



March 10, 2022

Dear Friends,

One year ago today, we mourned the loss of a beloved and inspirational leader, Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. Through this first year of my presidency, I have found many reasons to be grateful to Father Pilarz, marveling at his accomplishments and his deep devotion to the mission of Catholic and Jesuit education at The University of Scranton.

Ultimately, there is perhaps no better way to honor Father Pilarz than to reflect on his words, words in which so many Royals continue to find inspiration:

St. Ignatius reminds us, “Love is shown more in deeds than in words.” Some deeds are more obvious than others but even subtle action can make the world more gentle. One such action I would urge upon you, as I’ve said at many Scranton commencements, is to cherish your Scranton friends. Be deliberate about deepening already rich relationships, seemingly simple things: dance at each other’s weddings, be godparents to each other’s children. As close as you are now, imagine how much closer you will be at a fifth or tenth or twenty-fifth reunion. You can’t know now what might come at you in the years ahead but know that your world and ours will be better for the bonds you form. In your time at Scranton, and by your parents and families, you have been well loved. Wherever life takes you, tell the people you meet about the graces given and received on this sacred ground - The University of Scranton. Don’t waste love. Tell everyone about the love you’ve received by opening your heart to a world that needs women and men like you, women and men for others.

Let’s remember the things Fr. Pilarz cherished so much – take time today to laugh, pray and maybe even read a favorite poem. May we, like him, strive to find God in all things, and especially in his life and legacy. And so, as we mark this anniversary, I invite all of us to recall the myriad of ways that Father Pilarz touched the lives of everyone he knew. Please pray for him, for his countless friends, for his brother Jesuits and for the family he held so dear.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.  
President