



**Joseph Charles Bambera**

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



## DECREE

In the Name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, Saint Michael Church, 46 Midland Street, Simpson, Pennsylvania, is a secondary church of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, and;

WHEREAS, basic operational costs for Saint Michael Church average \$66,000 annually and the offertory collected from Saint Michael Church is insufficient to sustain operational costs, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Rose of Lima Parish carries \$313,041.18 in total liabilities, and;

WHEREAS, a 2022 facility study indicated the need within five to ten years of in excessive of \$833,000 for additional repairs of Saint Michael Church, and;

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

WHEREAS, having determined that the sustained operational costs of Saint Michael church will continue to damage the patrimonial condition of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Seth D. Wasnock, V.F., Pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and, in collaboration with the Saint Rose of Lima Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and with the recommendation of the clergy of the Carbondale deanery, supports the desire and need to relegate Saint Michael Church to profane but not sordid use, and desires to see the parish move forward without the financial and other burdens of caring for Saint Michael Church, and;

THEREFORE, having determined that a grave cause exists and having heard the Presbyteral Council and received its favorable recommendation on March 19, 2004, I hereby decree the reduction of Saint Michael Church, 46 Midland Street, Simpson, Pennsylvania to profane but not sordid use in accord with the norm of canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, effective with the closing Mass on June 2, 2024.

In fulfillment of the requirements of canon 51, the reasons for the reduction of Saint Michael Church are:

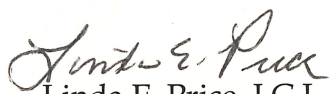
1. Changing demographics of the community, resulting in dwindling Mass attendance;
2. Concentration of Mass time availability at principal parish churches in the immediate geographic area;
3. Declining number of priests;
4. In holding the assets and liabilities of Saint Michael Church, Saint Rose of Lima Parish is financially burdened;
5. Prolonged damage to the patrimonial condition of Saint Rose Parish resulting from ordinary operational costs at Saint Michael Church;
6. Ready and effective assistance available to the parish from the sale of Saint Michael Church;
7. The Presbyteral Council, the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, and Saint Rose of Lima Parish Pastor, Pastoral Council and Finance Council are all in favor of the reduction.

FURTHERMORE, there are no individuals who can claim any rights over this church and I am confident that the good of souls will not be harmed by this decree.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord, 2024.



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



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