



2024 RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

Theme: *Adoption as a Concrete Way of Love.*

Adopting children, regarding and treating them as one's own children, means recognizing that the relationship between parents and children is not measured only by genetic standards. Procreative love is first and foremost a gift of self. There is a form of "procreation" which occurs through acceptance, concern and devotion. The resulting relationship is so intimate and enduring that it is in no way inferior to one based on a biological connection. When this is also juridically protected, as it is in adoption, in a family united by the stable bond of marriage, it assures the child that peaceful atmosphere and that paternal and maternal love which he needs for his full human development..*

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY
FATHER JOHN PAUL II
TO THE MEETING OF THE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES, ORGANIZED BY THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Resources and notes K-8:

There is one video for Kinder to 2nd grade. There are several resources for grades 3 to high school. Choose the one you are most comfortable with.

Grades K--8

Students in **Grades K-8** are to respond to the directions for the prompt at each grade level.

Submissions may be handwritten or typed. Please **do not** provide the students with **any pre-made pictures for coloring**. You can draw for them an example (s) but let them create the image (s) themselves.

Kinder- Watch this cartoon video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZHDgAUM_pA (on our site)
Teachers or parents have the children draw an image of a family receiving the gift of a new child by adoption. Kids can draw happy moments they imagine.

1st and 2nd Grade- Watch Yes! I'm adopted cartoon video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZHDgAUM_pA (on site)
Teachers or parents have the children draw an image of a family receiving the gift of a new child. A picture that shows that God loves all babies, and some babies are adopted by loving parents. Have children write a sentence or two describing your picture.

3rd and 4th Grade- Choose one of the 2 following selections to draft your comic strip.

Yes! I'm adopted cartoon video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZHDgAUM_pA (on site)

Or

Read the article "Famous people who were adopted"

Teachers or parents, after watching the video or reading the article with the children, please have the children create a comic strip highlighting the gift of having a new child by adoption by a mother and a father. Use the video or article for inspiration.

Remember to write a description (a few lines) on each section of your comic strip so we know what each strip on your comic describes.



5th and 6th Grade-

Choose one of the 2 following selections to draft a reflection:

Watch “The Power of Adoption” video [The power of adoption](#) (2 minutes long on site)

Or

Read one of the 2 articles: “15 Saints for adoption” or “Famous people who were adopted”

After reading the article or watching the video, please choose one of the following questions and write 2 or 3 paragraph reflection from the question chosen.

1. What have you learned about adoption based on the video that you saw?
2. What would you tell a potential mother considering giving her child for adoption?
3. How does adoption change lives?

Remember to write (2-3 paragraphs) – handwritten or typed.

7th and 8th Grade

Choose one of the following 2 options:

Watch the Short Adoption Documentary: [I Lived on Parker Avenue - Short Adoption Documentary](#)

Or

Read the 2 articles titled “15 Saints for adoption” and “Famous people who were adopted”

After reading the articles or watching the documentary, please choose one of the following questions to respond to, and write 3 or 4 paragraphs:

1. What have you learned about adoption based on the video or articles?
2. What would you tell a potential mother considering placing her child for adoption?
3. How does adoption change lives?

Remember to Write (3-4 paragraphs essay) – typed.



Grades 9--12

Students in **Grades 9-12** are to respond to the following directions

Watch a Short Adoption Documentary: [I Lived on Parker Avenue - Short Adoption Documentary](#)

Choose one of the following 2 promptings and respond to one of them:

1. How was the life and work of Mother Teresa a reflection of our individual call to help those less fortunate than us? Write a letter to a potential birth mother to consider placing her child for adoption.
2. Based on the story of the boy who was given up for adoption, what have you learned about adoption and what will you tell a potential birth mother considering placing her child for adoption?

RESOURCES 7-12:

- Saints for adoption <https://aleteia.org/2020/01/25/15-saints-for-adoption/>
- Famous people who were adopted <https://www.rd.com/list/famous-people-who-were-adopted/>
- Documentary of a real adoption "I Lived on Parker Avenue"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pxu6DEPQkw&t=1784s>
- Springs of Love: Their mission is to encourage, educate and equip Catholics to discern and live out the call to foster and adopt. <https://springsoflove.org>
- EWTN's interview Kirk and Chelsea Cameron on How Adoption Has Shaped Their Lives
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkDeU2YjO-4>
- Preface by EWTN about this Short Documentary "I lived on Parker Avenue" Story:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_4Laxmo9AM
- Resources from USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/search?key=adoption>
- Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the meeting of the adoptive families organized by the Missionaries of Charity. https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2000/jul-sep/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20000905_adozioni.html



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 94109
Essays should be postmarked by January 26th, 2024.

Please do not put the name of the student on the front of the essay. **Attach to the back** of the essay--on the form provided--the name of the student, student's address, telephone number, grade, school, teacher, school address & school telephone number.

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.

Categories of Judging

Grade K – Grand Prize \$25

First Prize \$10 – one awarded in each County

Grade 1- 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 \$100

First Prize \$ 50 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grades 6 --Grand Prize \$100

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 \$150

First Prize \$ 75 - one awarded in each County
Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

High School:

Grades 9-12 Grand Prize \$250

First Prize \$100

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

A Special Mass and Awards Ceremony will be held **on Sunday April 28th, 2024**, at 11 AM mass. To RSVP, everyone will go to sfarch.org/essay-contest closer to the date to confirm their attendance. Information will be updated on the site as the date for the mass approaches and we will announce the winners on the same site. The information will chan