

Mary DiFranco, Freshman, Class of 2029

Reflection:

With consideration of this Jubilee Year's theme, Pilgrims of Hope, I chose to visit the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel at Madonna University. Mother Mary has been a significant influence in my life. My parents prayerfully considered names and felt a strong calling to name me "Mary." I've always felt a deep connection to our Blessed Mother which motivates me to emulate the way she lived her life. When considering which Detroit pilgrimage sites to visit, I naturally felt drawn to this humble university chapel. During my visit, I took in the beauty around me as rays of light shone through the stained-glass windows, over the intricate details of the crucifix, and sparkled upon the gold and blue accents of the chapel. What really enhanced the beauty of the site was the loving, welcoming nature of the sweet Franciscan nuns. In anticipation of my visit, I timed a 33-day consecration to the Blessed Mother so that I would finish on this scholarship application due date. This Work of Devotion supported me in strengthening my relationship with Mother Mary and through consistent, quiet prayer, opened my eyes to ways that I can strive to be more like Mary. Over the course of 33 days, I was able to discern what might stand in my way and I emerged more committed than ever to imitate the faith of our Blessed Mother, and to grow in trust of the plan God had for my life

Pilgrimage Site:

As humans, much of how we show up in the world is a result of our formation as a child. The same must have been true for Mary. The great faith of Mary our Mother must have developed as she grew up in Nazareth, which is a pilgrimage site I hope to visit one day. I would love to walk where she walked and grow in humility, obedience, and faith as she did. I know that a pilgrimage to the Holy Land would further inspire me to obediently walk the path God has planned for me.