



**Joseph Charles Bambera**

**DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA  
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS**



**DECREE**

In the Name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, Saint Michael Parish is a parish of the Diocese of Scranton under the stewardship of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, a clerical Society of Apostolic Life, and;

WHEREAS, the parish church is Saint Michael Church, located at 1703 Jackson Street in Scranton, and;

WHEREAS, due to a growing number of the faithful Saint Michael Parish has outgrown the size of Saint Michael Church, and;

WHEREAS, it was determined that the neighboring Saint Lucy Church provides a larger worship environment for the increasing number of worshippers who participate in Saint Michael Parish along with a larger amount of available parking, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Lucy Church, located at 949 Scranton Street in Scranton, which had been a secondary worship site of Saint Patrick Parish in Scranton, was modified as the primary worship site of Saint Michael Parish on September 16, 2025, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Lucy Church is sufficient to provide for the needs of Saint Michael Parish, and;

WHEREAS, Saint Michael Parish, in holding the assets and liabilities of maintenance and operating expenses for Saint Michael Church, is unduly burdened with buildings it does not need nor can reasonably use and financial costs it cannot afford, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Anthony Dorsa, FSSP, Pastor of Saint Michael Parish, has consulted with the Pastoral Council and Finance Council of Saint Michael Parish, which support the relegation of Saint Michael Church to profane but not sordid use, and;

WHEREAS, the Pastor of Saint Michael Parish has engaged in extensive consultation with the members of the Parish in regard to the proposed relegation, and;

WHEREAS, in collaboration with the Saint Michael Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and the members of the Parish, Father Dorsa has petitioned for the relegation to profane but not sordid use of the Saint Michael Church, and;

WHEREAS, there are no individuals who can claim any rights over this church, and;

WHEREAS, according to the norm of canon 1222, §2, having heard the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and receiving its favorable recommendation on September 16, 2025 that Saint Michael Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use, and;

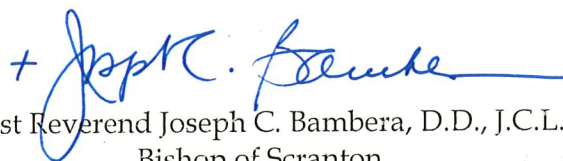
WHEREAS, in consideration of the question of the reduction of Saint Michael Church, I have identified and evaluated the following grave causes:


1. As the sole parish in the Diocese of Scranton dedicated to the celebration of the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite and according to the norms of the *motu proprio, Traditionis custodes* issued on July 16, 2021, only one worship site of Saint Michael Parish is necessary to provide for the needs of the Catholic faithful who are adherents to the celebration of the *usus antiquior* of the Roman Rite.
2. With Saint Lucy Church designated as its primary worship site, Saint Michael Parish, in holding the assets and liabilities of Saint Michael Church, which no longer serves the needs of the parish community, is unduly burdened with caring for and allocating financial resources for a building it does not need and cannot reasonably use or afford;
3. Ready and effective assistance is available to the parish from the sale of Saint Michael 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 Saint Michael 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:

- Saint Michael Church, located at 1703 Jackson Street, Scranton, is relegated to profane but not sordid use in accordance with canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, effective October 3, 2025;
- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Saint Michael Parish through notification in the Saint Michael Parish bulletin on the weekend of September 20-21, 2025, and the decree is to be published on the diocesan website on September 20, 2025.
- On Sunday, September 28, 2025, the clergy and parishioners of Saint Michael Parish will celebrate the closing Mass of Saint Michael Church.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton on the 17<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