

Dear Pastors, Principals, Directors of Religious Education & Home-Schooling Families:

We are pleased to send you our **31st Annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Essay Contest** information. This year's theme is "[As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death.](#)" Our grade-appropriate questions discuss Catholic Teaching recognizing the humanity of our unborn sisters and brothers in the womb and respect for life all the way unto natural death.

Enclosed are the essay questions for the 2019-2020 school year, along with contest guidelines explaining entry requirements. Essay questions are presented by grade level: 1&2, 3&4, 5&6, 7&8 and 9 to12. Cash awards from \$50 to \$250---depending on grade level---will be awarded to grand-prize winners and first-prize winners in each county. **We are doing something new and exciting for High School students this year! We are incorporating entries in the form of poetry, video or painting.**

Please forward this information to all teachers in your school and parish religious education program so they can encourage their students to participate, win cash prizes and be recognized at a special awards ceremony.

The essay questions, contest guidelines, and prize information are posted at sfarch.org/essay-contest. The Mass and awards ceremony and reception date and time will be posted soon.

October 31st, 2019 is the last date entries will be accepted. Winners' List will be posted online **January 13, 2020**. Prizes will be awarded at a special Liturgy and Awards Ceremony in early 2020. Mass will be celebrated for students, their families, friends and teachers. Awards will be presented to winning students and honorable mention recipients at a reception downstairs in Patron's Hall after Mass. Please check sfarch.org/essay-contest for details at the beginning of January.

We sincerely hope that the Respect Life Essay Contest will continue to be a valuable project for teachers and students in promoting respect for all human life. Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please contact our office at 415-614-5533 or martinezmontm@sfarch.org.

Sincerely,

Maria Martinez-Mont
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Office of Human Life & Dignity
Archdiocese of San Francisco