



## Annual “Stand up for Life” Essay Contest 2019-2020

### *Senior Division Grades 9-12*

Four winners will be chosen in each deanery, a first and second place winner in each division. From these deanery winners the top four essays will be chosen and the winners awarded the following prizes at an awards banquet in January: 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$200 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$100

In a culture that places extreme emphasis on issues such as humanity's impact on the environment, refugee and immigrant rights, and human welfare, why is it important to advocate for the rights of the unborn? Does the need to protect unborn lives carry the same weight as the other human rights issues to which society has devoted so much attention? In his 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae," Pope St. John Paul II made an appeal "that together we may offer this world of ours new signs of hope, and work to ensure that justice and solidarity will increase and that a new culture of human life will be affirmed, for the building of an authentic civilization of truth and love" (EV,6). Are the values Pope St. John Paul II speaks of reflected in our current society? Twenty years later, is his appeal still relevant?



## ***Essay Rules & Theme Development***

1. Each essay must be the original work of the student and it shall not have been submitted in any other contest for publication.
2. The theme *must be developed* in no less than 650 and no more than 800 words.
3. The essay must be neatly written or typed on only one side of the paper.
4. The judges are not to know the names of the writers. Therefore, the name of the student and all other identifying information should not appear on the essay. Instead, the essay should be accompanied by a cover sheet, (sample attached) which includes the student's name, address, telephone number, school/parish, and grade. The essay and cover sheet shall be secured by a paper clip – please do not use staples to attach the cover sheet.

All original entries shall be forwarded to the following deanery coordinators\* in time to reach them by **December 2, 2019:**

|                |  |                            |  |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>BERKS:</b>  | <b>Len Weckel</b><br>570 Guilden Road<br>Blandon, PA 19510<br>610-926-3731               | <b>NORTHAMPTON:</b>        | <b>Leonard Verrastro</b><br>2719 Clermont St.<br>Bethlehem, PA 18017<br>610-691-5698                                   |
| <b>LEHIGH:</b> | <b>Rev. Andrew Torma</b><br>3300 Station Ave.<br>Center Valley, PA 18034<br>630-862-0979 | <b>SCHUYLKILL/ CARBON:</b> | <b>Schuylkill Catholic Youth Ministry</b><br>c/o St. Joseph Church<br>7 S. Broad Mountain Ave.<br>Frackville, PA 17931 |

***\*Your deanery is the county in which the school/parish is located, not where the student resides.***

### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

The judges shall select the winners based on the following:

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| THEME DEVELOPMENT*                    | 40 |
| ORIGINALITY AND IMAGINATION           | 20 |
| <u>USE AND ACCURACY</u> OF REFERENCES | 10 |
| CLARITY OF EXPRESSION                 | 10 |
| GRAMMAR, SPELLING, AND NEATNESS       | 10 |
| CONCLUSION ("I" Statements)           | 10 |

\*The author developed the essay theme, covering each point so that the message is communicated to the reader in logical, clear, and concise terms, sentences, and paragraphs.

