

Rev. Peter J. Scanlon

GOAT'S HEAD AWARD FOR LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO WPI

Reverend Peter J. Scanlon, you have dedicated your life's work to helping and guiding others. For your extraordinary longtime service to WPI, we honor you today.

You began your journey here in Worcester, growing up on Providence Street on Vernon Hill and attending St. John's High School and the College of the Holy Cross. You then went to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and were ordained a Roman Catholic priest in Worcester's St. Paul's Cathedral in 1957. You have served as a priest in parishes in Southbridge, Shrewsbury, Rutland, and Worcester.

You became the Worcester Fire Department's Catholic chaplain in 1961. That same year, the Worcester Diocese asked you to create Catholic Campus Ministries at local colleges. Eight years later, you became WPI's full-time chaplain, a role you held for 45 years before you retired from active ministry in 2006.

During your time at WPI, you oversaw your flock—which included members of all faiths—in good times and bad. You escorted young women to WPI fraternity parties and then, after

making sure they could get home safely, you quietly disappeared. You introduced couples and later presided over their weddings.

And you prayed and cried with those affected by the Worcester Cold Storage

Warehouse fire in 1999 and the tragedies of September 11, 2001. On the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks, you said: "How well have you brought healing and forgiveness into your life since September 11? If we can all reach out to each other in healing and forgiveness, what a difference

that will make. That's one way we can remember September 11."

When alumni were asked about their memories of you for a 2007 *Transformations* article, they remembered you fondly. They spoke of your inclusion and guidance of students regardless of religious faith, as well as your ability to empathize with young students and their place in the world.

Reverend Peter Scanlon—known on campus as Father Pete, your WPI family is pleased and proud to present you today with the Goat's Head Award for Lifetime Commitment to WPI.

