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### Personal Narrative: Marian Essay

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.’”

Luke 1:46-47 is a powerful Bible verse because it expresses Mary’s joy and gratitude for God. Mary’s heart is full of Jesus’ compassion, mercy, and love. Mary is like Jesus’ sponsor who has guided him to be the everlasting Savior. Mary will always guide me; I will never be alone.

Mary, our heavenly mother, has a heart full of love, compassion, and care. I look up to her as a second mom, and she listens to what I have to say. I thought talking to Mary had to be a formal conversation, like talking to the queen, but I was wrong. Talking to Mary is like talking to a friend. Mary has everlasting love for me as she does for Jesus. She will always wrap me in her comfort and show me the way. She is like a shelter, protecting me from the rain. “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

Before my birth, my granddad was diagnosed with cancer. He had a huge surgery and stayed with my parents to escape the snow of Michigan. On March 23, 2014, I was born. My granddad held me once, until he died two weeks later in his bed. I have heard so many stories about him and wish he was alive, but I know he is safe in heaven with Mary. I still talk to Granddad, like he is right beside me. When I am altar serving at St. James Cathedral Church, I

look up and think, “You are one of those angels, Granddad, sitting on the ledges with Mary.” Mary will always comfort me, before birth and after. Mary has a light that will keep shining forever with the warmth that will keep my heart beating.

Mary is like a mirror that reflects Jesus. I think of turning to Mary as a 180-degree angle. The first 60 degrees is prayer. The Hail Mary is a simple prayer, but every word is so powerful. The rosary is a way to pray to Mary with 30 minutes of my time. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is my favorite, though. I love singing it because singing to God is praying twice. The second 60 degrees is scripture. By reading the first chapter of Luke, I can grow closer to Mary. The last 60 degrees is a duty. If I go to Mass weekly, adoration monthly, and a retreat yearly, Mary will be waiting for me in heaven.

Christianity is like a math problem. How do I make that 180-degree turn? I will convince others to turn to Mary. Mary cares for us, just like God. Mary's reflection on Jesus will never fade. I will no longer walk in the shadows; I will follow the light. I will be a child of the light, a child of Mary, who will lead me forever.