



St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus Council #10914

Onalaska, WI 54650

September 2011

2011 Knights of Columbus Respect for Life Essay Contest

Hello everyone! I hope you had a great summer and have made a smooth transition back to school. My name is Greg Sutton and I'm a husband, a father of four school-age children and an active member of St. Patrick Parish including being the pro-life committee chairman of our parish's Knights of Columbus council.

Each year the Knights of Columbus sponsors a Respect for Life essay contest for youth in grades 7-12 during October, Respect for Life Month, and our council invites you to participate! By taking part in this activity, you will not only enhance your understanding of this important issue, you can also earn cash awards at the parish, diocesan and state levels. In addition, confirmation preparation students in grades 9-10 can earn two (2) "activities" credits toward service hour requirements.

New in 2011!! All participants in the essay contest will have their name entered in a drawing* for a free trip (value ~\$250) to the March for Life Rally in Washington D.C. on Jan. 23, 2012. (*Drawing will be held November and will remain open until name selected completes trip registration. If the first name drawn cannot attend the trip, additional names will be drawn until a commitment to trip registration is made. Submitted essays must meet minimum contest requirements to qualify for the drawing.)

The theme of this year's contest (chosen to be most relevant to current events) is as follows:

"Can Social Media be used to Influence Public Opinion on Respect for Life?"

Please reference the official program materials on our council website (www.kofc10914.com) which include additional resources to aid you in writing your essay, rules of the contest and a student entry form which must be submitted with your essay. All essays will be due back by November 1, 2011, to the religious education office (783-1099) if you are a CCD student or to the parish office for non-CCD students.

While writing an essay may not seem like your favorite thing to do at first, please take some prayerful time to consider what impact it can have on your life and others! As people created in God's own image, we have a special responsibility to uphold the sanctity of life and to promote the common good that strong marriages and families have in our society.

Consider this opportunity to be a witness to your faith! Enter the 2011 Knights of Columbus Respect for Life Essay Contest today!

Thanks and good luck!

Greg Sutton
St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 10914