

## **2024 PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

### **General Diocesan Guidelines**

*Be sure to check your particular Diocese for further submission and mailing instructions.*

**Who Is Eligible?** Students Grades 7-11

**Submission Dates:** January 22 – March 25, 2024

#### **On the Dignity of the Human Person**

One of your friends says that when she was at Mass on Sunday, the Priest quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “Human life is sacred” and that “human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception” (CCC 2258, 2270). However, your friend is confused about why human life is “sacred” and “must be respected and protected absolutely” and wants you to help her understand this teaching. Explain why human life is sacred from the moment of conception and how abortion violates the sacred dignity of the unborn child and their mother.

#### **RULES AND SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS:**

1. Your entry should be typed, 300-400 words in length, and printed only on the front side.
2. Your entry should include a title and be broken into paragraphs. Good composition and organization increase persuasive power.
3. Print, complete, and attach the identification form found at the bottom of this page *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.
4. Plagiarism disqualifies an entry. All quotations and usage of facts must be cited.
5. Any violation of the rules and submission directions shall disqualify an entry.

#### **JUDGING WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

1. Understanding of the particular pro-life message.
2. Clarity and persuasiveness in communicating the message.
3. Creative and specific ideas.
4. 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2024.

**Teacher Instructions:** Submit up to 3 entries from your classroom or from each section of a particular class.

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*Print legibly and attach the form below to the back of the entry*

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_