



Diocese of Austin

Office of Pro-Life Activities and Chaste Living
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Good Samaritan Gabriel Project Life Center

Funded through the Catholic Services Appeal

Good Samaritan Gabriel Project Life Center Benefit 2010 Essay Contest

Topic 1

From *The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society* by Pope John Paul II.

“Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic fundamental right and condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

In this essay, your job is to explain this quote to someone who is not familiar with the issue of abortion and how legalized abortion takes away the right to life for all citizens. Further, you will attempt to convince the uninformed that this fundamental right to life is something worth fighting for.

** OR **

Topic 2

From *Evangelium Vitae* – the *Gospel of Life* by Pope John Paul II

The deepest element of God’s commandment to protect human life is the requirement to show reverence and love for every person and the life of every person. (#41) The Gospel of Life is both a great gift of God and an exacting task for humanity...In giving life to man, God demands that he love, respect and promote life. (#52)

In this passage, we learn that if we want to truly *live the Gospel of Life* we cannot merely tolerate others; we must truly love and reverence others and defend the gift of life that God has given us. In the fight against abortion, we are clearly defending the right to life of the child in the womb. In this essay, describe other threats to human life and human dignity in our society and how you, as a high school or college student, can help promote the *Gospel of Life* to your friends, family and the community at large.

Contest Rules and Instructions

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of the topic
- Ability to respond concretely to the prompt questions
- Creativity and originality

Eligibility: The contest is open to high school and college students

Submission Deadline: Essays will be accepted until Monday, October 25, 2010. Essays may be emailed to patty-blaszak@austindiocese.org or mailed to us at 1314 E. 29th St, Bryan, TX 77802.

Rules:

1. All entries must be typed, double spaced, and use a 12 pt. font
2. Essays should not exceed 500 words
3. Essays must not include identifying information on the actual essay
4. Every essay must be submitted with title page that includes:
 - a. Name and grade level
 - b. Parish
 - c. School
 - d. Title of the Essay

Winning the Contest

First Place – \$50 prize and 4 tickets to the Benefit. Essay read at the 2010 Benefit Dinner.

Honorable Mention – \$25 prize and 2 tickets to the Benefit. Essay distributed at the 2010 Benefit Dinner.