



The Saints Simon & Jude Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the 2021 Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest to all 8th grade students of the Saints Simon & Jude Parish. The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Catholic Faith. The theme of the essay contest is **“Overcoming everyday obstacles to living a life of authentic faith”** The contest opens the doors of young minds, enabling the entrants to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work.

[OFFICIAL ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM](#)

TIMELINE

- October 11th (Columbus Day) – Start of essay contest
- November 19th – All entries are due. Entries should be postmarked by Nov 18th.
- Mid December – Announcement of contest winners

THEME

This year the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay contest prompt is:

“Describe some everyday obstacles to living a life of authentic faith, and how to overcome them, while providing examples from your own life.”

In an essay of 500-750 words, describe everyday obstacles that you may have experienced or witnessed others experiencing while living a life of authentic faith. Explain how you have overcome these obstacles and how, by doing so, it has helped your faith to continue to grow.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” - James 1:2-4

GUIDELINES

- Essays must reflect the assigned theme and be the student's original work.
- Essays must be typed and be between 500 and 750 words in length.
- The student's name should appear **only** on the official Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest entry form, which must be stapled to the essay.
- All entries require consent from the student's parent or guardian and become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

ELIGIBILITY

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students of the Saints Simon & Jude Parish— in public, private or parochial schools – enrolled in 8th Grade during the current school year.

JUDGING

Essays will be judged on a 100-point scoring system:

- 35 points: Content – How clearly is the theme presented?
- 30 points: Grammar – How well is the essay written with respect to sentence structure, paragraph construction and spelling?
- 35 points: Style – Does the essay show creativity, imagination and development of the topic in a compelling style?

AWARDS

The top three winners will receive monetary awards. Awards are accompanied by an official certificate from the Grand Knight. Certificates of participation are also awarded to all entrants.

TO ENTER

To enter your essay, please complete the Essay Entry Form, staple the form to the essay, and mail to:

Mr. Joseph Gothie
405 Patriots Path
Malvern, PA 19355



**Knights of
Columbus®**