



July 17, 2020

Dear Pastors, Principals, Directors of Religious Education & Parents:\

We are pleased to send you our 32nd annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Essay Contest information. This year's theme is **Open Wide Our Hearts to All God's Children**. The grade appropriate questions were developed with the support of Mrs. M. Robinson, St. Veronica Catholic School, and Ms. Katie Levine, chair of the Religious Studies Department at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory. We are truly grateful to them.

Enclosed are the essay questions for the 2020-2021 school year, along with contest guidelines explaining entry requirements. Essay questions are presented by grade level: K & 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and high school. Cash prizes of \$25 to \$250 will be awarded to grand-prize winners and first-prize winners.

This year we are underscoring the Catholic Church's Consistent Life Ethic, articulated most prominently by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in 1984 and by Pope St. John Paul in the Gospel of Life encyclical in 1995. In June in reaction to the death of George Floyd, Pope Francis quoted Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez: "My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that ... Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost."

Please forward this information to all teachers in your school and parish religious education programs 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 date and time will be posted soon.

October 31, 2020 is the last date entries will be accepted. Winners' names will be published online at sfarch.org/essay-contest on Jan. 18, 2021.

We sincerely hope that the Respect Life Essay Contest will be a valuable project for teachers and students in addressing the many experiences and events to which their students have been exposed this year. 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
Respect Life coordinator
Archdiocese of San Francisco

Reference: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm>