



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

2023 Pro-Life Student Essay Contest

Who Is Eligible? Students Grades 7-11

Submission Dates: January 22 – March 10, 2023

7th-8th grade theme: Indifference

St. Maximillian Kolbe said, “The deadliest poison of our times is indifference”. What is ‘indifference’? Why and how is it harmful to our society when it comes to the pro-life cause?

9th-11th grade theme: Encountering and Inspiring Bystanders

Unfortunately, people are apathetic to issues of life for many reasons. They may lack courage, be distracted by other things, or just not have knowledge. In his encyclical, The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II charges every person with the “responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life” (28). It is insufficient for one to simply abstain from committing gravely immoral and life-ending acts; we are called to actively promote and bring about a culture of life. Describe how you would explain the importance of issues of life to an apathetic friend and persuade them to dedicate their time and talents to pro-life issues.

RULES AND SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS:

- Your entry should be typed, 300-400 words in length, and printed only on the front side.
- Your entry should include a title and be broken into paragraphs. Good composition and organization increase persuasive power.
- Print, complete, and attach the identification form found at the end of these instructions to the back of your essay. Do not include your name on the front of your essay, as each essay will be photocopied and given to the judges to be judged anonymously.
- Plagiarism disqualifies an entry. All quotations and usage of facts must be cited.
- Any violation of the rules and submission directions shall disqualify an entry.

JUDGING WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Understanding of the particular pro-life message.
- Clarity and persuasiveness in communicating the message.
- Creative and specific ideas.
- Grammar, spelling, and organization.

PRIZES FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL:

\$40 First prize and award certificate

\$30 Second prize and award certificate

\$20 Third prize and award certificate

Winners will be notified by email and/or mail. 1st place entries will be submitted to the Knights of Columbus for the statewide contest, which will be judged and awarded separately in the Fall of 2023.

2023 Pro-Life Student Essay Contest

Instructions for Teachers:

Submit no more than 3 entries from your classroom or from each section of a particular class.

Print legibly and attach the form below to the back of each entry.

Student's Name _____
School _____
Parish/Town _____
Teacher _____
Teacher E-mail/Phone _____
Parent/Guardian _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zip Code _____

Please mail all entries to:

The Archdiocese of Omaha

Attn: John Gencarelli

Coordinator of Youth Evangelization & Discipleship

2222 N. 111th St.

Omaha, NE 68164-3817

All entries must be received by March 10th, 2023.