



**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, is comprised of the municipalities of Fairmount Township, Ross Township, Huntington

Township, Union Township, Salem Township and the boroughs of Mocanaqua and Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania, and;

**WHEREAS**, the same territorial parish has 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**, the following factors have impacted Holy Spirit Parish:

- From 2018 to 2024 the enrolled members of the Christian Faithful of Holy Spirit Parish has decreased by sixty-one percent;
- From 2018 to 2024, the number of the Christian Faithful participating in the sacramental life of Holy Spirit Parish has decreased;
- From 2018 to 2024, the overall population of the aforementioned municipalities declined;
- Holy Spirit Parish holds liabilities in excess of \$550,000 due to accrued operational financial losses, and;

**WHEREAS**, in fulfillment of *CIC* c. 50, between May 2023 and March 2025, officials from the Diocese of Scranton presented members of the finance and pastoral councils at Holy Spirit Parish with the relevant priority drivers, soliciting opinions and feedback from the same council members, and;

**WHEREAS**, in March 2025, officials from the Diocese of Scranton, having weighed the priority drivers and in consultation with the undersigned diocesan bishop, presented the proposal to suppress Holy Spirit Parish, and;

**WHEREAS**, on 7 and 9 October 2025, the same information was presented at a meeting for all enrolled parishioners at a public meeting during which feedback and opinions from effected parishioners was heard, and;


**WHEREAS**, on 14 October 2025, the undersigned diocesan bishop heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Scranton, having deliberated the facts of the aforementioned priority drivers and the proposed canonical action to suppress Holy Spirit Parish;

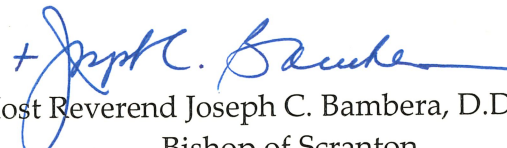
**THEREFORE**, I, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, having the responsibility to address the spiritual needs of the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Scranton generally and of Holy Spirit Parish specifically and having determined that there will be no detriment to the good of souls, hereby decree the following:

- Holy Spirit Parish is hereby suppressed, with the changes taking effect on January 12, 2026. The territory that formerly encompassed Holy Spirit Parish will become the jurisdiction of newly-modified neighboring parishes;
- Regarding Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania:
  - Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke, loses part of its territory comprised of Hunlock Creek and gains territory compromised of Newport Township, Conyngham Township, and the portion of the Borough of Nescopeck that is in Luzerne County;
  - Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, located at 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania, is a secondary church of Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania;
- Regarding Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania:
  - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is modified from a personal to a territorial parish, comprised of territories from the following municipalities: Hunlock Creek (from Saint Faustina, Nanticoke), Fairmount Township, Ross Township, Huntington Township, Union Township, and Salem Township (from former Holy Spirit Parish);
  - 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 Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish through publication in the Holy Spirit 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 the former Holy Spirit 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.

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

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