



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*, 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 personal parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carbondale has as its sole church Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 15 Fallbrook Street in Carbondale, and;

WHEREAS, the territorial parish of Saint Rose of Lima in Carbondale has as its principal church Saint Rose of Lima Church, 6 North Church Street in Carbondale, and has as its secondary church Saint Michael Church, 46 Midland Street in Simpson, and;

WHEREAS, both parishes entered into a linkage in 2009, following the directives of *Called to Holiness and Mission*, 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 administration, faith formation, and maintenance of the principal churches of both parishes has resulted in the continued inability to sustain ordinary maintenance, operations and administration, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Seth D. Wasnock, V.F., Pastor of both Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, with the consent of their Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, in consultation with the affected Parishioners, and with the recommendation of the clergy of the Carbondale Deanery, has petitioned the undersigned, in accord with canon 121 of the *Code of Canon Law*, for a consolidation of both parishes which will result in a newly-formed parish, and;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024, following a presentation to the Presbyteral Council by Father Wasnock to provide the information necessary to make an informed consultation, in accord with the norms of canon 515 §2, the undersigned consulted with the Presbyteral Council on the question of this modification, the same Presbyteral Council voted in unanimous support, and;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of this modification of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, in accord with canon 51, I find the following motivating just causes:

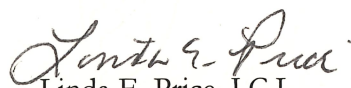
- The demographic changes of the parish communities, which have resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance and sacramental participation
- The inability to sustain operational financial obligations
- The availability of fewer priests within the Diocese of Scranton to attend to the current number of parishes
- The concurrence of the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, the Presbyteral Council, the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils in favor of the extinctive unions of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, wherein both will be equally merged with each other, and Saint Rose of Lima Church will be designated as the principal church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will be designated as the secondary church


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 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima 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:

- In accord with canon 121, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish are consolidated, with both suppressed and creating a newly-merged Parish, taking "Our Lady of the Rosary Parish," as its title, and;
- Saint Rose of Lima Church will be the principal church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will be a secondary church, and;
- This decree is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish through notice in the parish bulletins on the weekend of May 4-5, 2024 and the decree published on the website of the Diocese of Scranton.
- The effective date of this decree is the second day of the public announcement, May 5, 2024. These changes will be implemented on July 1, 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 April 11, 2024.


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


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