



Introducing New Content Category “Merciful Murals”

Respect Life Contest 2017

CONTEST THEME - **MOVED by MERCY**

The Diocesan Respect Life Office is excited to announce the **15th Annual Youth Respect Life Contest** for grades 7-8 Level ONE, and grades 9-12 Level TWO. We welcome all Catholic youth in the Rockville Centre Diocese attending Catholic Elementary, High Schools or parish programs including religious education, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups, and youth choirs to participate.

We encourage children with special needs to also participate.

The awards ceremony will be on March 22, 2017
Holy Trinity D. High School – Auditorium at 7 PM.

The contest begins **September 6th 2016**, and closes with submission from each parish, program or school's first prize winning entries. Principals, Directors of Religious Education and Respect Life leaders are responsible for developing judging protocol for all entries in the school, programs and parish contests respectively (Only one entry per category, per school, per parish and program is allowed and more than one will disqualify the school and entrant). However, the Respect Life's grading rubric will be available on our website for all to consult when submitting entries. **All entries must be attached to the registration form, postmarked by December 16, 2016, and mailed to the Respect Life Office. Please note the registration form must be signed by a parent or guardian of participant.**

Participation in the contest is through any one of the following categories:

1. **Poetry**
2. **Art** (bookmark design)
3. **Essay**
4. **Photography**
5. **Music** (Lyrics)
6. **Video clip design**
7. **Pin- it/photomontage board**
8. **Mural (New category)**

The contest is designed to educate and provide a platform for youth to express and share their ideas and feelings on Respect Life issues that promote the dignity and respect for all persons from conception through natural death. All entries will be judged on originality and expression of thought in relation to our Catholic faith and the contest theme, **“Moved by Mercy”**.

Respect life issues and concerns include abortion, adoption, euthanasia, bullying, respect for life, contraception, crisis pregnancy, advocacy for life, stem cell research, just war doctrine, death penalty, suicide, responsibility of Catholic politicians, respectful reproductive technologies, marriage, chastity, rights of the disabled, conscience protection for Catholic Healthcare workers and end of life issues.

Program Guidelines:

1. **Essay**- Must be typed and limited to 400 words
2. **Poetry**- Must be typed and limited to 21 lines
3. **Music**- The lyrics must be the contestant's original creation however the melody can be in the public domain. The music must be submitted on a CD and cannot contain any video. (Contestants must be prepared to perform their material on awards night).

4. **Photography**- The photo must be an 8x10 color or B&W photo taken only by the contestant. Please submit entry with photo form and disclaimer on the back.
5. **Art-Book Mark Design**- Must be accompanied with registration form and book mark entry form. No exceptions.
6. **Video Clip Design**- Please submit a DVD video no more than 2:30 min long. The filming, audio, and editing of the video must be your own original work. PowerPoint presentations, slide shows of photos or other peoples' videos will not be accepted (See video examples on website). Please note: all submissions must be sent in a web-ready format according to the specifications of YouTube: [Supported YouTube File Formats](#) (on website).
Video Clip Design Resources- (see website)

For Use of Video editing and making software:

- Windows Movie Maker (Windows)
- iMovie (Mac)
- YouTube Editor (Web-based)
- Lightworks (Windows) (Mac Version Available) – More Advanced

[6 Tips for shooting video with your phone](#) - (see website)

[Tips for better audio quality](#) – (see website)

7. **Pin-it/ Photomontage Board**- Create a Pin-it/ Photomontage Board – which is the process and the result of making a composite photograph by cutting and joining two or more photographs into a new image. A photomontage can take on the look of a collage. Use an 8.5 x 11 page which will serve as your “board”. Fill the board with a minimum of 10 images (images must be original) that relate to the Respect Life theme “Moved by Mercy”. Submit the form with title and written description (50 words or less) explaining how your pin-it board relates to the contest theme. A pin-it board can be an organized set of images or a photomontage; it can be done by hand (Using paper, markers, pictures, etc.) or on computer. *The use of crafting materials i.e. string, wire, tinsel, or anything that obstructs the board from being framed will not be accepted or judged.* Submissions include a printed copy of your Pin-it Board along with the description form and a computer **CD** that has your Pin it Board in a JPG or PDF format. An example is provided for assistance. Pin-it/ Photomontage Board Resources. (See website)
8. **Merciful Mural**- The mural is for groups of 2 to 4 students and should reflect the contest theme. *Materials:* Paper size will be 3 feet 6 feet (the Respect Life Office will provide the required mural paper and requests for paper must be by October 1st) *Suggested Mediums:* Markers, paints (acrylics or other choice), pencils and/or crayons. All students' works must be original, colorful and convey a respect life message. An short paragraph of two to three sentences must accompany your mural that includes the theme “Moved by Mercy” and explains what your mural portrays.

All contest materials will be available on the diocesan website www.drvc.org/respectlife

Cash awards are given for first, second and third place winners for both levels in each category.

■ **First place winners** will receive \$400.00 ■ **Second place winners** will receive \$250.00

■ **Third Place winners** will receive \$150.00

Every student who participates in the contest including those who are not finalists will receive a certificate of participation. Please send a typed list of all students who have entered the contest by **December 16, 2016**. All certificates will be available the night of the awards - **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

Please feel free to use this information for your bulletin and reproduce any of the contest materials.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Allison O'Brien
Director

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