

**2026 Pro-Life
Student Essay
Contest**



**ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY**

Who Is Eligible? Students Grades 7-11

Submission Dates: January 31 – March 31, 2026

The Life Mission Challenge Theme:

During his young life, the newly beatified St. Carlos Acutis championed the Catholic faith and his Pro-Life values through the internet. We do well to learn from St. Carlos and ponder his words, "All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies" What does his quote mean to you? And As St. Carlos modeled, how could you use your gifts and talents to build a culture of life to your friends, family and community?

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.

DIOCESAN 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.

2026 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 /
Grade _____

School _____

Parish/Town _____

Teacher _____

Teacher E-mail/Phone _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip Code _____

Please mail all entries to:

Attn: Mike Macholan
Omaha Archdiocesan Pro-Life Essay Team
5805 South 170th Street
Omaha, NE 68135
Questions – macmacholan@gmail.com
m: 402.319.6666

All entries must be received by March 31st, 2026.