mass of Nativity of Our Lord Church.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton on the 24th day of February in the Year of Our Lord 2025.


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


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