

Announcing.....

**The 2018 ANNUAL PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

For Catholic Students in the Diocese of Fall River

Grades 6, 7 and 8 (Category 1)

Grades 9-12 (Category 2)

***“BE NOT AFRAID”***

***“Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”***

Matthew 28:20

When battered by life’s storms, or immersed in a dense fog of suffering and uncertainty, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances. Yet with words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, the Lord says to us, “Do not fear: I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10).

He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go.

*Go be my hands and feet to a world enslaved by fear. Go to the woman who is unexpectedly pregnant and fears the future. Go to your friend who fears reprisal at work because he takes a stand for the protection of human life. Go to your aging parent in failing health who fears being a burden. And go to others, too, for their support.*

We don’t need to have everything figured out. We can simply follow the guidance of Our Blessed Mother, the first disciple: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).

Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.

**2018 PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**  
**NOTICES, RULES and DEADLINE**

1. The Essay Contest is sponsored to raise awareness of the wide-ranging cultural effects of the United States Supreme Court decisions, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* (January 22, 1973), by which induced abortion was made legal, for virtually any reason, at any time in the nine months of pregnancy.
2. The Title of each essay is to be ***"Be Not Afraid"***. The essay should be 300-400 words in length for Category One and 400-600 words in length for Category Two. Typed or computer-generated documents are preferable, double-spaced. If handwritten, the text should be plainly legible. Only one side of each piece of paper should be used and the pages should be stapled together. **Complete identification (name, address, and phone of the author, together with his or her grade, school, and parish) should be on a separate final page stapled to the essay.**
3. Students in grades 6-12 who are enrolled at any Catholic school or parish religious education program in the diocese or are members of any diocesan parish are eligible to enter. Essays will be grouped and judged in two categories according to grade level: grades 6, 7, and 8 comprise the first category and grades 9-12 comprise the second category.
4. Parishes and schools are requested to transmit no more than three representative essays for each category (not per grade level). If an institution has participation exceeding three essays, an initial round of selection should take place on the local level, sending the top three to the Apostolate. Of the essays which are sent to the Pro-Life Apostolate, judgment will be based upon content (factual and motivational – 80%) and style (punctuation, grammar, etc. – 20%).
5. First prize winners in each category will be awarded \$150.00 US Cash; Second Prize in each category will be \$75.00 US Cash. Authors will receive these awards at the Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at St. Julie Billiart Parish, North Dartmouth, MA, on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 11:00 AM, and winning essays will be published in the diocesan newspaper, ***The Anchor***.
6. Deadline for submission of the essays is Friday, February 9, 2018. They should be mailed or hand delivered to the Office of the Pro-Life Apostolate at the Chancery, 450 Highland Avenue, P.O. Box 2577, Fall River, MA 02722-2577, where the telephone number is 508-675-1311. If mailed, February 9, 2018, is the deadline for **receipt**, not postmark – please plan accordingly. If hand-delivered, the Office closes at 4:00 PM. In either case, no entries can be accepted after 4:00 PM on Friday, February 9, 2018.
7. If chosen as a winner, any essay submitted will include publication of said essay in the Diocesan Newspaper ***"The Anchor"***.