



January 30, 2026

Dear Students,

At the heart of every Jesuit university is a deep and genuine belief in God and trust in the dignity of the human person—the conviction that each of you is called to grow, to learn, and to become more fully who God created you to be. In pursuing that growth, you also help to shape a more just, compassionate, and hopeful world. This vision guides our life together at The University of Scranton, and it feels especially present as we begin a new semester filled with promise and possibility.

As classrooms come alive again, teams reunite, and creative work resumes, I invite you to pause and reflect on where you are and where you hope to go. Take time to consider your goals, your relationships, and the ways you are being invited to deepen your learning and your commitment to service. You are not walking this journey alone. You are surrounded by faculty, staff, mentors, and friends who are committed to your success and to your well-being. Along the way, you will face challenges, no question about it. There may be moments of uncertainty, disappointment, or fatigue. That's part of the experience. And when these moments arise, I hope you will remember that struggle is not a sign of failure, but often a place where new possibilities begin.

In the Ignatian tradition, we learn to find God even in difficulty, trusting that perseverance, reflection, and prayer can transform obstacles into opportunities for greater wisdom and resilience. At this hopeful time of year, I encourage each of you to enter the semester with open hearts and attentive spirits. Notice where God is inviting you to grow. Be attentive to the grace present in your friendships, your studies, and your everyday experiences. Seek to use your gifts in ways that serve others and bring life to our community.

May this semester be a time of learning, healing, and renewal. May you grow in knowledge, compassion, and faith. And may you always know that you are valued here at Scranton.

Welcome back. We are so glad to have you with us.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Marina