ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO | HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

Submission Instructions for all students in **Grades K-12**

All submissions will be judged on the student's ability to articulate his or her understanding of the issues, the message of the Catholic Church in relation to those issues, his or her own personal commitment to implementing the Church's message and creativity.

Please send all entries to: Respect Life Program, Office of Human Life & Dignity
Archdiocese of San Francisco, One Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94I09
Essays should be postmarked by Friday, **January 22nd, 2027.**

Please do not put the name of the student **on the front** of the essay. Either **attach it to the back** of the essay---on the form provided—or print the form provided and staple it to their essay. We need the name of the student, student's address, telephone number, grade, school, teacher & county.

Please print as legibly as possible so names on awards certificates will be accurate. If the teacher or student would like a copy of the essay, **please copy *before* mailing**. Due to the number of essays received, we might not be able to photocopy or return copies of essays.

Please have students in **5-8th and High School** handwrite the following Academic Integrity AI clause on the information form included with the essay:

> *"I honestly attest that my submitted response is my own original work and that I have not copied the work of anyone else or used AI in the generation of this response."*

Categories of Judging
Grade K – Grand Prize $25
First Prize $I0 – one awarded in each County

Grade I- Grand Prize $50
First Prize $25 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 2 – Grand Prize $50
First Prize $ 25 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 3 -- Grand Prize $75
First Prize $25 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 4 --Grand Prize $ 75
First Prize $25 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 5 -- Grand Prize $I00
First Prize $50 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grades 6 --Grand Prize $I00
First Prize $50 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 7 -- Grand Prize $125
First Prize $75 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 8 -- Grand Prize $I50
First Prize $75 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

High School:
Grades 9-I2 Grand Prize $250
First Prize $I00
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

A Special Mass and Awards Ceremony will be held on **Sunday April 25, 2027**, beginning with Mass at 11a.m. To RSVP, everyone will go to sfarch.org/event/essaycontest2027 closer to the date to confirm their attendance. Information will be updated on the site as the date for the Mass approaches. *We are grateful to United for Life of Northern California for donating the prize money for the essay contest.*