



**Joseph Charles Bambera**

**DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS**



## **DECREE**

**In the name of God. Amen.**

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 Anthony Generose, J.C.L. is the Pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish and Queen of Heaven Parish. The personal (Italian) Parish of Most Precious Blood has as its sole worship site Most Precious Blood Church, 131 East Fourth Street in Hazleton. The territorial Parish of Queen of Heaven has as its sole worship site Our Lady of Grace Church, 750 North Vine Street in Hazleton.

In the coming decade and beyond, the Diocese of Scranton faces a decreasing number of priests. Now, in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of the parish life in the Hazleton 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 Generose having consulted the Parish Finance Council and having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, he has petitioned the undersigned for the suppression of Most Precious Blood Parish.

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

Therefore, in accord with canons 123, 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 Most Precious Blood Parish and Queen of Heaven 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. Suppress Most Precious Blood Parish. The suppression will be implemented on July 1, 2025.
2. Decree that the existing church edifice of Most Precious Blood Parish, Most Precious Blood Church, will be designated as the principal church of Queen of Heaven Parish.
3. Decree that the existing church edifice of Queen of Heaven Parish, Our Lady of Grace Church, will be designated as secondary church of Queen of Heaven Parish.
4. Establish that the new name of Queen of Heaven Parish will be known from midnight at the end of June 30, 2025 as "Our Lady of Peace Parish." The name of the current Our Lady of Grace Church and Most Precious Blood Church edifices shall remain unchanged.

This decision is motivated by a number of components, concern for souls and spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, the fostering of unity of the People of God in the Hazleton 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 Most Precious Blood Parish and Queen of Heaven Parish, and that this information be communicated in the bulletins of Most Precious Blood and Queen of Heaven Parish on the weekend of Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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