

Groundbreaking for Classroom Building
University of Scranton
Friday, April 10, 1987

Remarks by Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J.
President

Welcome and thanks to all for joining us.

Our Second Cornerstone Campaign has aimed at having our facilities match our programs, programs which have received national recognition for their excellence.

This building is an important part of that effort. At this western end of our campus, O'Hara Hall has served us well for offices and classrooms since 1968, but the classrooms, in many instances, are inadequate because the building was not designed for this usage. We have spent much in Jefferson Hall in order to create good classroom space, and have leased and renovated space from Elm Park Church. But we still do not have enough classrooms. In general, on campus the tightness of the classroom situation has limited our flexibility.

This building, yet to be named, is a giant step for having the excellence of our facilities match the excellence of our programs.

This construction marks another contribution to the economy of our City, both from the aspect of construction jobs which are being created and by the number of new jobs that will be created by this physical expansion. I learned a long while ago that every extra square foot of space occupied has an operational dollar cost.

This construction marks another contribution to the renewal of the downtown area. The old Seeley Building was in such bad shape that it was abandoned by the Lackawanna Junior College. Its demolition in 1983 revealed even more of the not too attractive rears of buildings on Adams Avenue. The new construction has been planned with great sensitivity to neighboring historic structures: O'Hara Hall, Jefferson Hall, the Elm Park Church. Our architects David Leung, Alex Camayad and David Hemmler, have done a magnificent job. Once again, the City will be beautified by the University - by a job-producing service-oriented choice.

Our making of this choice tells you of our commitment to this region, our faith in ourselves and in this City, our trust in our alumni and friends - for indeed, as often, we have had to borrow to build.

We build out of necessity, love, and with confidence - not out of an abundance of funds.

Our Second Cornerstone Campaign, which includes this Classroom Building, is coming along well, but we still have a long way to go, specifically about \$5,000,000. I take this opportunity to thank all of our benefactors and volunteers who are seeking contributions from every corner of our country and region. We need that help.

I also wish to thank the City Government, represented here by Mayor Wenzel, for its cooperation in the many ways that are necessary for the success of such a project. I thank our Planning Committees, the members of the Lackawanna County Health and Welfare Authority for their assistance in our bond issue, and Bishop Timlin for his constant encouragement.

In advance, I thank our neighbors for their patience as the construction progresses. In the long run - and not too long - the entire neighborhood will be enhanced. And may Farley's find many more customers at their front door as a result of this enterprise.

We are a college that truly stands out from the crowd because we do not compromise on quality.

We know who we are and where we want to be. We are ambitious to serve this City, and today we celebrate another step in our long history, soon to be 100 years old.

There is a difference between this groundbreaking and the laying of the first cornerstone for the then St. Thomas College on Wyoming Avenue on August 12, 1888. The difference is that now we have proven to be worthy of the faith manifested by Bishop O'Hara on that day.

The event is the same in that our mission is the same and that we are as determined as we were in 1888 to succeed

- with the help of the entire region which we serve -

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam - To the Greater Glory of God.