



## **Giving Thanks!**

*By Bro. David Betz*

As you read this reflection, we, in the United States, are anticipating the Thanksgiving Holidays where giving thanks is the dominant theme. We are reminded that giving thanks is important to express when we have received blessings from our God and others. These blessings can take many forms such as a simple gesture of saying hello, an act of kindness or receiving a gift that may have been expected or unexpected. It is an attitude that has been instilled in us from the time we were young. Our mothers would remind us often what we needed to say when someone spoke a kind word to us, gave us a sweet or a gift or did something out of the ordinary that benefited us. Giving thanks is a fundamental attitude to have when creating and sustaining relationship with God and the people in our lives.

It seems so simple but occasionally we forget the importance of giving thanks when we are distracted due to our own egos or lack of attention. And this is when we need to look to the examples of those who have gone before us in faith especially when we need to remember that giving thanks is essential. Our Marianist Saints have been witnesses to this giving thanks. They had a deep reliance on the Providence of God and when they felt that they have reaped the blessings from God after their prayers, they have expressed their thanks.

Besides our recognized Marianist Saints who witness to us this attitude of giving thanks there are, no doubt, people in our lives or our Marianist Community life who also have provided this witness to giving thanks. There is a tradition in my Marianist Religious Community of remembering those who have gone before us in faith during our worship. It is the daily reading of the necrology or the book that list the brothers and priests who have died. This book includes names from 1819 to 2019 for every day of the year. I am also assuming this is a practice for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate as well. The reading gives us pause to thank these men (women) who lived the Marianist Spirit throughout the history of our community. At times members of my community will make comments about some of the men they have known after the reading of the daily list. I find this time in our worship a very sacred time of giving thanks. I am filled with much gratefulness for being a part of this history.

Now I invite you to read a reflection by **Sr. Gabrielle Bibeau, FMI** (Marianist Sister). In October 2020 she wrote this reflection for the Global Sisters Report which is a daily blog that affirms the lives and the work of the women religious in the United States and throughout the world. She titled it, 'Take the leap, dear,' and she remembers the "saints" or people in her life who have contributed to her call to religious life. This is Sr. Gabby's way of giving thanks. Enjoy!!! <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/spirituality/column/take-leap-dear>