



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, 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, effective January 12, 2026, 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, Saint Faustina Parish, a territorial parish of the Diocese of Scranton, encompasses the city of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, Newport Township, Pennsylvania, and Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, and;


WHEREAS, effective January 12, 2026, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, a personal parish located in the territory of the Diocese of Scranton in Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, was modified from a personal parish to a territorial parish, which includes Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, and;


THEREFORE, I, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, with the suppression of Holy Spirit Parish and the modification of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, hereby decree the following regarding Saint Faustina Parish:

- Saint Faustina Parish now encompasses the following territories:
 - The City of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
 - Newport Township, Pennsylvania
 - Conyngham Township, Pennsylvania
 - The portion of the Borough of Nescopeck that is in Luzerne County;
- Saint Faustina Parish has Holy Trinity Church, located at 520 South Hanover Street, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, as its principal church and Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, located at 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania, as its secondary church;
- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Saint Faustina Parish through publication in the Saint Faustina 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 Saint Faustina 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 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