



## Contest Rules and Guidelines

Catholic Foundation Scholarship Essay Contest 2020  
Sponsored by Saint Leo University

### Theme

*Why a Catholic Education is Important to Me*

### Rules

1. Contest is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students attending a Catholic school operating in the Diocese of St. Petersburg who will be attending a diocesan Catholic high school within the Diocese of St. Petersburg for the 2020/2021 school year.
2. All entries must be contestant's own original work.
3. Entry must be neatly written or typed, and not to exceed 500 words.
4. Applicants will submit their essay entry to their school, and the school level winner will be submitted to the Catholic Foundation. ***This means only one submission per school.***
5. Entries will not be returned. All contest material becomes the property of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of St. Petersburg with the right to display and/or publish the material in part or in its entirety.
6. Decisions of the judges are final.
7. Each entry must be accompanied by a School Entry Form and Media Release properly signed and completed. Names must be legible. Forms should be stapled to the front of the essay.
8. Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification from the contest.

### Deadline

*Entries must be postmarked on or before **December 2, 2019** and mailed to:*

Catholic Foundation  
ATTN: Essay Contest  
PO Box 40200  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0220

### Awards

The 1st place winner receives \$10,000 in scholarship funds to be used for high school tuition at one of our diocesan Catholic high schools. Scholarship money will be sent to the high school upon verification of student's enrollment in the 2020/2021 school year and can be distributed for one school year or in four (4) equal annual installments to the school, contingent upon the continued enrollment at the school. The elementary school of the winner receives a \$1,000 gift to be used for tuition assistance at the school's discretion.

In addition to the top winner, awards will also be given to:

- 2nd place winner - \$2,500 scholarship
- 3rd place winner - \$1,000 scholarship

### Publicity

Winner will be asked to:

- attend the Catholic Foundation Celebration event (February 1, 2020) with his/her immediate family and read their essay
- pre-record a video reading the essay in partnership with their school or the Catholic Foundation
- submit a school photo
- sign a media release allowing the Catholic Foundation to publish any photos that are taken at the event or in association with this contest