



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECRETUM

In Nomine Domini

AMEN

WHEREAS, according to *CIC* c. 381 §1, the jurisdiction exercised by the diocesan bishop is ordinary, proper, and immediate and is provided to him in the same diocese entrusted to him for the exercise of his pastoral function, and;

WHEREAS, according to *CIC* c. 515 §1, a parish is a defined community of the Christian Faithful stably constituted within the particular church, and, according to *CIC* c. 515 §3, possesses juridic personality *ipso iure* and whose pastoral care is entrusted to its proper pastor under the authority of the diocesan bishop, and;

WHEREAS, through the aforementioned exercise of jurisdiction in the particular entrusted to his care, according to *CIC* c. 515 §2, the diocesan bishop alone is competent to erect, suppress, or notably alter parishes always having heard the presbyteral council prior to the aforementioned action, and;

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Scranton has utilized a pastoral planning process to evaluate the viability of parishes based on the following priority drivers:

- Equitable distribution of clergy based on population of Catholic members of the Christian Faithful;
- Financial viability of parishes;
- Participation in sacramental life of parishes by the Christian Faithful;
- Infrastructure needs of parish facilities;
- Growth or decline of overall population in a particular area, and;

WHEREAS, effective January 12, 2026 Holy Spirit Parish, a territorial parish located in the Diocese of Scranton, comprised of the municipalities of Fairmount Township, Ross Township, Huntington Township, Union Township, Salem Township and the boroughs of Mocanaqua and Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania, was suppressed by a decree issued by the undersigned, and;

WHEREAS, the same territorial parish had two churches, namely, Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, located at 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania and Saint Martha Church, located at 260 Bonneville Road, Fairmount Township, Pennsylvania, and;

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, a personal parish in the Diocese of Scranton has, as its sole and principal church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, located at 2011 PA-29, Hunlock, Pennsylvania, and;

WHEREAS, having consulted with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Scranton on October 14, 2025 on the proposal to modify Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish from a personal parish to a territorial parish;

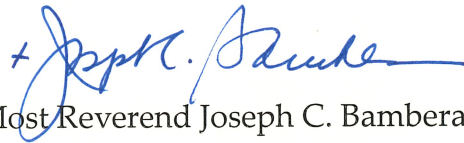
THEREFORE, I, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, hereby decree the following for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is modified from a personal to a territorial parish, effective January 12, 2026;
- The territory of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is comprised of territories from the following municipalities from Saint Faustina Parish and the former Holy Spirit Parish:
 - Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania (from Saint Faustina, Nanticoke)
 - Fairmount Township, Pennsylvania
 - Ross Township, Pennsylvania
 - Huntington Township, Pennsylvania
 - Union Township, Pennsylvania
 - Salem Township, Pennsylvania;
- Saint Martha Church, located at 260 Bonneville Road, Stillwater, Pennsylvania, is a secondary church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania;

- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish through publication in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish bulletin the weekend of December 6-7, 2025, and the decree is to be published on the diocesan website on December 6, 2025;

FURTHERMORE, should parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish decide to file recourse against this decree they are required *ad validitatem*, in light of the prescripts of CIC cc. 1732-1739, to submit a petition to the undersigned within ten useful days of the actual or presumed notification of this decree. Moreover, should recourse against this decree be lodged, suspensive effect happens *ipso iure*.

Given at the Chancery Building of the Diocese of Scranton on the 25th day of November 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