



April 1, 2022

Dear Friends,

Since day one on the job, I have been impressed by the University's enduring commitment to sustainability, and I look forward to celebrating with you the numerous events planned around Earth Day during the month of April.

As you know, the fourth Universal Apostolic Preference (UAP) of the Society of Jesus, prescribed to all Jesuit institutions around the world by Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa in 2019, addresses the problem of ecological degradation and destruction. As Fr. Sosa has said, "creation today is crying out as never before, labouring to be set free (Romans 8). Today's environmental crisis is impacting in a particular way on the poor and vulnerable. Action is needed urgently by Christians and by all people of good will. Whole nations and peoples need an ecological conversion if we are to be honest custodians of this wonderful planet."

Inspired by Pope Francis and the UAPs, The University of Scranton is committed to environmental sustainability, as evidenced by the important goals in our Strategic Plan. We must all "care for our common home" with even greater intensity going forward.

Also in April, I invite the University community to join the call to action and awareness for National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The University will host our 32nd annual **Take Back the Night** event on April 28, 2022. This is an international event which strives to raise awareness of and advocate for an end to sexual and interpersonal violence. The day will begin with our Clothesline Project display of shirts created over a number of years by members of our community who have experienced violence. An educational pre-rally will be held in the early evening followed by a march around the campus to protest violence. Let us all pray for safety, healing and hope for all those who have experienced abuse and for those who love and support them.

As a harsh winter gives way to the beauty of spring and the glory of Easter, may we all find in April a source of new life and inspiration. Let us be inspired to make a difference so that, together, our students, faculty, staff and alumni will continue to change the world for the better each and every day.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Marina, S.J.  
President