

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

2019-2020 Respect Life Eighth Grade Essay Contest Theme:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' theme for the 2019-20 year is "***Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life***" *Nothing is more precious than the gift of human life. In His great love and mercy God has chosen to create man and woman in his image and likeness. He sent his beloved Son to show us how we are to love each other — to protect the vulnerable, to care for the poor and to comfort the dying.*

We are called to go out and bring hope to others in our daily lives. When someone is facing great trials, we need to meet them where they are, walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ's love however he directs. Sometimes our actions speak for themselves; other times, words are needed.

So many people today are in need of hearing about God's unconditional love for them — the unborn and their parents, immigrants fleeing violence and injustice in their homelands, those with special needs or mental illness, victims of abuse and violence, addicts, the elderly. The Culture of Death mindset prevalent in our society today would have us believe these people are expendable.

In your essay explain why this logic is not only incorrect but immoral. Choose one or more of the above groups, identify their needs, and describe how we, as God's children, can help meet their needs so that they recognize the hope they have in Christ.

<u>Prizes</u>	
1st Place	\$1,000 Scholarship to the Diocesan Catholic high school of the winner's choice
2nd Place	\$700 Scholarship to the Diocesan Catholic high school of the winner's choice
3rd 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. Must answer question asked in essay topic.
2. Proper use of quotations about the sanctity of life; must have one or more quotes from *Sacred Scripture*, and one or more quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Additional quotes from other sources may also be used.
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 6, 2019
- All finalists will be notified in February and invited to an awards banquet that will be held on **March 26, 2020** at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium.
- Teachers who have questions may contact the Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1500

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