

A Message from the President

I have the privilege of writing to you at a most exciting moment in the history of our University. By the time the spring semester began, we occupied the Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center. Since the start of intersession, students and staff were settling into this new home for our incomparable campus community. The Center's opening marks the completion of the most ambitious building project since our founding 120 years ago. All of us can be proud of this accomplishment and grateful for the benefactors and efforts of those who helped make this long-held dream come true.

In planning for our newest building, we were very deliberate in referring to it as a "campus center." The facility is rare in approximating the goal of being "all things to all people." The variety of services available and the range of offices it contains make it a home for every campus constituency. As a result, it can only enhance one of the University's most cherished characteristics: our sense of community that supports and sustains rigorous intellectual work. Most conspicuous in this regard are the welcoming and gracious open spaces for gathering and conversation. For generations to come, members of the University community will meet and forge strong bonds in a structure that is at once impressive and intimate.

We were also deliberate in siting the building on Mulberry Street with a grand entrance that opens into the city. Symbolically and substantively, we want our new campus center to express our commitment to civic engagement.



Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., addresses a capacity crowd at the Dedication Mass for the Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center.

All of us imagine welcoming our neighbors to a wide variety of events in the years to come. This is especially important to us as a Jesuit University. As Thomas Lucas, S.J., writes in his book, *Landmarking: City, Church and Jesuit Urban Strategy*, "Ignatius Loyola was the first founder of a major religious order in the history of the Church to . . . opt deliberately for a complete insertion of a religious order's works and

residences in the center of the urban fabric." The location of the DeNaples Center renews our commitment to that tradition and signals our embrace of the city that is our home.

Finally, the opening of the DeNaples Center gives you a good reason to come home to Scranton's campus. Whether you live in Clarks Summit or California, touring our new home will make you prouder than ever of your *alma mater* as it continues to make good on its limitless promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Pilarz, S.J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.

