



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

Pro-Life Student Essay Contest

Who is Eligible? Students, grades 7-8.

Submission Dates: January 22 – March 25

Entries received after March 25 will not be eligible.

Entries Must Be:

1. 300-400 words
2. Typed
3. Printed single side

Plagiarism disqualifies an entry; all quotations and usage of facts must be cited.

Submission Directions:

1. Do not include names or any other form of identification on the actual essay.
2. Print, complete, and attach the identification form found on the next page to the back of each entry. *Entries without this form will be disqualified.*
3. Mail to: Respect Life Apostolate, Nazareth Hall, 3300 N 60th St, Omaha, NE 68104

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. Understanding of this particular pro-life message
2. Clarity and persuasiveness in communicating the message
3. Creativity and originality
4. Grammar, spelling, and organization

Writing Prompt: On Family as Sanctuary of Life

In the famous encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (“The Gospel of Life”), Pope St. John Paul II expressed his hope that society would strengthen its commitment to support the family, so that “even amid so many difficulties and serious threats[,] the family will always remain, in accordance with God’s plan, the ‘sanctuary of life.’” (*EV*, n. 6.)

The word “sanctuary” means a holy place, or a place of refuge and protection. How may the family be a sanctuary of life, and why did the Holy Father stress that the family must be such a sanctuary?

Prizes for Each Grade Level:

\$40 First prize and award certificate. Essay will be published on the Catholic Voice website.

\$30 Second prize and award certificate

\$20 Third prize and award certificate

Winners will be notified by email and mail. 1st place entries will be submitted to the Knights of Columbus statewide contest which will be judged separately and awarded in the fall.

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 Email or Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____