Memorial and Reflection for Violence Against Black Lives –

Bloomfield Hills, MI – On June 25 at 7 PM, Marian hosted an outdoor Memorial and Reflection for Violence Against Black Lives, honoring the memory of George Floyd and all Black victims of violence and injustice. While adhering to Governor Whitmer’s guidelines for safety, students, former students, alums, faculty, staff, administration, and parents gathered on the Marian front lawn for a time of prayer and reflection. This event grew out of a need for an active response from the Marian community to stand against racial injustice in our school and in our society, share personal stories and experiences, as well as enjoy music and poetry that energized a spirit of empowerment.

Spearheading the event were Tiffany Morris-Street ’97, Jamila Kai Mathis ’97, and members of the Diversity Matters Club.

Prior to the event, students, former students, alums, faculty, members of the Diversity Matters Club, and the school administration met on Zoom to ventilate, discuss, and plan this event and future events to come. Motivated by faith, values that reflect the worth of each human person, and a call to respond actively, the Marian community commits to fight injustice.

Marian Supports People of Color –

During this challenging time in our country, Marian stands unequivocally in support of our Black students, their families and our alumnae. Black lives matter. We hear the pain that you have shared with us, and we strive to do better. In response to the experiences you have shared, we have mobilized faculty and staff to reflect, to examine, and to determine where to begin to make necessary changes. In the coming weeks, we will share our plans with you, and we hope that you will be willing to participate in this journey. In the meantime, know that we are listening, and we are learning.
June 3, 2020

A message from Marian:

**To the Black community** –

First and foremost, we believe Black lives matter! We posted a prayer on Monday intending to stand in solidarity with you, but we see now that it was not enough. As the IHM Sisters put so well “While acknowledging both our privilege and complicity in structural racism, we stand by our sisters and brothers of color and recommit ourselves to raising our voices and working for systemic change in order to build the Beloved Community.”

**To the Black Marian students and alumnae** –

While we strive each day to live out our mission, we understand that in some ways we have fallen short. We thank you for speaking up and sharing your experiences. We know that we have a lot of work to do in ourselves and our community. Keep talking to us and sharing your stories. We hear you. We support you. We want to do better. To start, we are working to provide a space for you to share your experiences and will post details soon.

**To the Marian community as a whole** –

Join us in the fight for racial equality for our Black brothers and sisters. Pray for those who are targeted daily because of the color of their skin. Use your voice to advocate. Pray for the families of those who most recently lost their lives: George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, and pray for the families of countless others who have lost their lives due to racialized violence.