



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

DECREE

IN NOMINE DOMINI. AMEN.

DECREE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SHRINE OF SAINT ANDREW BOBOLA, DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS AS A PARISH SHRINE

The patron saint of Poland to whom Pope Pius XII attributes the "Palm of Martyrdom" gave up his life for the unity of faith between Catholics and Orthodox. This Jesuit priest and martyr from Poland, canonized in 1938, figures prominently in the glorious pantheon of Catholic saints. For the third centenary of his martyrdom in 1957, Pope Pius XII dedicated to the saint the encyclical, *Invicti Athletae* calling all "Sons of the Catholic Church to be nourished by his example and to follow in his holy footsteps while in more and more places the Christian faith either languishes in inert weakness or is practically extinguished." Pope Pius XII continued in his encyclical to state: "It is our fervent desire that all participants of the glorious name of Catholics around the world, especially those sons of the beloved Polish land whom the invincible hero of Christ, Andrew Bobola, is a source of pride and a splendid example of Christian bravery reflect with pious hearts and minds on his martyrdom and his holiness on this three-fold anniversary of his death."

Novenas and special prayers invoking the intercession of Saint Andrew Bobola have taken place in the parish bearing his name in Dudley, Massachusetts. A novena to Saint Andrew Bobola will take place in the church from May 2 to 10, 2025.

The Parish of Saint Andrew was established in 1954 as a mission church to provide pastoral care to Poles arriving after the war during the spread of communism in Poland. It is the first parish in the United States dedicated to this great martyr in the history of the Church, Saint Andrew Bobola. The Parish has first class relics of Saint Andrew Bobola and Saint Faustina. Saint Andrew Bobola is an exceptional saint in the history of the Polish nation. He is the patron of that homeland. The dignity was bestowed upon him by God Himself entrusting him with the care of the Polish nation. Pope Saint John Paul II set him as an example for the Polish people and all Catholics to follow so that all would be able to remain steadfast in the Catholic faith, defend it, and not fear those who oppose it.

It is my belief that erecting Saint Andrew Bobola as a Parish shrine will bring many of the faithful to prayer at the Shrine and help in building up the Catholic faith for the Polish faithful and for all the faithful.

Having considered the petition of the Pastor of the parish and the spiritual good that it would bring to the people of God, particularly in this Diocese, I hereby issue this decree.

By the term shrine, it is understood as a church or other sacred place, according to canon 1230, to which numerous members of the faithful make pilgrimage for special reason of piety. I have considered the spiritual and pastoral needs of this Diocese and determined that it would be beneficial and useful to the faithful of this Diocese and for the good of souls to establish this Shrine.

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of this Diocese, do hereby, in accordance with canons 50, 51, and 1230, by means of this Decree, establish the Shrine of Saint Andrew Bobola as a parish shrine attached to the Parish of Saint Andrew Bobola in Dudley, Massachusetts, and formally approve its statutes.

At the Shrine, the means of salvation are to be supplied more abundantly to the faithful by the diligent proclamation of the Word of God, the suitable promotion of liturgical life especially through the celebration of the Eucharist, penance, the cultivation of approved forms of popular piety, in particular, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Votive offerings of popular art and piety are to be kept on display in the Shrine or in nearby places and are to be guarded securely. (canon 1234, §§ 1-2)

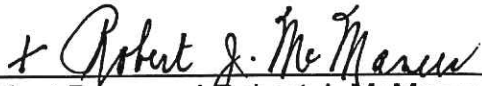
By means of this Decree the Parish Shrine of Saint Andrew Bobola is constituted a private juridic person, in accord with canon 114, §§ 1-3, canon 115, §§ 1-3, canon 116, §2, and canon 118.

As a private juridic person, the Shrine of Saint Andrew Bobola is subject to the particular law of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and that of the Diocese of Worcester concerning fundraising.

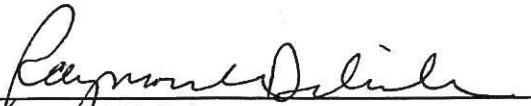
This Decree of Establishment is effective on May 11, 2025.

I order that this decree be published.

Given on this, the first day of May 2025 in the halls of the Chancery.



Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



Raymond Delisle
Chancellor