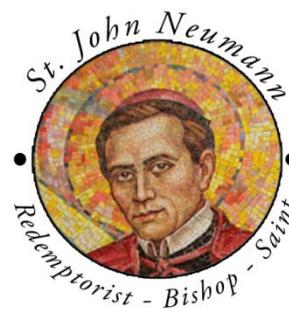


The Redemptorists

OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE

Redemptorist Office for Mission Advancement
107 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2526
Tel 410-288-8755 (toll free) 877-876-7662
redemptorists.net



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE 2012-13 St. John Neumann Essay Contest

Theme: What are some of the obstacles to pursuing a religious or priestly vocation that young men and women face today, and how can they be encouraged to answer God's call?

As a young man, St. John Neumann wanted to be a priest, but there were too many priests in his home country. Can you believe it? But he did not let that stand in the way of his dream. He decided to become a missionary to America where the need for priests was great, and became the first Redemptorist to profess vows in the United States. He was a man committed to his faith and to his vocation!

Today, as in St. John Neumann's time, the need for priests and for religious brothers and sisters is great. God is still calling people, but there are obstacles that prevent people from answering that invitation.

The contest is open to students enrolled in a Catholic elementary or high school during the 2012-2013 academic year. The students must be enrolled in grades 6-12 and the school must be located in the United States or its territories. There will be two categories of judging: grades 6-8 and 9-12. The first place winner in each category will receive a \$300 scholarship and a certificate; additionally, two honorable mentions of \$100 and a certificate will be awarded in each category.

Essay Guidelines:

1. Essays must be in English, 250-500 words, typed, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and have one-inch margins.
2. Essays should be the student's own reflection on the obstacles to pursuing a religious vocation and how young men and women can be encouraged to answer God's call. Essays must be well-organized, focused, and use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. References, if used, must be cited using MLA style and a bibliography should be included.
3. Include a cover sheet with your submission, listing:
 - a. Student's name
 - b. Current school and grade
 - c. Parish (if applicable)
 - d. Home address
 - e. Home telephone number
 - f. E-mail address

4. Do not include your name, school, or other identifying information on the essay itself.
5. Essays must be received no later than 5 p.m., **Friday, March 1, 2013**. Essays may be submitted by e-mail to events@redemptorists.net or mailed in time to be received by Friday, March 1, 2013, to:

Redemptorist Essay Contest
c/o ROMA
107 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2526

Essays received after the deadline will not be considered.

6. Winners will be announced March 28, 2013 and will be listed on our website, redemptorists.net.