



Date: August 19, 2020

Subject: A Message from the Chair of the Board

Dear Members of the University Community,

Earlier today, Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., shared a video in which he announced that he will step down as President of The University of Scranton at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year on May 31, 2021. The Board has accepted his decision with an equal measure of gratitude and sadness.

As trustees, we could not be more pleased with the masterful way in which Father Pilarz has led the University throughout his presidency and especially during these past months – perhaps the most challenging time in our history. His love for the University – and especially our students – inspires all of us every day, and we take comfort in knowing that he continues to lead us through the end of next May. We also look forward to identifying meaningful ways to ensure that Father Pilarz remains engaged in the life of The University of Scranton community for years to come.

Father Pilarz began his second tenure as president in July 2018, pledging at his Inauguration to focus on the University's community, core and shared commitments. So much has already been accomplished in each of these areas, despite the complications and challenges of the pandemic. He has been an impassioned advocate for the liberal arts and humanities, and for the need to develop new and emerging programs. He has ensured that community remains a

hallmark of Scranton, and he has been steadfast in advancing the Catholic and Jesuit mission of the University.

In the days ahead, the Board will share information about the process to identify a successor to Father Pilarz through a national search. We will seek your input on the expectations for our next president and will ensure that the process is as inclusive as possible, within the necessary limits of confidentiality.

What will be foremost in the minds and hearts of the trustees, and I am sure the entire University community, is a desire to identify someone who, like Father Pilarz, will continue the University's deep and abiding commitment to the ideals of Catholic and Jesuit education.

Despite all of the challenges facing higher education today, the Board of Trustees is unwavering in its confidence in the University and in the students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, alumni and benefactors who bring our mission to life. We know that your shared devotion and commitment are essential to sustaining and advancing that mission into the future.

Once again, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank Father Pilarz for all that he continues to do for the University and our students. We wish him and the entire University community every success in the coming year.

Sincerely,

James M. Slattery, '86
Chair, Board of Trustees