



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECREE

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, looks 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.

The Reverend Scott P. Sterowski is the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop, and Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant. The territorial Parish of Blessed Sacrament has as its sole worship site Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 215 Rebecca Street in Throop. The territorial Parish of Holy Cross has as its sole worship site Saint Patrick Church, 200 Delaware Avenue in Olyphant.

Blessed Sacrament Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Throop since 2009. Holy Cross Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Olyphant since 2010. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in both of these parishes. Due to an aging population and relocation of residents from within the same territories, however, both parishes have experienced an ongoing significant reduction of the Christian Faithful participating in the liturgical and sacramental life of the parishes. 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.

Now, in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of the parish life in the Olyphant and Throop region of the Diocese of Scranton, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the people of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance, the sacraments and the continuation of ministries, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of these parishes.

To that end, with Father Sterowski having obtained the consent of both the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Cross Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils and having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, he has petitioned the undersigned, in accord with canon 121 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, for a consolidation of both Parishes which will result in a newly-formed Parish.

After consultation, there has been a concurrence of the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Scranton in support of this merger.

Therefore, in accord with canons 121, 515 §2 §3, and 518 of the *1983 Code of Canon Law*, 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 Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross 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, hereby:

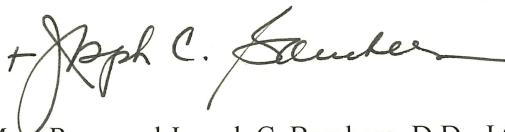
1. Merge Holy Cross Parish and Blessed Sacrament Parish to form one territorial parish effecting an extinctive union of the two parishes. The merger will be implemented on July 1, 2025.
2. The boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire territory of the former Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross Parish, and the parishioners previously belonging to Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross Parish by virtue of domicile will now belong to the new parish.
3. The existing church edifice of each of the former parishes will remain the sites of worship for the new parish community, until such time that the Pastor, with the advice of his Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, and with my consent, determines otherwise. The principal worship site will be Saint Patrick Church and the secondary worship site will be Saint Anthony of Padua Church.
4. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be known from midnight at the end of June 30, 2025 as "Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish" (pending Blessed Carlo Acutis' canonization, at which time the parish will be known as "Saint Carlo Acutis Parish"). The name of the current Church of Saint Anthony and Church of Saint Patrick edifices shall remain unchanged.

This decision is motivated by a number of components, among them the concern for souls and spiritual welfare of the parish communities, with each Parish having been under the care of the same Pastor since 2021, the spread of the Gospel, the fostering of unity of the People of God in the Dunmore Deanery, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, the formation of one unified community and the best use of available priest and lay personnel.

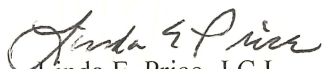
I direct that this Decree be given to the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross Parish, and that this information be communicated in the bulletins of Blessed Sacrament Parish and Holy Cross Parish on the weekend of Saturday, May 31st and Sunday, June 1st, and the Decree published on the diocesan website on May 31, 2025. The effective date of this decree is the second date of the announcement, June 1, 2025.

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 May 15, 2025.



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



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