



**Knights of Columbus
Council #3428
North Arlington, NJ**



The 2024 - 2025 Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Open to Grades 8 to 12 Students in Parochial, Public, or Private Schools

Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. It governs our acts, orders our passions, and guides our conduct by reason and faith. It also encourages Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. The call to live a virtuous life applies to individuals in every state of life and occupation, including our elected leaders.

THEME: What are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if the leader has these virtues?

GUIDELINES:

- Essays must reflect the assigned theme and be the student's original work.
- Essays must be **typed on 8½" x 11" paper, one sided, double spaced with 1 inch margins, and be between 500 and 750 words in length.**
- The student's name should appear only on the official entry form, which must be stapled to the essay.
- **All entries become property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.**

Please turn over. ➡

JUDGING: Essays will be judged on a 100 point scoring system.

35 points for Content - How clearly is the theme presented?

30 points for Grammar - How well is the essay written with respect to proper sentence structure and paragraph construction, and correct spelling?

35 points for Style - Does the essay show creativity, imagination, and development of the topic in a compelling style?

PRIZES: The First Place Winner in each Grade Level will get a \$50 Visa Gift Card, and the 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each Grade Level will each receive a \$25 Visa Gift Card.

SIGN-UPS: Please fill out the entry form, have your Parent/ Guardian sign it, and staple it to your essay when you hand it in.

DEADLINE: All Essays are due by **Thursday, October 10, 2024** and can be dropped off at the **Columbian Club Hall, 194 River Road, North Arlington** by 7:00pm.

For further information, please call 201-988-0183.