Gratitude at Marian

Featuring: Aishwarya Pillai ‘27
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Gratitude extends beyond our own personal experiences. We are enabled to further understand gratitude when we look at it from the perspective of others because we can learn from one another. Marian Central Catholic High School produces a community of people who should understand gratitude the most. With its catholic-based teaching, students are constantly being reminded to appreciate one another and, most importantly, all of God’s creation. Gratitude can look different for every individual, and it’s interesting to hear from others in the community so our eyes can be open to giving the same recognition to what others are thankful for. Such as the things we’ve never thought twice about that others can help us to realize the privilege it is. Aishwaryia Pilli, a senior at Marian, shared her thoughts on the idea of gratitude and she expressed how her definition of the word has progressively changed as she’s gotten older. “When I was a kid, the only day I would think about gratitude was on Thanksgiving, but now as I’ve gotten older I think about gratitude everyday”. We learn to understand that thankfulness does not just have to just be about our friends and family, it can apply to the opportunities that we have everyday. It's a shift of one’s mindset to show appreciation for things such as going to school and working. There is also gratitude that comes with the blessings which allow us to live comfortably everyday. Pilli stated that it’s important to recognize the small, positive things in our everyday lives “Because I think we often take the positive things in our lives for granted, like clear water and food every three meals with us not having to worry about it.” We must remember that not everyone has the same privileges as us, so we need to learn to stop looking at what we don’t have and start paying attention to what we do have. This includes the tools we use everyday at school; when asked about something she is grateful for at Marian that she believes is often overlooked, she replied saying “Our computers. I think that we are really lucky that our school gives us computers to learn with when some schools may not have that.” When people want to complain about the materials Marian provides, possibly saying that the computers are old or slow, it's important to realize that even something like that is an esteemed privilege that everyone in the school gets to have. Students are able to work faster, more efficiently, and are granted the opportunity to learn in general. Yet most importantly, Marian prioritizes the community it builds, and within that, it is easy to find individuals and opportunities to be grateful for. Pilli emphasized that her friends at Marian have been able to have the most impact on her life “because they had faith in me at moments when I didn't." Those are the type of people Marian attracts, and this is most explicitly shown by the quality of Marian’s own teachers as well. The teachers have been able to create a sense of gratitude at school, according to Pilli, “because they always help me when I have questions with homework and the things that we learned that day in class that day. And if I'm having a bad day, I feel like I am able to talk to them about anything”. To be able to have teachers who excel at their job and who are able to provide constant kindness and support for their students is truly something to be grateful for.