

2022 RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

Our Lady of Guadalupe--Patroness of the Americas and of the Unborn

"Am I not here, who am your mother?"

From the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe website:

"On the American continent, Marian devotion is frequently centered around the figure of our Blessed Mother as she appeared in December of 1531 to the native American Saint Juan Diego at Tepeyac Hill in the area of modern-day Mexico City. Our Blessed Mother actually appeared four times to Saint Juan Diego and once to his dying elderly uncle, Juan Bernardino. The fourth appearance to Saint Juan Diego was the most wonderful. A brief account of the apparitions will help to better appreciate God the Father's purpose in sending the Blessed Mother to the American continent at Tepeyac and the important meaning of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The first apparition took place on December 9, which at that time was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in the Spanish Empire, of which Mexico was then a part. Our Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Juan Diego, an older native American who had recently lost his dear wife. Juan Diego himself died in 1548, seventeen years after the apparitions, at the age of 74. On 6 May 1990, Blessed Pope John Paul, during his second pilgrimage as Pope to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, declared Juan Diego blessed."

Our Lady of Guadalupe is Patroness of the Americas and of the unborn.

Grades K--8

Students in **Grades K--8** are to respond to the directions for the prompt at each grade level. Submissions may be handwritten or typed.

Kinder- Watch this video <https://youtu.be/l-u7SFLvz8Q>

Teachers and parents, please point out the different sections and images on the Tilma after watching the video, use the image on the Mother of America pdf handout provided. Have the children draw an image of Jesus in Our Lady's womb.

1st. and 2nd Grade- Watch this video <https://youtu.be/l-u7SFLvz8Q>

Teachers and parents, please point out the different sections of the Tilma after watching the video, use the image on the Mother of America pdf handout provided. Have the children draw an image of Jesus in Our Lady's womb and write a sentence thanking Our Lady of Guadalupe for her openness to life.

3rd and 4th Grade- Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfk0dmFHhRI>

Read the story of Our Lady Guadalupe- Use the Mother of American pdf Handout provided and then create a comic strip highlighting 3-4 sections of The Tilma. Through the comic strip, show how each of the images tells us that the life that Mary has in her is Sacred.

5th and 6th Grade- Read the story of Our Lady Guadalupe- Use the Mother of America Handout provided. Write a letter as if you are San Juan Diego explaining to people what your encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe was like and what Our Lady has taught you about the sacredness of life. Write a letter (2-3 paragraphs) – handwritten or typed.

7th and 8th Grade- Read the story of Our Lady Guadalupe- Use the Mother of America Handout provided. Write a letter as if you are San Juan Diego explaining to people what your encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe was like and what Our Lady has taught you about the sacredness of life. Write a letter (3-4 paragraphs essay) – handwritten or typed.

Resources K-8:

Mother of America Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Pdf

Separate videos provided by grade

Kinder- Watch video <https://youtu.be/l-u7SFLvz8Q>

1st. and 2nd Grade- Watch video <https://youtu.be/l-u7SFLvz8Q>

3rd and 4ⁿ Grade- Watch video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfk0dmFHhRI>

Grades 9--12

Students in **Grades 9-12** are to respond to the following directions

Consider how Our Lady of Guadalupe is a witness to the sanctity of human life by responding to one of the following:

From the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe: “The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe presents the Catholic Faith in a way that was immediately understood and accepted by the native Mexican Indians. It is impossible to describe fully the rich symbolism contained on the Tilma of Juan Diego because every detail of color and of form carries a theological message.”

Reflect on and write about some of the specific attributes of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the tilma (use the Mother of American handout from the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe).

- How does the image of Our Lady on the tilma speak, without words, to the sanctity of human life?
- What about this image makes it an icon of respect for human life? How can we put into practice what the image teaches us?

As part of your response include a reference to or quote from at least one or two of the following resources. Write 4-5 paragraphs – typed.

RESOURCES 9-12:

1. The Gospels, which recount Christ’s life and teachings.
2. The [Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) website.
3. [The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) from the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe website.
4. [Facts about Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) from the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe website.
5. The Gospel of Life, *Evangelium vitae*, encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II.
6. [Homily of Pope John Paul II at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), 1999.
7. [Homily of Pope Francis, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), 2018.
8. [Homily of Pope Benedict XVI on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), 2011.
9. The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) and the [Compendium of the Social Teaching of the Church](#) may help ground your essay in Catholic teaching.

Submission Instructions for all students in **Grades K-12**

All submissions will be judged on the student's ability to articulate his or her understanding of the issues, the message of the Catholic Church in relation to those issues, his or her own personal commitment to implementing the Church's message and creativity.

Please send all entries to: Respect Life Program, Office of Human Life & Dignity
Archdiocese of San Francisco, One Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109
Essays should be postmarked by January 31st, 2022.

Please do not put the name of the student on the front of the essay. **Attach to the back** of the essay---on the form provided---the name of the student, student's address, telephone number, grade, school, teacher, school address & school telephone number.

Please print as legibly as possible so names on awards certificates will be accurate. If the teacher or student would like a copy of the essay, **please copy before mailing**. Due to the number of essays received, we are not able to photocopy or return copies of essays.

Categories of Judging

Grade K – Grand Prize \$25

First Prize \$10 – one awarded in each County

Grade 1- Grand Prize \$50

First Prize \$ 25 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 2 – Grand Prize \$50

First Prize \$ 25 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 3 -- Grand Prize \$75

First Prize \$ 25 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 4 --Grand Prize \$ 75

First Prize \$ 25 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 5 -- Grand Prize \$100

First Prize \$ 50 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grades 6 --Grand Prize \$100

First Prize \$ 50 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 7 -- Grand Prize \$125

First Prize \$ 75 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

Grade 8 -- Grand Prize \$150

First Prize \$ 75 - one awarded in each County

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

High School:

Grades 9-12 Grand Prize \$250

First Prize \$100

Honorable Mentions awarded as deserved

A Special Mass and Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday April 24th 2022. To RSVP, go to sfarch.org/essay-contest closer to the date for more information on how to confirm your attendance.