



Diocese of Lafayette
Office of Pro-Life Apostolate
PRO-LIFE ORATORY CONTEST
March 25, 2026
FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Location: Diocese of Lafayette – Immaculata Center – 1408 Carmel Dr. – Lafayette, LA 70501-5215

Local Coordinator: Kelley Chapman, Diocese of Lafayette, Office of Pro-Life Apostolate

Date/Time: Thursday, March 25, 2026 at 10am

Location: Diocese of Lafayette - Immaculata Center; 1408 Carmel Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501-5215

Topics (Choose One): + Abortion + Euthanasia,
+ Infanticide + Embryonic Stem Cell Research

What: 5-7 minute speech (Must not be less than 5 minutes and does not have to be memorized). Note cards acceptable.

No props allowed.

Who: Must be high school junior or senior to participate

How: Complete Registration Form and Image Waiver Form and return to address noted.

Judging Criteria: Contest standards:
(Panel of three judges) † Clear thesis and sense of direction in the speech † Speech should be logical, clear and organized

† General sense of confidence/good word usage † Good eye contact and fluent delivery

LOCAL CONTEST: Lafayette, Louisiana March 25, 2026 (Wednesday)

Prize: \$250 Check - Winner participates in State Oratory Contest

STATE FINALS: Knights of Columbus State Convention – (TBA)

First Place Prize: \$500 cash, + all expense paid trip with parent/guardian (up to \$1,000) to Nat'l. Competition

Second Place Prize: \$250 Cash

NATIONAL FINALS: National Right to Life Convention – (TBA)

First Place Prize: \$1,000

Second Place Prize: \$ 750

Suggestions:

- Research and understand your subject; your speech will reflect your efforts.
- Believe in what you are saying; speak with enthusiasm, but maintain your poise.
- Be creative; the judges are interested in hearing YOUR point of view.
- Practice your speech in front of others, and invite constructive criticism in order to perfect your content and delivery.
- Keep in mind the judging criteria when practicing and giving your speech:
 - + Does the introduction make the audience want to hear more and does it have a clear thesis?
 - + Is each point relevant to the topic and substantiated with current documentation?
 - + Are the facts and figures used current? Does it have a logical, clear organization?
 - + Does it send a pro-life message? Does the conclusion sum up the main points of the speech?
- Dress appropriately (dress shirt and slacks for men, and a dress or nice pant suit for women).

Keep the top portion of this form. The bottom portion is the entry form and must be completed and returned by March 16, 2026 with Use of Image Waiver Form.

-----cut here and use form, below-----

PRO-LIFE ORATORY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Student's Name _____ **E-Mail Address** _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: (please include area code) _____ **Cell:** _____ **Age** _____ **Grade** _____

Must be High School Jr. or Sr.

Parent's Names: _____ **School:** _____ **Topic:** _____

School's Address/City/State/Zip _____

Student's Signature _____ **Parent Signature** _____

Completed Registration Form must be returned by **March 16, 2026** to:
Diocese of Lafayette · Office of Pro Life Apostolate · 1408 Carmel Dr. · Lafayette, LA 70501-5215