



Aug. 26, 2021

To the Members of the University of Scranton Family:

During this coming academic year, the University of Scranton will be joining the works of the Society of Jesus around the globe in celebrating an **Ignatian Year**. The Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Father Arturo Sosa S.J., has called for this Ignatian Year to celebrate the life of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits and author of the Spiritual Exercises. The Year opened on May 20th, the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius' conversion — that fateful day when Inigo the soldier, struck by a cannonball, began his transformation into Ignatius the pilgrim. The Year will conclude on July 31, 2022, the feast day of Saint Ignatius. And the peak of the celebration will happen on March 12, 2022, the 400th anniversary of the canonization of St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier.

Father Sosa envisions the Ignatian Year as an opportunity for each of us to grow in our relationship with God and our love for one another by meditating especially on the important conversion moment in Ignatius' life. God continues to invite each of us into a deepening relationship, to ongoing conversion. We believe that by embracing this invitation as a University community, we embrace our God who calls us to act in new, bold ways that reconcile our world, bringing about justice, peace and compassion. For this Ignatian Year, we ask for the grace, in the words of the motto of this Year, "to see all things new in Christ."

The University's division of Mission and Ministry is coordinating our efforts for the Ignatian Year on our campus. They have developed a website devoted entirely to the celebration of this Year: <https://scranton-ignatian500.squarespace.com>. As you will see, the website will announce activities on campus related to our celebration, as well as direct you to a number of rich resources related to this celebration.

As you view the many reminders of the Ignatian Year around our campus this year, in the form of banners, pins, prayer cards, posters, computer stickers, etc., please use these reminders as an opportunity to make this year personal for you: to reflect on the ways that God has called you to conversion at different points in your own lives. And know that we make the journey this year in the company of one another. Pope Francis, in reflecting on the Ignatian Year, wrote this:

"I pray that all who are inspired by Ignatian spirituality may take this journey together as one Ignatian family."

May our journey through the Ignatian Year strengthen us all so that we might together enhance the mission of this great Catholic and Jesuit University to be a place of healing and reconciliation.

Yours faithfully,

Herbert B. Keller, SJ
Vice President for Mission and Ministry

Joseph G. Marina, SJ
President