



RESPECT LIFE
APOSTOLATE



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Catholic Education and Formation

2023 RESPECT LIFE CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

Since 1979, the Respect Life Apostolate has partnered with the Office of Education and Formation to sponsor an annual writing competition for eighth grade students in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Students reflect, pray, research, and write about the Gospel of Life and the virtue of chastity for scholarships and other awards.

In 2023, hundreds of eighth graders from 41 Catholic schools, PSR programs, and home school programs submitted entries. Of these, 125 students earned the ranking of "Parish/School Finalist" and were sent into the Respect Life Apostolate for further judging. At the April 19 student awards luncheon with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, the 18 "Archdiocesan Finalists" were honored for their accomplishments. Seven students were also awarded a Catholic youth event or high school scholarship.

Scholarship Winners

- Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell Scholarship: **Dominic Keys** (St. Margaret of Scotland Parish/St. John Paul II Preparatory) will be attending St. John Paul II Preparatory
- Knights of Columbus Missouri State Council Scholarship: **Eleanor Hilton** (Sacred Heart Parish & School [Valley Park]) will be attending Cor Jesus High School
- Mary Forrestal Hennessey/Mr. & Mrs. George Kletzker Scholarship: **Leila Palmejar** (St. Joan of Arc Parish/South City Catholic Academy) will be attending Nerinx Hall
- Respect Life Apostolate Scholarship: **Sydney Gutleber** (St. Joseph Parish [Cottleville]/ The St. Austin School) will be attending St. Dominic High School

Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference Winners

- **Matalyn Basler** (St. Cletus Parish & School) will be attending St. Charles High School
- **Gianna Heddell** (Epiphany of our Lord Parish/St. John Paul II Preparatory) will be attending Chesterton Academy of St. Louis
- **Patrick Mueller** (St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish & School) will be attending St. Louis University High School

Archdiocesan Finalists

- Evelyn Baker, Immaculate Conception Parish & School (Dardenne)
- Matalyn Basler, St. Cletus Parish & School
- Trevor Basler, St. Agnes Parish, Valle Catholic School
- Sophie Beishir, St. Ferdinand Parish, All Saints Academy
- Drew Bertrand, St. Patrick Parish & School
- Clayton Chambers, Ascension Parish & School
- Emaline Guntli, St. Clare of Assisi Parish & School
- Sydney Gutleber, St. Joseph Parish (Cottleville), The St. Austin School

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Archdiocesan Finalists (continued)

- Gianna Heddell, Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, St. John Paul II Preparatory
- Eleanor Hilton, Sacred Heart Parish & School (Valley Park)
- Elizabeth Homyk, St. Gertrude Parish & School
- Dominic Keys, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, St. John Paul II Preparatory
- Patrick Mueller, St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish & School
- Leila Palmejar, St. Joan of Arc Parish, South City Catholic Academy
- Isabelle Perez, St. Gerard Majella Parish & School
- Madelyn Redd, Queen of All Saints Parish & School
- Mario Ruggeri II, St. Gabriel the Archangel School & Parish
- Sophia Vermiglio, St. Joseph Parish Cottleville, The St. Austin School

The seven entries of the high school and Catholic youth event scholarship winners can be read online here:
www.archstl.org/respect-life-apostolate/programs/education/eighth-grade-creative-writing-contest.

About the Respect Life Apostolate

The Respect Life Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis promotes the Catholic Church's teachings on respect for and legal protection of every human life from conception to natural death. To learn more, please contact 314.792.7555, prolife@archstl.org or visit online at www.STLRespectLife.org.