

2018 PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST
General Diocesan Guidelines

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

<http://www.lincolndiocese.org>

<http://archomaha.org>

<http://gidiocese.org>

*This is a **Nebraska Catholic Conference** program with the entries being judged by an NCC committee. Only the prize money, to support these youth and their sponsoring Schools/Religious Formation classes, is coming from the Culture of Life Foundation.*

Who Is Eligible? ALL Students (Grades 7-11)

Submission Dates: January 22 – March 25, 2018. **Contact your diocesan Pro Life office** for exact date and submission address.

Where to Send: Contact your diocesan Family Life Director.

There will be two themes this year. Students should write on the theme assigned to their grade levels.

1. **7th-8th grade theme:** On Seeing the Face of God Reflected in Others

Pope St. John Paul II says that God's love makes no distinctions between the unborn child, the young person, the adult, and the elderly, because God sees in all of them – no matter how weak or dependent on others – a reflection of the face of his Only-begotten Son. (*Evangelium Vitae*, n. 34.)

We must also remember to see the reflection of the face of Jesus in others. What can a person do to show God's love for people who are vulnerable or dependent, such as the unborn child, the mother of the unborn who is afraid to choose life, or the very elderly?

2. **9th-11th grade theme:** On the True Meaning of Freedom

In a homily in Baltimore, Maryland, Pope St. John Paul II quoted the Gospel of John in which Jesus told His disciples, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." (Jn. 8:32.) The Pope went on to say, "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists *not* in doing what we like, but in *having the right to do what we ought.*"

If freedom is having the right to do what we ought, does *Roe v. Wade*, which said that mothers have the *right* to abort their children, make our country more free or less? Why?

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. Do *not* include your name on the *front* of your essay, as each essay will be photocopied and given to the judges. Instead, print, complete, and attach the identification form found at the end of these instructions *to the back* of your essay.
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. Creativity and originality.
4. Grammar, spelling, and organization.

Nebraska Catholic Conference - 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. 1st place entries will be submitted to the Knights of Columbus for Nebraska's statewide contest, which will be judged and awarded separately in the Fall of 2018.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRIZES FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL:

Each grade level will have their own winner for a total of five winners. Each winner will receive \$150, with the sponsoring school also receiving \$150.

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 the entry

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Parish/Town: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____