



Sept. 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

Today begins the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The month begins in September, a time when several Latin and South American countries and Mexico celebrate freedom and independence. It is an opportunity for The University of Scranton to join others across the nation in honoring essential contributions, past and present, from all those with roots in or ties to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Over my first months on campus, I couldn't help but notice the prominent ways that we connect our campus to the culture and heritage of Mexico, Central and South America. Martyr's Grove, just steps from the entrance to Campion Hall, invites you to reflect on the life and sacrifices of the six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter who were murdered in El Salvador in 1989. A tribute to these Jesuits, five of whom were from Spain and the sixth from El Salvador, can also be found on the staircase on The DeNaples Center, and we honor the late St. Oscar Romero through Romero Plaza.

There is, however, so much more. Our Latin American Studies Program, Bridges to El Salvador and sponsored trips to Mexico, Guatemala and elsewhere in the region have given generations of students, faculty and staff an opportunity to be informed, invested and immersed. Most importantly, LatinX students, faculty and staff enrich our campus in immeasurable ways.

Through the month, I encourage you to take part in the many different programs and events that are being planned for our campus, everything from film festivals and dance nights to dialogue discussions and a local restaurant tour in South Side.

The University's ties to Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Spain and all those who have roots or history there, touches on something deeply moving and powerful. We look for and find inspiration for our journey. As Saint Romero said so powerfully:

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

For now, please join our campus celebration of our LatinX sisters and brothers.

Yours Faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President