



Dear Graduating Undergraduate and Graduate Students,

At the end of March, I wrote to you about Senior Week and Commencement Weekend events at the end of May. We have waited as long as possible to make decisions about these important ceremonies in the hope that the pandemic would be contained enough to allow our original plans to proceed.

Unfortunately, we have concluded that we will not be able to hold Commencement and Senior Week in May. As always, the safety of all involved, especially you and your families, must be foremost in our minds. The need to maintain social distancing and the risk of gathering so many people in one location outweigh even our most fervent wishes to honor you all in person this May.

We must, therefore, postpone a proper Scranton sendoff until the weekend of October 24-25. Our preliminary plans include hosting Baccalaureate Mass and a truly epic Commencement Party on campus on Saturday, October 24, and conducting a combined Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Sunday, October 25.

The timing of our ceremony is separate from the formal completion of your undergraduate and graduate studies. Upon successful completion of your requirements, your degrees will be conferred on schedule this May. In the weeks after final grades are processed, all eligible students will receive their diploma by mail from the University. Further details on how you will receive your cap and gown will be shared by the Registrar's Office in the coming weeks. Please remember that you will need them in October!

We will invite you to celebrate virtually through various events at the end of May. The Student Life team is planning virtual events for seniors during Senior Week, and all graduating students will be invited to a virtual mass and other activities. We will share additional details in the coming weeks.

Postponing Commencement is neither the news you wished to hear nor I wished to share. We are called, however, to find God in all things... even this moment. For me, I am always strengthened by how wonderfully and well you love and care for each other and for the University. Trust that we will do all that we can to show our love for you in return and to celebrate your graduation both in May and in October.

May God bless and keep you and your family, and may God bless The University of Scranton.

Sincerely,
Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.
President