



John D. Kelley
2016 Vocations Essay Contest
Sponsored by the Serra Club of Indianapolis

Theme:

The theme for the upcoming Essay Contest is "Mercy"

Essay Question:

“How have you experienced **mercy** through the ministry or witness of a priest, deacon, or man or woman in consecrated life?”

Procedures:

<i>Eligibility and Sponsors</i>	The contest is open to all Catholic students in Grades 7 through 12 who live in or attend school within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Catechists and religion teachers at each parish or school may sponsor the two (2) essays they consider best for each class within grades 7 – 12. If there is more than one class per grade level, two (2) essays per class may be sponsored. Home school students may submit essays in conjunction with their parish.
<i>Contest Time Period</i>	The Essay Contest begins with the distribution of these materials. All essays are to be submitted (postmarked) by Friday, 3/4/2016.
<i>Length and Appearance</i>	Essays should be between 300 and 500 words in length and may be typed or hand-written. Hand written essays should use black ink (not pencil) and be single-spaced on lined paper.
<i>Prizes & Recognition</i>	<p>All submitted essays will be anonymously read and judged by a Serra committee. A winning essay will be selected for each grade level based upon: 1) How well it answers the question; 2) Originality and content; 3) Grammar and readability.</p> <p>A certificate and cash prize will be awarded to one student at each grade level for the essay judged to be the best as determined by the judges. Winning essayists will be invited to read their essays at a special Serra recognition luncheon on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to be held at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Winning essays will also be published in <i>The Criterion</i>.</p>
<i>Submission</i>	Essays must be submitted (postmarked) no later than Friday, March 4, 2016. Send essays to: Serra Vocations Essay Contest Attn: Andy Miller Office of Catholic Education 1400 N. Meridian Indianapolis, IN 46202

Serra is an international organization of lay persons whose mission is to help foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Serra’s patron is Blessed Junipero Serra, the missionary priest who, along with fellow Franciscans established 21 missions in California in the late 1700s. The Serra Club of Indianapolis has supported vocations in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for more than sixty years.

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Essay Submission Form

(For each essay submitted, complete and attach this form, or provide this information on a *separate* sheet of paper. Please do not include this information on the essay itself).

Signature of Student: _____

Printed Name of Student: _____

Home Address: _____

Contact Telephone: (_____) _____

Name of Parent(s)
or Guardian(s): _____

E-mail address of student or parent _____

Grade Level of student (circle one): 7 8 9 10 11 12

Name of Sponsoring Catechist/Teacher: _____

Telephone number of Sponsor: _____

E-mail address of Sponsor: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Parish: _____

Parish Address: _____

This information is requested solely for use associated with the John D. Kelley 2015 Vocations Essay Contest. This information will be kept confidential and will not be shared or given to any other party, or used for any purpose other than the Vocations Essay Contest and associated publicity.

Essays must be submitted by (post-marked no later than) Friday, March 4, 2016.

Please send essays to:
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Attention: Andy Miller
Office of Catholic Education
1400 North Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46202