



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, Saint Patrick Parish, 1403 Jackson Street in Scranton, is a territorial parish of the Diocese of Scranton, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Lucy Parish, 949 Scranton Street in Scranton, a personal parish (Italian) 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 Richard E. Fox, Pastor of Saint Lucy Parish and Saint Patrick 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 Saint Lucy Parish and that Saint Lucy Church be designated as the secondary church of Saint Patrick Parish, and;

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, following a presentation to the Presbyteral Council by Father Fox 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 Saint Lucy Parish, after which Saint Lucy Church will become a secondary church of Saint Patrick Parish, and I received their unanimous support; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of the suppression of Saint Lucy 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 and the Presbyteral Council in favor of the suppression of Saint Lucy 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 Lucy Parish and Saint Patrick 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:

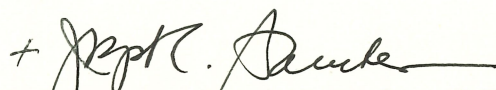
- The personal parish Saint Lucy, Scranton, is hereby suppressed, and Saint Lucy Church is designated as the secondary church of Saint Patrick Parish in Scranton.
- This decree is to be published to the Pastor and the parishioners of Saints Lucy Parish and Saint Patrick Parish through publication in 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.

FURTHERMORE, exercising my right to do so according to the norm of *CIC* c. 1276 §1 and considering the provision of *CIC* c. 121, I also hereby decree the following:

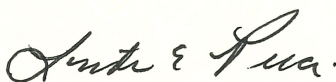
- All temporal goods, moveable and immoveable, from the former Saint Lucy Parish hereby accrue to Saint Patrick Parish;
- The moveable goods resulting from the suppression of Saint Lucy Parish, namely, the financial assets and other monies, are hereby restricted by the undersigned;
- The same moveable goods and financial assets from the former Saint Lucy Parish are to be used only for acts of extraordinary administration as defined by the particular law of the Diocese of Scranton and may only be used for capital expenditures for Saint Lucy Church;
- Any use of the aforementioned restricted funds for ordinary acts of administration for Saint Patrick Parish require the express permission of the undersigned or his Vicar General and must be requested in writing and require a just cause;

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.



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



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