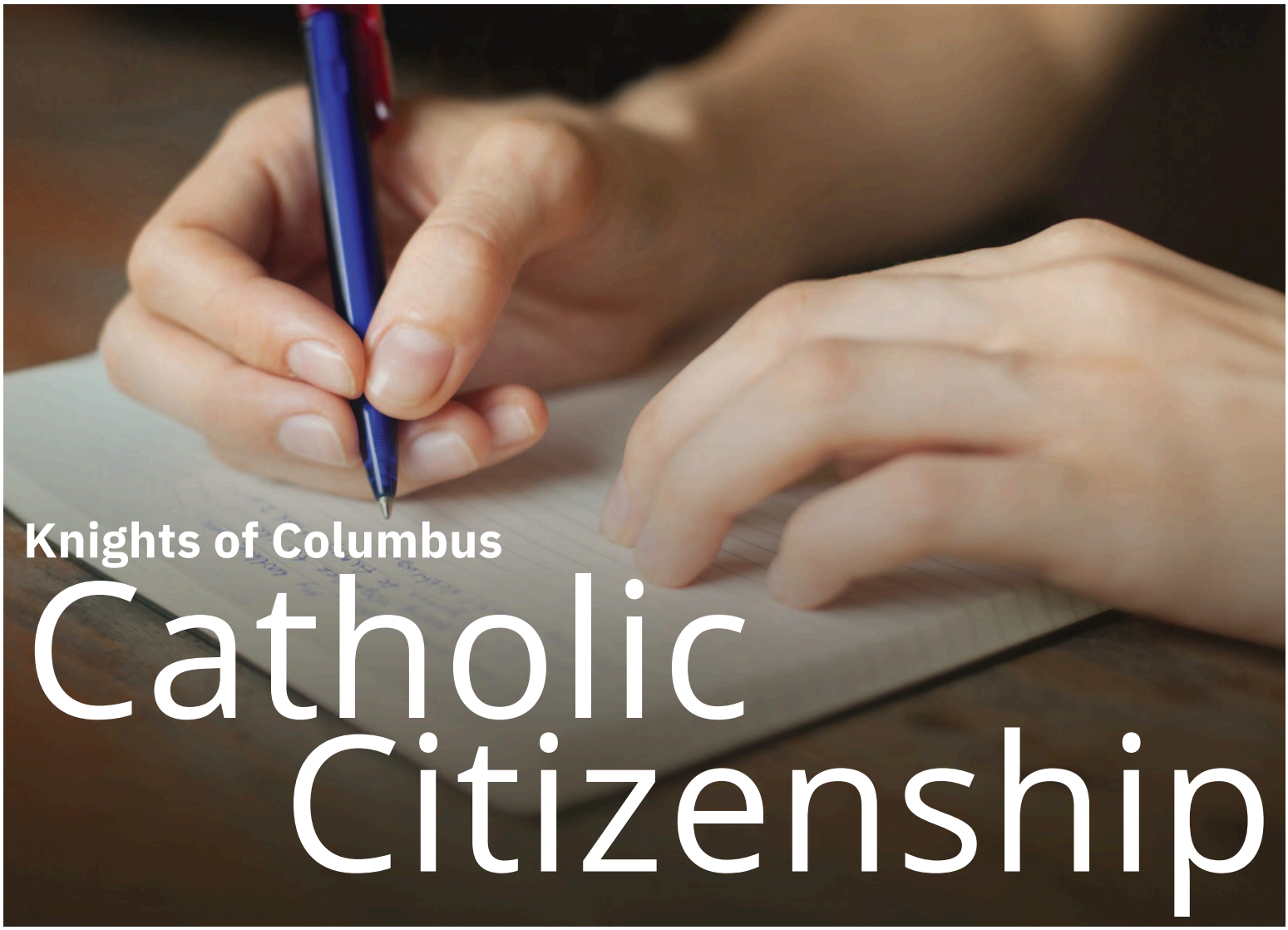


Knights of Columbus

Catholic Citizenship

Essay Contest

Open to Catholic students in grades 8 through 12

Topic

"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."

In 500-750 words, explain what this quote from former U.S. President and Knights of Columbus member John F. Kennedy's 1961 Inaugural address means and its importance for the flourishing of a nation.

Due: Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Sponsor: St. Stephen the Martyr Council 16821 Oak Creek, Wi

Catholic Citizenship
Essay Contest
Entry Form

I wish to enter the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST in the division checked below. I realize that my entry becomes property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Office.

☐ 8TH GRADE ☐ 9TH GRADE ☐ 10TH GRADE ☐ 11TH GRADE ☐ 12TH GRADE

COUNCIL NUMBER _____

Note: this same form must be used for the Council, District and Jurisdiction Competition – please be sure it is passed on accordingly.

_____ _____
Name of Entrant Date of Birth

_____
Street Address

_____ _____ _____
City State/Province Postal Code

_____ _____ _____
Parent/Guardian Telephone (Circle one: Home Cell) Email Signature of Entrant

This Section To Be Completed By Parent/Guardian: **Council No.** 16821

The undersigned hereby request and approve the Entrant's registration and participation in the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST. In consideration of such registration and participation, the undersigned hereby agree to hold the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and any of its subordinate units and their officers, members, agents and employees, blameless and without liability, and hereby agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless all of the above mentioned from any and all claims and expenses resulting from or relating to Entrant's said participation. **The undersigned further acknowledge that all essays submitted must be the Entrant's original work and that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or services to generate, compose, or substantially edit an essay is prohibited and will result in disqualification.** Parent or guardian must sign this form before entrant competes.

_____
Parent/Guardian Date signed

This Section To Be Completed Knights of Columbus Officials: **Score Sheet**

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS: A 100-point scoring system is used to determine winners. Information on Rules and Judging are on other side of this form.

Competition Level	Content – 35 points	Grammar – 30 points	Style – 35 points
Council Total: _____			
District/Regional Total: _____			
Jurisdictional Total: _____			
International Level Total: _____			

(See other side for instructions)

RULES

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 become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

JUDGING

Judges (three or more) will be selected by the sponsoring Knights of Columbus council, assembly or circle. Council and/or assembly members, teachers, clergy, civil officials and/or members of the community may serve as judges.

A **100-point scoring system** will be used to determine the winner.

35 Points: Content — How thoroughly is the topic examined?

30 Points: Grammar — How well is the essay written with respect to sentence and paragraph construction?

35 Points: Style — Does the essay show creativity, imagination and development of the topic in a logical and compelling style?

Council's Contact Information

Phillip Peterson Community Director

koc16821.oakcreek@gmail.com

Councils should retain a copy of this completed form for their files