



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECREE

In the name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Scranton's *Vision 2030: Creating Parish Communities Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ*, a pastoral planning process addressing the long-range needs and challenges of the Diocese of Scranton, looks proactively at the realities of our local church in the present moment while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade, with the goal of creating vibrant parish communities rooted in the life of Jesus Christ, and;

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Scranton's *Vision 2030* pastoral planning process evaluates 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, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, a territorial parish, has as its sole church Saint John the Evangelist, located at 35 William Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and;

WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, a territorial parish with the sole worship site Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church (located at 535 North Main Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania), was suppressed in an extinctive union with Saint John the Evangelist Parish, with the suppression taking effect on July 1, 2026 by a decree issued by the undersigned, and;

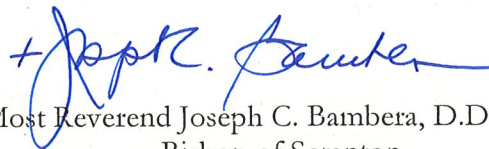
WHEREAS, Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, a personal parish for Catholics of Italian heritage with the sole worship site Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (located at 237 William Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania), was suppressed in an absolute suppression, with the suppression taking effect on July 1, 2026 by a decree issued by the undersigned, and;

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 Saint John the Evangelist Parish specifically and having determined that there will be no detriment to the good of souls, with the suppression of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish and Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, I hereby decree the following regarding Saint John the Evangelist Parish:


- Saint John the Evangelist now includes the territory of Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish.
- Saint John the Evangelist Church will be the primary church and Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church and Our Lady of Mount Church will be secondary churches of Saint John the Evangelist Parish.
- Effective on July 1, 2026, Saint John the Evangelist Parish will be known as Communion of Saints Parish, address of 37 William Street in Pittston.
- This is to be published to the Pastor and the Parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish through publication in the Saint John the Evangelist bulletin on the weekend of June 13-14th, and the decree is to be published on the diocesan website on June 13, 2026.

FURTHERMORE, should parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist 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 5th day of June 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