



# Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



## DECREE

In the Name of God. Amen.

**WHEREAS**, Saint Michael Parish, a personal parish located at 1703 Jackson Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, was established as a personal parish for Catholics of Lithuanian heritage in the Diocese of Scranton, and;

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the pastoral need to provide to Catholics of Lithuanian heritage ceased and, in 1996, the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter assumed pastoral governance of Saint Michael Parish to provide for the Christian Faithful who are devoted to the celebration of the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite, eventually leading to the exclusive celebration of the *usus antiquior*, and;

**WHEREAS**, on 16 July 2021, His Holiness, Pope Francis, issues an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, titled *Traditionis Custodes*, circumscribing the celebration of the *usus antiquior* in parish churches, and;

**WHEREAS**, Article 3 §5 of the same Apostolic Letter allows a diocesan bishop to provide for the needs of the Christian Faithful who remain devoted to the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 in parishes retained for this purpose if they are beneficial for the spiritual well-being of the Christian Faithful, and;

**WHEREAS**, on 29 September 2021, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, having fulfilled the requirements of and in accord with *CIC* c. 515 §2, notably altered Saint Michael Parish to reflect its *de facto* status as a personal parish for members of the Christian Faithful who are devoted to the celebration of the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962, and;

**WHEREAS**, Saint Patrick Parish, located at 1403 Jackson Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, a territorial parish located in the Diocese of Scranton, having as its secondary church, Saint Lucy Church, located at 949 Scranton Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The former Saint Lucy Parish, a personal parish, was merged into Saint Patrick Parish on 6 November 2023, and;

**WHEREAS**, Saint Michael Parish has seen consistent growth over two decades and Saint Patrick Parish has seen a decrease in the Christian Faithful supporting Saint Patrick Parish, and;

WHEREAS, in consultation with Reverend Anthony Dorsa, F.S.S.P, Pastor of Saint Michael Parish and Reverend Richard Fox, Pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, a proposal was presented to the consultative bodies of both parishes that Saint Michael Parish would assume the celebration of the *usus antiquior* in Saint Lucy church, 949 Scranton Street, and;

WHEREAS, in the same consultation, it was proposed that in the same action, Saint Lucy church would cease to be a secondary church of Saint Patrick Parish and would become the principal church of Saint Michael Parish, and;

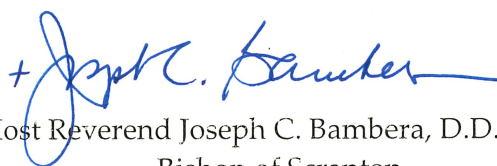
WHEREAS, in the case of the Christian Faithful who are enrolled at Saint Michael Parish, the proposed action was received favorably and in the case of the Christian Faithful who are enrolled at Saint Patrick Parish who were previously enrolled at the former Saint Lucy Parish, the proposed action was also received favorably;

THEREFORE, the following is hereby decreed:


- Saint Lucy church is no longer a secondary church of Saint Patrick Parish;
- The seat of Saint Michael Parish is hereby transferred to Saint Lucy Church and is hereby designated as the principal church of Saint Michael Parish;
- Saint Michael Church, located at 1703 Jackson Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, is hereby designated as the secondary church of Saint Michael Parish;
- Those temporal goods, moveable and immovable, associated with Saint Lucy church accrue to Saint Michael Parish;
- Those financial assets retained by Saint Patrick Parish from the former Saint Lucy Parish that were restricted for acts of extraordinary administration as defined by particular law of the Diocese of Scranton to be used only at Saint Lucy church are to be equally divided between Saint Michael Parish and Saint Patrick Parish;

I am confident that these actions are in the best interest of all of the Christian Faithful and that the good of souls will not be harmed by this action.

Given at the Chancery Building of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September in the Year of Our Lord, 2025.



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



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