



March 23, 2026

Dear Friends,

What a season it has been.

Over the past several months and through a remarkable run to the national championship game, we have witnessed something truly special in The University of Scranton's women's basketball program. The Lady Royals challenged expectations, defeating a Division I team in an exhibition game at the start of the season and competing at the highest level of Division III by season's end, bringing great pride to the University.

While the score did not turn out as we had hoped, there is no mistaking the significance of what this team achieved, as its full measure is found in the character, selflessness and unity it displayed from beginning to end.

Even when the stakes were highest in the intensity of championship preparation, the Lady Royals remained grounded in humility. On the eve of their big game, while taking every step necessary to prepare to play, our players made time to serve others. Through their service with Feeding Southwest Virginia, an organization that annually distributes nearly 19 million pounds of food to those in need, they gave their time and energy to address food insecurity in the region. What a wonderful example to set!

In this, the Lady Royals gave witness to what it means, in the Jesuit tradition, to be women "for and with others." By choosing presence over convenience and service over self, the team embodied the University's ideals of placing human dignity at the heart of all we do.

I am deeply grateful to the student-athletes, Coach Ben O'Brien, and his staff whose dedication made this extraordinary season possible. I pray that this journey lasts as a source of gratitude and inspiration, as it has inspired us all.

To the fans, families and friends of the Lady Royals: I trust that wherever you watched or followed this remarkable season — and no matter how closely — you were part of what carried our team forward. Your presence, your prayers and your encouragement helped strengthen and sustain the players through a long season.

Please join me in congratulating the Lady Royals on a historic season that will be remembered with pride and gratitude. They have left a lasting mark and serve as a powerful testament of what it means to be a student at The University of Scranton.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.  
President