



The Saints Simon & Jude Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the 2023 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 “**How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?**” 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 9th (Columbus Day) – Start of essay contest
- November 17th – All entries are due. Entries should be postmarked by Nov 16th.
- Mid December – Announcement of contest winners

THEME

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

How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?

Pope St. Paul VI wrote: “The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church.”

In an essay of 500-750 words, develop your thoughts on how the Church can evangelize in the digital age. In Biblical times, the only way to “carry” good news was to bring it physically, walking from one place to another. Technological advances, however, have opened up numerous additional communication channels, all of which we can use to amplify the rate at which we spread the Word.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”– Romans 10:14-15

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:

SSJ Knights of Columbus
ATTN: Joe Gothie
8 Cavanaugh Court
West Chester, PA 19382-7998



**Knights of
Columbus®**