



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, Saints Peter and Paul Parish, 1309 West Locust Street in Scranton, is a personal parish (Polish), and;

WHEREAS, Saint Ann Basilica Parish, 1250 Saint Ann Street in Scranton, is a territorial parish of the Diocese of Scranton, and;

WHEREAS, the parish communities have experienced a significant reduction of the Christian Faithful participating in the liturgical and sacramental life of the 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 James J. Paisley, Pastor of Saint Ann Parish and Saints Peter and Paul 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 Scranton Deanery, has petitioned the undersigned that there be a suppression of Saints Peter and Paul Parish and that Saints Peter and Paul Church be designated as the secondary church of Saint Ann Parish, and;

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, following a presentation to the Presbyteral Council by Father Paisley 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 Saints Peter and Paul Parish, in which Saint Peters and Paul Church will be the secondary church of Saint Ann Parish, and I received their unanimous support, and;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of the suppression of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, in accord with canon 51 I find the following motivating just causes:

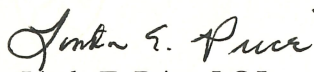
- The demographic changes of the parish communities, which have resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance and sacramental participation
- The inability to sustain operational financial obligations
- The availability of fewer priests within the Diocese of Scranton to attend to the current number of parishes
- The concurrence of the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, the Presbyteral Council in favor of the suppression of Saints Peter and Paul 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 Saints Peter and Paul Parish and Saint Ann 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 personal Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Scranton, is hereby suppressed, and Saint Peters and Paul Church is designated as the secondary church of Saint Ann Parish in Scranton.
- This decree is to be published to the Pastor and the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish and Saint Ann Parish through publication in the parish bulletins on the weekend of November 11-12th and on the website of the Diocese of Scranton.
- The effective date of this decree is the second day of the public announcement, November 12, 2023. These changes will be implemented on December 3, 2023.

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

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton, November 6, 2023.


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


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