



2025 PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

General Diocesan Guidelines

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

Who Is Eligible? Students Grades 7-11

Submission Dates: January 22 – March 25, 2025

The Life Mission Challenge

Pope St. John Paul II called young people essential to building the "Culture of Life." Imagine the Pope has given you a secret mission: to make a small group of your friends into a task force that will inspire your peers and the community to defend the vulnerable, build the "Culture of Life," and reject the "culture of death." How will you do this? Explain your plan to work individually and in cooperation with your friends to turn your community into a little "Culture of Life."

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. Print, complete, and attach the identification form found at the bottom of this page *to the back* of your essay. Do *not* include your name on the *front* of your essay, as each essay will be photocopied and given to the judges to be judged anonymously.
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. Creative and specific ideas.
4. Grammar, spelling, and organization.

DIOCESAN 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 from each grade will be submitted to the Nebraska Catholic Conference for the statewide contest, which will be judged and awarded separately in the Fall of 2025. Statewide Prizes are to be announced at a later date.

Teacher Instructions: Submit up to 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 or Parish: _____ Town: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Phone: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____