

**Diocese of Covington  
Pro-Life Office & Department of Catholic Schools**

**2018-2019 Respect Life Eighth Grade Essay Contest Theme:**

*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' theme for the 2018-19 year is "Every Life is Cherished, Chosen, Sent"*  
The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life.

Today we see the dignity of human life disregarded. Unborn children are destroyed through abortion, the physically and mentally handicapped are thought to be imperfect and ill people are encouraged and assisted to take their own lives. How do we respond?

How do we respect life from the moment of natural conception to natural death?

**Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

\$1,000 Scholarship to the Diocesan Catholic high school of the winner's choice

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

\$700 Scholarship to the Diocesan Catholic high school of the winner's choice

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

\$300 Scholarship to the Diocesan Catholic high school of the winner's choice

**Guidelines:**

**Essays are judged on a 60-point scale with each of the following worth 10 points:**

1. Relationship to topic
2. Proper use of quotations about the sanctity of life. Use one or more from *Sacred Scripture*, and one or more from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Optional: Additional quotes from other sources.
3. Accuracy of facts
4. Originality and creativity
5. Logic (Does the student form and express reasonable opinions and support those opinions with evidence in an organized fashion?)
6. Grammar, spelling and punctuation  
\*\*Please include a Bibliography page.

- It is suggested that materials be presented and essays started during October (Respect Life Month)
- The essays are to be no longer than **750 words** and not less than 300 words. **Please ask students to put the word count on their essay.** They must be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½ by 11 paper. **Please do not write student's name directly on the essay, no titles on the page please.**
- A completed entry form must be paper-clipped (*no tape or staples*) to all essays when submitted to the Pro-Life Office. A maximum of 15 essays may be submitted from each school.
- Mail or drop off entries to Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office, 1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY 41011.  
**Entry deadline December 10, 2018**
- All finalists will be notified in February and invited to an awards banquet that will be held on **March 21, 2019** at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium.
- Teachers who have questions may contact the Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1500 or email Peggy Piccola at [ppiccola@covdio.org](mailto:ppiccola@covdio.org).

**We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their financial support of this contest.**