

## The University of Scranton Appoints the Reverend Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., Ph.D., its Twenty-Fourth President

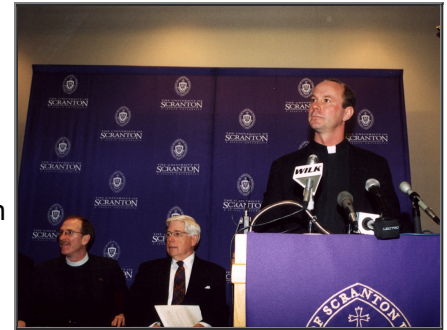


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The Reverend Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., Ph.D., interim university chaplain and assistant professor of English at Georgetown University, has been named the twenty-fourth president of The University of Scranton. Frank J. McDonnell, Esq., chairman of University's Board of Trustees, introduced Fr. Pilarz at a 10:00 a.m. news conference today in the Executive Center of Brennan Hall on campus.

Fr. Pilarz will assume his duties on 1 July 2003. He will succeed the Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., who will begin service as the 32nd president of Fordham University, New York City, on 1 July.

According to Mr. McDonnell, a national search began in January with the appointment of a search committee that included trustees and representatives from the University's faculty, staff, student body, alumni and administration. Prior to recommending candidates for the consideration of the Board, the search committee, chaired by Trustee Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn, consulted broadly through on-campus forums hosted by the University Council, Faculty Senate and Student Senate.



Seated, from left, are Reverend Joseph M. McShane, S.J., President of the University; and Frank J. McDonnell, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"We were blessed to be able to choose from among a pool of highly qualified Jesuits, which is a testament to the strength and quality of the University," said Mr. McDonnell. "We believe that Fr. Pilarz, an accomplished administrator, teacher and scholar, is an exceptional leader who will continue the remarkable progress that the University has made in recent years."

The University of Scranton, founded in 1888, is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary as a Jesuit institution. Scranton consistently ranks among the nation's finest colleges and universities, including nine consecutive years among the top ten master's universities in the north, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. (*U.S. News* ranked the University the fourth-best master's university in the north in the fall of 2002.) Other national recognition includes three consecutive years on *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine's list of America's 100 most wired colleges and universities (with a ranking of 39th in the 2001 edition). Most recently, Scranton was added to Princeton Review's guide to the nation's "Best 345 Colleges" and Kaplan's guide to the nation's "320 Most Interesting Colleges."

The University has experienced dramatic increases in application activity in the past two years. During 2002, it received 5,123 applications for admission to its traditional-age undergraduate schools, a 34% increase over the number that it received in 2001, and the largest number in its 114-year history. As a result of the increase in the number of students in its applicant pool, the University's acceptance rate dropped by 18% and the average SAT score of its freshman class increased by 16 points. During the current year, applications have already broken the 5,600 mark, a 10% increase over last year's record number.

In the area of student achievement, Scranton students continue to excel in securing prestigious fellowships and scholarships, including twelve Fulbright Fellowships, two Truman Scholarships, a Goldwater Scholarship, four Freeman Awards for study in Asia and two Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships in just the last three years. In 2002, medical schools accepted 100% of the 30 graduating seniors who applied, well over twice the national average of 37%. Law school acceptances were also above national averages.

"In the course of his rich and multifaceted career at Georgetown, Fr. Pilarz has established a solid reputation as a charismatic teacher, an original thinker, a talented administrator and a compassionate pastor. Therefore, it is not at all surprising that his peers and colleagues routinely hail him as one of the most respected Jesuit scholars and administrators of his generation. As a result, I have every confidence that he will serve the University with devotion and with real distinction. Indeed, I am convinced that under his visionary leadership the University will achieve even greater success than it already enjoys," said Fr. McShane, the outgoing president of the University.

Fr. Pilarz entered the Society of Jesus in 1981 and was ordained a priest in 1992. He received his bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University, and a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University, New York. He received master's degrees in divinity and theology from the Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Mass. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in English at the City University of New York, and his dissertation, *Sacerdotal Self-Fashioning:*

*The Construction of Priesthood in Early Modern Religious Poetry*, won the 1997 CUNY Alumni Achievement Prize for Dissertation Excellence.

As he was completing his studies at Weston, Fr. Pilarz served as a lecturer in the philosophy department of Sts. Peter & Paul Seminary at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. While completing doctoral studies, he was appointed to the English faculty of St. Joseph's University in 1994. In 1996, he joined the Georgetown faculty as an assistant professor of English. In 2002, he was appointed interim University Chaplain.

As University Chaplain, Fr. Pilarz serves as a member of the President's Cabinet and is responsible for leading campus ministry efforts on Georgetown's Main, Medical and Law campuses. He works with the President to promote Georgetown's Catholic and Jesuit character, sponsors inter-religious dialogue and coordinates interfaith activities on all three of Georgetown's campuses.

He was recognized by the Georgetown Alumni Association in 2002 with the William Gaston Award for Outstanding Service and was chosen by the graduating class of 1999 to receive the Edward B. Bunn, S.J., Award for Faculty Excellence, an award that recognizes outstanding teaching and service.

As a scholar, Fr. Pilarz has delivered numerous papers at scholarly conferences on various aspects of Medieval and Renaissance literature. He has also lectured and published on topics related to Jesuit education. His articles on John Donne, Robert Southwell and Medieval drama have appeared in academic journals and collections of essays, and his book, *Robert Southwell, S.J., and the Mission of Literature 1561-1595: Writing Reconciliation*, will be published by Ashgate Press in the summer of 2003. In 1998, he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he has received three research grants and a competitive junior faculty research leave from Georgetown.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of The University of Scranton, where he serves on the Executive Committee and as chair of the Committee on Mission and Identity. He also serves on the boards of Georgetown Preparatory School and Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill, N.J., from which he graduated. His professional memberships include the John Donne Society, the Renaissance Society of America, the Shakespeare Association of America, the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, and the Modern Language Association.

He is the son of Joseph and Joan Pilarz, Voorhees, N.J.