

# John D. Kelley

## 2018 Vocations Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Serra Club of Indianapolis

**Theme:**

“We need a church capable of walking at people’s side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a church that accompanies them on their journey.” *Pope Francis*

**Essay Question:**

“How has a priest, deacon, or man or woman in consecrated life accompanied you on your life journey?”

**Procedures:**

<b><i>Eligibility and Sponsors</i></b>	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 – 8. For grades 9 -12, two (2) essays per grade level may be sponsored. Home school students may submit essays in conjunction with their parish.
<b><i>Contest Time Period</i></b>	The Essay Contest begins with the distribution of these materials. All essays are to be submitted (postmarked) by Friday, 3/9/2018.
<b><i>Length and Appearance</i></b>	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.
<b><i>Prizes &amp; Recognition</i></b>	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.  A certificate and \$100 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 17, 2018 to be held at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Winning essays will also be published in <i>The Criterion</i> .
<b><i>Submission</i></b>	Essays must be submitted (postmarked) no later than Friday, March 9, 2018. Send essays to: Serra Vocations Essay Contest Attn: Andy Miller Office of Vocations 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 Saint 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 sixty-seven 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 2018 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 9, 2018.**

Please send essays to:  
**Serra Vocations Essay Contest**  
**Attention: Andy Miller**  
**Office of Vocations**  
**1400 North Meridian**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**