



March For Their Lives - Additional quotes from Mercy students

The March for Our Lives was something in which I could take a physical stance for what I believe in and make my voice heard. It was incredibly empowering to be surrounded by so many people, especially young people, who were so dedicated to change. Even though I am only one person, it is single people that come together to make change and to be a part of something bigger than me is an amazing feeling. I turned 18 in February and having the power to vote has become so much more important to me.

- Colleen Cirrotti, Mount Saint Mary Academy (high school) Watchung, New Jersey

I attended the March because school shootings have become a norm in our society. Children are becoming desensitized to mass shootings, and I want to be the generation to change that. Jesus taught us to love and there is no love in guns.

-Mae Hoden, Mercy High School, Omaha, Nebraska

Attending the March For Our Lives was a very unique and moving experience in my life. I chose to march because I am disgusted with violence, gun violence especially. When the Sandy Hook shooting happened a few years ago, my brother was in kindergarten, which is the same age as the children who were murdered. This is when it really sunk in for me that this a huge issue in our country, and that it can affect anyone. Ever since then I have been very passionate about anti-gun laws and am doing everything that I can to help. When Emma Gonzalez and the other kids from Marjory Stoneman Douglas started to speak out about the issue, I was immediately moved and excited that change may be coming. Since this movement has been started, I have participated in the school walkout on March 14th and now the March For Our Lives. I am planning on continuing my advocacy towards this topic by writing a letter to our Congressmen and using any opportunity I have to vote when I am eligible next year. I plan on doing as much as I can to help assist and stand up for this topic, as a true sister of Mercy!

-Emilia Plasek, Mercy High School, Omaha, Nebraska

The feeling of being amid a unified crowd of such magnitude was indescribable, the air was charged with the energy of emotion, solidarity, and hope -- anything but the fear and hatred that fueled these attacks.

- Madison Langrin, Mount Saint Mary Academy (high school) Watchung, New Jersey

Standing in that crowd surrounded by people of all ages, religions, races, and genders but knowing that we were all standing in support of a common cause was an experience that I will never forget. It reminded me that we are all human, and every human life is worth fighting for.

- Cara Condodina, Mount Saint Mary Academy (high school) Watchung, New Jersey

The aspect of the entire event that I found most impactful was listening to those students that had normalcy ripped from their lives, becoming strong enough to further educate themselves on the problems that weak gun restriction laws cause and to organize millions of people across the world to join them in the revolution.

– Christina Appiah, Mount Saint Mary Academy (high school) Watchung, New Jersey

Wherever you fall on the political spectrum, I think that, deep down, no one wants children to be slaughtered in schools. Seeing Emma Gonzalez on stage was emotional and ignited a fire in me that will never be quelled. As a future teacher, participating in this march was an important issue as, unfortunately, the risk of getting killed on the job as a teacher is now more likely than ever. If teachers and students are ever to feel safe again, we must pass legislation restricting guns and, if our leaders fail to do this, we will, as the thousands of us chanted, VOTE THEM OUT!

-Daniel Ginchereau, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey

I had an amazing experience standing in solidarity with not only my friends, classmates and teachers, but the wider community in Omaha as well. We were all there together with a common goal to see the future move forward and change for the better.

-Macy McClellan, Mercy High School, Omaha, Nebraska

Before attending the March for Our Lives, I had an idea of what sort of change I wanted to see happen. After seeing the teachers, administrators, young students, and Erie community voicing their strong viewpoints on the subject matter, it really opened my eyes to the effect that gun violence has on people, and it motivated me to want to do more to make change happen.

- Jennifer Hartwell, Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pennsylvania

Attending March For Our Lives was among the first political activism events that I have participated in. I think it is really important that Mercyhurst truly embraces the Mercy Mission by encouraging students to express themselves and live out our core values.

-Mitchell Marsh, Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pennsylvania

It was truly inspiring to witness so many people gather to support such a worthy cause. I was especially impressed with the number of college students who attended. I am very proud of Mercyhurst for supporting this event and encouraging students to attend.

-Vince Marrazzo, Mercyhurst University, Erie, Pennsylvania