



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECREE

In the Name of God. 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. 1205, sacred places are designated solely for the purpose of divine worship, where the Christian Faithful are nourished by the celebration of the Sacraments wherein which the Church fulfills its sanctifying function throughout the exercise of the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and;

WHEREAS, according to *CIC* c. 1214, a church is a sacred building designated for divine worship in which the celebration of divine worship is publicly exercised, and;

WHEREAS, according to *CIC* c. 1222 §2, when a grave cause exists that a church can no longer be used for divine worship, the diocesan bishop can relegate a church to profane but not sordid use once the consent of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves for the exercise of public worship in the church is given and, on the part of the same diocesan bishop, it is assured that the good of souls will suffer no detriment, and;

WHEREAS, Christ the King Parish, a territorial parish located in the Diocese of Scranton, includes three worship sites: the principal church is Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald, and Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church in Eynon and Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Jermyn serve as secondary worship sites, and;

WHEREAS, a facility analysis conducted in the summer of 2024 by an engineering firm indicated Sacred Heart of Mary Church is in need of what was estimated at that time to be nearly \$450,000 for critical infrastructure repairs, including boiler replacement and roofing repairs, and;

WHEREAS, paying for the Sacred Heart of Mary Church repairs would significantly drain funds and would inhibit other critical repairs needed at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, and;

WHEREAS, parish life statistics reveal membership at Christ the King Parish has greatly diminished and the rates of funerals surpass baptisms and marriages, and the parish needs can be met with the capacity of two worship sites, and;

WHEREAS, the close proximity of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church to Sacred Heart of Mary Church (2.7 miles) facilitates the faithful who attended Sacred Heart of Mary Church attending mass or receiving pastoral care at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Ryan Glenn, S.T.L., Pastor of Christ the King Parish, after extensive consultation with the members of the pastoral and finance councils of Christ the King Parish that resulted in a consensus to request the relegation to profane but not sordid use of Sacred Heart of Mary Church, has petitioned me for a relegation of Sacred Heart of Mary Church, and;

WHEREAS, I have determined the following:

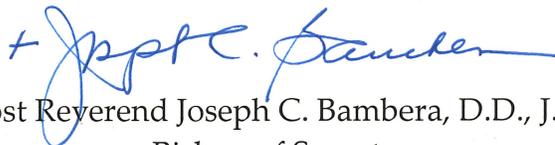
- The requisite information required to make a just and equitable decision according to *CIC* c. 50 has been obtained, and;
- A grave cause exists, according to *CIC* c. 1222 §2, and;
- The Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Scranton has been heard and consulted, and;
- That the good of souls will not be injured nor will suffer any detriment.

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 Christ the King 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:

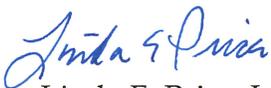
- Sacred Heart of Mary Church, located at 624 Madison Avenue, Jermyn, Pennsylvania, secondary church of Christ the King Parish, is hereby relegated to profane but not sordid use;
- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Christ the King Parish through notification in the Christ the King Parish bulletin on the weekend of February 28th/March 1st, 2026, and the decree is to be published on the diocesan website on February 28th, 2026.
- On Sunday, June 7, 2026, the clergy and parishioners of Christ the King Parish will celebrate the closing Mass of Sacred Heart of Mary Church.

FURTHERMORE, should parishioners of Christ the King 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 18th day of February in the Year of Our Lord, 2026.



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



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