



2018 Respect Life Creative Writing Contest Guidelines

Eighth grade students from Archdiocesan elementary schools, Parish School of Religion programs, and home school programs are eligible to enter the **2018 Respect Life Creative Writing Contest**. Selection of the finalist(s) from each school/PSR class/home school program will be made by the Respect Life Apostolate.

These students and their parents will be invited to the Awards Assembly (*Cardinal Rigali Center – Wednesday, April 18, 2018*). The five winners of the partial, one-time scholarships and the Honorable Mention awards will be announced at the assembly. In addition, these students and their parents will receive complimentary tickets to attend the 2018 RLA Convention Keynote & Award Luncheon on *Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018* at the St. Charles Convention Center.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- **Bishop Edward O'Donnell Scholarship:** This scholarship will be awarded to an eighth grade student entering a Catholic high school or an accredited Catholic home school program in the fall of 2018. This scholarship was established in honor of the first director of the Respect Life Apostolate.
- **Mary Forrestal Hennessey Scholarship:** Mary Forrestal Hennessey, a public school teacher for 40 years, endowed this scholarship for an eighth grade student from a public school who participates in the parish PSR program (including home school students) planning to attend a Catholic high school or an accredited Catholic home school program.
- **Mr. & Mrs. George Kletzer Scholarships (2):** Mrs. Kletzker, niece of Mary Forrestal Hennessey, and her late husband have endowed two scholarships for eighth grade students entering a Catholic high school or an accredited Catholic home school program.
- **Knights of Columbus Missouri State Council Scholarship:** This K of C scholarship will be awarded to a Catholic elementary school student, PSR student or home school student planning to attend a Catholic high school or an accredited Catholic home school program.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Four to six students will be chosen to as Honorable Mentions based on their submission's merit and be awarded a cash prize and RLA Convention tickets. These students may plan to attend a Catholic high school, an accredited home school program or a public high school.

ESSAY ENTRY FORMAT: Entries should be on 8.5 x 11" paper and be stapled (no plastic covers) and include:

- Completed application form.
- Short statement/letter from student as to why he or she would like to be considered.
- Original entry of 250-350 words – any form of written communication: story, script, essay, prayer, poem, etc. (Quoted text must be properly cited with sources). Citations aren't included in the word count.)
- Word count (250 – 350) noted on entry (citations aren't included in the word count).

If any of the above items are missing, the entry will be considered incomplete and disqualified.

TOPIC: Explain why living the virtue of chastity protects us from abortion and blesses us with true holiness, health, and happiness.

JUDGING: Entries will be judged on: 60% content, 20% creativity and originality, 20% spelling and grammar.

DEADLINE: Applications and entries must be *postmarked no later than Friday, Feb. 23, 2018*.