Dear Members of the Fordham Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am deeply honored to dedicate the Joseph M. McShane, S.J. Campus Center.

The new center is a spectacular, world-class facility—a spacious 198,000-square-foot space, featuring a state-of-the-art fitness center on the lower level, a 9,500-square-foot student lounge on the first floor, expanded offices for Career Services, Campus Ministry, and the Center for Community Engaged Learning, and a large, versatile space on the third floor designed for meetings and special events.

When all phases of the project are completed in 2025, the campus center will include a large indoor arcade bathed in natural light from above; a reimagined and redesigned Marketplace dining area; bigger and better spaces and meeting rooms for student clubs and organizations, including a Multicultural Student Center; an expanded ballroom with an 800-person capacity; and a new, separate strength and conditioning center dedicated to Fordham athletics. This new space is a fitting testament to Father McShane’s legacy at Fordham, and will serve as a vibrant centerpiece for campus life decades into the future.

Father McShane has presided over 19 years of sustained growth and expansion at Fordham. Under his leadership, Fordham has:

- Invested $1 billion in capital improvements to the Rose Hill and Lincoln Center campuses;
- Raised more than $1 billion in donations;
- Increased its endowment to more than $1 billion;
- Established Fordham London as a world-class campus in the U.K. as part of Fordham’s international vision;
- Increased financial aid (undergraduate and graduate) between 2003 and 2021 from $78.3 million to $315.1 million;
- Increased its number of endowed faculty chairs from 23 to 71;
- Increased research funding from external sources by 85%, from $13 million in 2003 to $24 million in 2021; and
- Recruited the largest, most diverse class in Fordham’s history: The Class of 2025 has more than 44% domestic students of color and 6.5% international students.

While those numbers are impressive, they don’t tell the whole story. During Fordham’s unprecedented growth, Father McShane has held the University’s Jesuit, Catholic mission front and center: he has inspired thousands of Fordham students to excel, and to be thoughtful, compassionate leaders who fully embrace the ethic of cura personalis.

Father McShane’s accomplishments could fill several volumes of this journal and still be an incomplete list, but what animates the Fordham community—and what our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents are all drawn to—is his deep commitment to its Jesuit tradition and teachings, and his love for the University and the Fordham family. He has been a passionate advocate for and steward of the University and its Jesuit values. He is beloved by the campus community and alumni who know him both as president and “pastor-in-chief.”

It has been our great privilege to work with him on Fordham’s behalf. We are profoundly grateful for his long and distinguished service to the University.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Daleo, Chair
Fordham University Board of Trustees
Gabelli School of Business, Class of 1972