



April 25, 2023

Dear Friends,

Late yesterday afternoon, a fire destroyed a University building in the 1200 block of Linden Street that was used by Friends of the Poor for their Clothes Line for Men program. Thankfully, no one was injured in the fire, which occurred around 4:30 p.m. University students, who volunteer at the facility, and a staff member had left the building before the fire started.

We are grateful for the quick and professional response of the Scranton Fire Department to extinguish the fire and for the work of Scranton and University police to assist at the scene. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. Unfortunately, donated clothing and other items in the building have been lost, and items stored in the adjacent building were also damaged by smoke and water.

We will assist Friends of the Poor as they evaluate the damage to their materials and remain committed to our long-standing support for their charitable efforts. The University's Center for Service and Social Justice will coordinate University volunteers for the Friends of the Poor as needed. As they consider their future plans, however, Friends of the Poor has announced a pause in accepting donations for the Clothes Line for Men project, which supports men who are low income and in need of clothing for work, interviews or special occasions.

Please keep the Friends of the Poor in your thoughts and prayers as they continue in their mission to provide for those in our area in need.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President