

**Diocese of Covington**  
**Pro-Life Office & Department of Catholic Schools**

**2011 Respect Life Eighth Grade Essay Contest Themes (choose one):**

1. Over 4,000 babies are aborted every day in the United States. Discuss why an abortion decision is contrary to Catholic teaching and identify life affirming options when faced with an unplanned pregnancy.
2. Several states have enacted laws legalizing physician assisted suicide that can lead to end of life measures such as legalized euthanasia throughout our country. Discuss why a decision to end one's life with the help of a physician is contrary to Catholic teaching and identify what it means to die with dignity.

**Prizes    1<sup>st</sup> Place**

\$500 Scholarship to the Catholic high school of the winner's choice  
\$100 to the teacher of the winning student

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

\$200 Scholarship to the Catholic high school of the winner's choice

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

\$100 Scholarship to the Catholic high school of the winner's choice

**Guidelines:**

**Essays are judged on a 60-point scale with each of the following worth 10 points:**

1. Relationship to topic
2. Proper use of quotations about the sanctity of life. Use one or more from *Sacred Scripture*, and one or more from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Optional: Additional quotes from other sources.
3. Accuracy of facts
4. Originality and creativity
5. Logic (Does the student form and express reasonable opinions and support those opinions with evidence in an organized fashion?)
6. Grammar, spelling and punctuation

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- Essays should be written during October (Respect Life Month)
- The essays may be no longer than **750 words** and not less than 300 words. They must be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½ by 11 paper. **Please do not write student's name directly on the essay, no titles on the page please.**
- A completed entry form must be paper-clipped (*no tape or staples*) to all essays when submitted to the Pro-Life Office. A maximum of 15 essays may be submitted from each school. **Entry deadline November 18, 2011.**
- All essays become the property of the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office.
- All finalists will be notified in February and invited to an awards banquet that will be held on March 22, 2012.
- Teachers who have questions may contact the Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1545.

We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their financial support of this contest.