



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

# Contest packet for Educators 2021-2022

A cross-discipline art contest for grades 7-12

Contest Theme:

“Builders of Peace  
in Our Communities”



**CREATING** ON THE  
MARGINS

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## Builders of Peace in Our Communities

### 2021- 2022

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Any Young Person (grades 7-12) from a School  
or Parish can Participate. It's Easy!

Just follow the Lesson Plan in this Educator's packet and have the students  
download the Young Artist's Packet.

2020-21 Contest Theme:

**"Builders of Peace in Our Communities"**

- Lead a prayer.
- Read the backgrounder to learn more about what it means to be a builder of peace in one's community.
- Share with students the Stories of Hope to help them understand the challenges communities are confronting, and how the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is responding.
- Have Students learn more about one of the CCHD groups listed. If needed, see Resources page for additional materials and teaching tools.
- Lead a reflection with the students on Catholic Social Teaching.
- Have Students: ° Respond to the essay questions. ° Create a work of art that reflects this year's theme, "Builders of Peace in Our Communities."
- Submit entries to your local contest.

 /PovertyUSA

 /EndPovertyUSA



## Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice

*Holy Spirit,  
We praise and thank you!*

*You anoint us to  
bring glad tidings to the poor  
proclaim liberty to captives  
recover sight for the blind  
free the oppressed  
and build communities in keeping  
with God's vision of justice.*

*Show us how to be  
light of the world  
salt of the earth  
seeds that sprout love  
and leaven that infuses humanity  
with the desire to promote human dignity and solidarity.*

*Help us to listen so that  
those in poverty can lead our efforts to  
proclaim a more hopeful vision  
liberate captives from injustice  
heal the blindness of the powerful  
free us all from self-centeredness  
and build community to overcome poverty.*

*Amen.*

# What is this contest?

The Creating on the Margins contest is a tool for schools and parishes to engage young people in the call to be true disciples of Jesus. We are called to become united to him, instruments of his merciful love, overcoming every kind of marginalization, to be “imitators” of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).

Through the contest, youth will learn about the efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to address the root causes of poverty in the United States. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. You can learn more about CCHD at [USCCB.org/cchd](https://USCCB.org/cchd).

Through participation in the contest, students in grades 7-12 explore U.S. poverty and related issues such as affordable housing, workers' rights, racial justice, or migration in the context of their faith. They will also learn what empowered, low-income people are doing in their communities to make positive changes. Learning about local anti-poverty efforts is vital to cultivating meaningful understanding of poverty and engaging youth in actions to address it. Guided by what they have learned, youth utilize their own creative skills to educate peers, family, friends and others about the root causes of poverty and issues highlighted in this year's theme.

The contest is co-sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). It is designed to be used across disciplines and can be implemented in both schools and parishes. Entries are evaluated on two components: 1) The creativity of the work and 2) The essay answers submitted with the work to demonstrate an understanding of how we are called to respond as disciples of Jesus to address poverty in our communities.

The artwork can be done in any medium (painting, song, video, PowerPoint, short story, poetry, drama, or photography). The work must be original and must illustrate the 2021-2022 annual theme, “Builders of Peace in Our Communities” (in Spanish, “Constructores de Paz en Nuestras Comunidades”). Students' essay responses will be an opportunity to reflect on how they see injustices affecting peace in their communities, and how their efforts to rebuild can help create more just structures where all communities can have the opportunity to thrive. They will also reflect on how their Catholic faith informs these efforts for peace. For the purposes of this contest, participants should focus on the local aspect of peacebuilding, and what can be done in their surrounding communities (rather than building peace globally).

A national grand prize of \$500 will be awarded to a single entry, along with a \$500 matching grant to a CCHD funded group working to fight poverty, plus a trip to a national awards event for the winner. One prize per grade level category (7-9 and 10-12) will be awarded for national second (\$375) and third (\$250) place winners, along with matching grants. Honorable mentions may also be awarded. Before beginning the contest, be sure to get in touch with your diocesan contact for the contest to find your local deadline and other important information. The Archdiocese of Atlanta's local deadline is February 1, 2022.

Contest rules can be found at:  
[USCCB.org/Youthcontest](https://USCCB.org/Youthcontest)  
[USCCB.org/Concurso-Juvenil](https://USCCB.org/Concurso-Juvenil)

# Backgrounder

Peace is not achieved simply by an absence of violence, but rather in the presence of justice. Building peace requires creating strong communities where people have the resources to thrive and develop.

Addressing poverty is an important way to promote peace. This should not be approached from the top-down, but rather by supporting the efforts of low-income people to address the issues that impact their communities. This involves eliminating food deserts, increasing the availability of job training, and promoting workers' rights, a just wage, and restorative justice.

This year's contest theme is "Builders of Peace in Our Communities," which outlines the need to build peace by equipping and assisting low-income persons to create strong and sustainable communities.

This contest will have a domestic, rather than international, focus. Anyone can work to build peace right where they are, by working together with those around them. When we work for justice in our communities, all have a greater chance to thrive and have access to what they need for safe and healthy lives. This creates a sustainable peace.

## Who can be a Builder of Peace?

A builder of peace is someone who:

- Seeks to amplify the voices of the marginalized.
- Listens to the experiences and realities of members of their community.
- Stays informed about current local issues.
- Looks for sustainable and practical solutions to injustice that creates unrest.
- Participates in civic processes to seek change.
- Learns and gets involved with CCHD.



# Stories of Hope

#1

## Restorative Justice in St. Louis

**Issue:** St. Louis, Missouri experiences an above-average crime rate, exacerbated by the high numbers of people trapped in the cycle of poverty. Yet, the traditional criminal justice system is not very effective at breaking this cycle or promoting healthy communities.

**CCHD Response:** Two restorative justice organizations in St. Louis, Missouri include **Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)** and **The Social Action and Virtue Education Foundation (SAVE)**. Their restorative justice work centers on healing and closure for the victim, reconciliation between victim and offender, and redemption for the offender. This approach takes a community approach towards healing. MCU focuses on racism and holds meetings for facilitated and constructive conversation. SAVE focuses on an initiative called Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline, which aims to teach children a form of conflict-resolution centered around the virtues.

#2

## Affordable Housing in Florida

**Issue:** Many low-income families in southeast Florida have difficulty finding affordable housing. This results in low-income families spending a disproportionate percentage of their income on housing costs, leaving little left over for food, healthcare, childcare, and other expenses. Some families even teeter on the edge of eviction or homelessness.

**CCHD Response:** **Miami PACT (People Acting for Community Together)** is a member-driven organization, comprised of religious congregations and community groups that work together for justice. They seek to empower a diverse and representative group of leaders to be a voice for the community. Because Miami-Dade County is the most unaffordable metro area in the nation, affordable housing is one of the prominent initiatives that Miami PACT is working toward. Their work resulted in reactivation of the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which allocates funds to housing for families making half the area medium income and below. Miami PACT is now continuing to push for systemic change within the county and city to address this issue.

### #3

#### Food Deserts and Homelessness in Los Angeles

**Issue:** Many low-income people live in areas with little access to affordable and healthy food options. This results in a dependence on fast food and convenience stores for food, which are not able to provide adequate nutrition. These food deserts contribute to widespread health issues for people living near them.

**CCHD Response:** THRIVE Santa Ana is a community land trust in Southern California that empowers residents to use the land to serve the needs of the community, including housing, food, and communal space. One of their most recent initiatives is a Micro-farm, built on community land, that will provide people with locally sourced, healthy food. Through resident-led initiatives such as this one, THRIVE Santa Ana seeks to promote sustainable community growth and flourishing.

### #4

#### Assisting Returning Citizens in Ohio

**Issue:** Many formerly incarcerated people, even those who served full sentences for nonviolent offenses, face strong obstacles to reentry into society. They have trouble finding jobs, which impacts their ability to provide for their families' basic needs and to contribute to society.

**CCHD Response:** In Cincinnati, Ohio, the **St. Vincent de Paul Reentry Program** works with those recently returning from prison, as well as those facing long-time struggles from its effects on their ability to reenter society. They minister to the needs of those just returning, train them to be community leaders, and work for policy changes that will remove many of the obstacles they face.

### #5

#### Workers' Rights in New York

**Issue:** Many immigrants who lack steady work become day laborers. Language barriers and lack of information make day laborers vulnerable to predatory employers. Wage theft and other violations of human rights are common, but day laborers may be reluctant to speak up for fear of losing job opportunities or because they are unaware of their rights.

**CCHD Response:** The **Don Bosco Workers in Port Chester, New York** is an organization led by workers themselves. They empower other workers to learn about the laws regarding work, their own rights, and leadership skills. They also provide accountability so that businesses will comply with the laws and grant workers their rights.

# Reflect and Share

From the Bible

**“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” James 3:18**

Reflect:

How is peace able to grow from seeds of justice?



## Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The depth and richness of this tradition is illustrated in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church:

“Peace is the fruit of justice, (cf. Is 32:17) understood in the broad sense as the respect for the equilibrium of every dimension of the human person. Peace is threatened when man is not given all that is due him as a human person, when his dignity is not respected and when civil life is not directed to the common good” (no. 494).

Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Visit this page to learn about the seven themes of CST:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ● Life and Dignity of the Human Person       | ● Solidarity                                    |
| ● Call to Family Community and Participation | ● Care for God's Creation                       |
| ● Option for the Poor and Vulnerable         | ● The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers |
| ● Rights and Responsibilities                |   |

## From Pope Francis' Desk

“It is the duty of all men and women to build peace following the example of Jesus Christ, through these two paths: promoting and exercising justice with truth and love; everyone contributing, according to his means, to integral human development following the logic of solidarity.”

Message during the Angelus  
on Sunday 10/03/2013



# Essay Questions

Reflect on and answer the following essay questions. The typed answers will be submitted with your entry form and will be considered in the national judging process. Each answer should be between 4 to 6 sentences.



1. How do you see injustices and challenges in your own community affecting the goal of peace?
2. Why does our faith call us to get involved with the community and work to address injustices we see around us?
3. After you read the “Stories of Hope,” what are some of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching that they are addressing? Could your parish or school help address these same issues in your community? Explain.
4. Describe how your creative work reflects upon this year’s theme, “Builders of Peace in Our Communities.”

## Resources

Help youth learn about two distinct but complementary ways to put love in action.

- Learn about the Two Feet of Love in Action at [USCCB.org/twofeet](https://USCCB.org/twofeet). Watch a brief video at <https://youtu.be/SaUtC8EejDc>
- Discuss: Are the Stories of Hope that you learned about examples of Social Justice or Charitable Works?
- To find data and stories about how poverty affects different communities in the United States, visit: [www.PovertyUSA.org](http://www.PovertyUSA.org)

# Submit work to the Contest



Have YOUTH (not a teacher) fill out the official entry form on the following pages. Please note that the signature of a parent or guardian is required. Next, get in touch with your diocesan contact for the contest.

The local contact for the art contest is Kat Doyle, CCHD Diocesan Director. She can be contacted at [kdoyle@archatl.com](mailto:kdoyle@archatl.com).

The local deadline for the contest is February 1, 2022.

The completed form and artwork can be mailed to:

Kat Doyle  
Archdiocese of Atlanta  
2401 Lake Park Drive SE  
Smyrna, Georgia 30080



 /PovertyUSA

 /EndPovertyUSA

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

(to be completed by the youth contestant(s). In other words, the entry form must be completed by a student, NOT an adult. Please write legibly.)

Name of contestant(s) completing entry form:

---

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the medium of your work (e.g. painting, video, poem, etc.):

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Where did you present or share your work? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your grade category:              7-9th grade              10-12th grade

Through which institution are you submitting this work? \_\_\_\_ Parish or \_\_\_\_ School

**Reflect on and answer the following four essay questions. Type your answers and submit them with your entry form. They will be considered along with your artwork in the national judging process. Each answer should be between 4 to 6 sentences.**

- 1) How do you see injustices and challenges in your own community affecting the goal of peace?
- 2) Why does our faith call us to get involved with the community and work to address injustices we see around us?
- 3) After you read the "Stories of Hope," what are some of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching that they are addressing? Could your parish or school help address these same issues in your community? Explain.
- 4) Describe how your creative work reflects upon this year's theme, "Builders of Peace in Our Communities."

**YOUTH CONTESTANT**

Name and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street / Avenue / Place City State Zip Code

Name of parish or school to which the entry is being submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch) Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of the contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If this is a team entry, please write the name of one youth representative for the team and attach a separate sheet of paper with a list of all team member's full name and in parentheses state the grade of each contestant. For example, "John Smith (7)" would indicate that John Smith is in seventh grade. Each team member also needs to complete the Agreement for Entry of Work, which can be found on the next page.

I, as the contestant, understand and have followed the contest guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please initial) School or Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Contact Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution's Full name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Street / Avenue / Place City State Zip Code

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Note about Use of Copyrighted Materials/Permissions

Please note that the contest rules indicate: "Each entry must be the original work of the student or team of students submitting the artwork. If the artist wishes to use material that is copyrighted by someone else (such as a song or web photo as part of a PowerPoint presentation or a cut-out picture from a magazine), he or she can only do so if written permission has been granted for its use. This written permission must be submitted with the entry."

**Note about Clearance for Audio and Video Entries:** Please note that anyone whose voice or image is recorded in an audio-visual submission must also submit a copy of the waiver below. If they are under 18, their parent or guardian must complete it to provide consent and release.

### Agreement for Entry of Work

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent representing Contestant under 21 years old) (referred to in this agreement as "Contestant"), on behalf of my minor child, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of minor child and contestant), agrees (a) that by submitting \_\_\_\_\_ (name and description of art entry) (referred to in this Agreement as "Work") Contestant will abide by the Contest Guidelines attached to this Agreement and which Guidelines are incorporated in this Agreement, (b) that USCCB shall be the sole and exclusive owner of the Work and rights in the Work, including but not limited to the copyright, and that USCCB shall own or be licensed to use any materials and/or elements embodied in the Work which are not original to Contestant, (c) to indemnify and hold harmless USCCB from and against any and all claims, suits and costs which USCCB may incur arising from the Work and Contestant's preparation of the Work, and (d) that USCCB may assign, license or otherwise transfer its rights under this Agreement and that this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of USCCB's assigns, successors and licensees.

Contestant and USCCB have indicated their acceptance of this Agreement by signing below:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
CCHD Youth & Young Adult Coordinator  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clearly write your name or team name as you'd like it to appear in any publicity or certificates, should you win:

**Send Submission to:** Kat Doyle, Archdiocese of Atlanta, 2401 Lake Park Drive SE, Smyrna, Georgia 30080. If you have a digital file to submit, please email it to [kdoyle@archatl.com](mailto:kdoyle@archatl.com).

Please note the local deadline of February 1, 2022.

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