CREATING ON THE MARGINS

A cross-discipline art contest for grades 7 - 12
CONTEST PACKET FOR EDUCATORS 2020-2021

Contest Theme:
“Rebuilding Together at the Margins”
Just follow the Lesson Plan in this Educator’s packet and have the students download the Young Artist’s Packet.

2020-21 Contest Theme: “Rebuilding Together at the Margins”

1. **Lead** a prayer.
2. **Share** with students the Backgrounder with Stories of Hope to help them understand the issue and how the Church is responding.
3. Have Students **learn** more about one of the CCHD groups listed. If needed, see Resources page for additional materials and teaching tools.
4. **Lead** a reflection with the students on Catholic Social Teaching.
5. Have Students: → **Respond** to the essay questions. → **Create** a work of art.
6. **Submit** entries to your local contest.
Covid-19 Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord.

Amen.
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.

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 2020-2021 annual theme, “Rebuilding Together at the Margins” (In Spanish, “Reconstruyendo juntos en las periferias”). Students’ essay responses will be an opportunity to explore what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us about disparities in our society that cause some communities to experience marginalization, and how our efforts to rebuild can help create more just structures where all communities can have the opportunity to thrive.

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 annual national deadline is March 31, 2021, but local deadlines are usually in early March.

Contest rules can be found at: USCCB.org/Youthcontest USCCB.org/Concurso-Juvenil
The COVID-19 pandemic revealed many disparities. For example: not all communities have equal access to healthcare, quality education, internet, workers’ rights and benefits, and affordable housing. Lower-income communities, blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans were much harder hit by the pandemic than others. Families already living on the edge were pushed into poverty and for those already in poverty, it became even more difficult to get by. Watch the Web of Poverty video at PovertyUSA.org and read the article links with each background issue below to learn more about some of the disparities that cause some to live on the margins.

The contest theme this year is “Rebuilding Together at the Margins.” As we seek to rebuild together after COVID-19, listening to the voices of those on the margins can lead to new models to overcome disparity. Community organizations that receive funding from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through CCHD (the Catholic Campaign for Human Development) work on the margins to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Below, read about five issues and how CCHD-funded organizations are working to address them:
Workers in many sectors (such as the agricultural, food service, manufacturing and other sectors) often have little recourse when their rights are violated.

**CCHD Response:** Low-wage workers and religious congregations who are part of *Arise Chicago,* an organization which receives funding from the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD),* worked to recover $6.9 million in compensation that had been wrongly withheld from workers, many of them immigrants. They also won city and county ordinances to help prevent wage theft, and to ensure that workers were allowed to take paid sick days. Finally, they successfully advocated for a “Domestic Workers Bill of Rights” to guarantee fair and just treatment for persons who clean homes, work as nannies, or care for disabled and elderly persons.

Decades of racism has resulted in disparities in opportunity that still exist today. Historical disadvantages are still reflected in the present-day through disparities in access to healthcare, housing, education, economic opportunity, and clean air and water, as well as in the criminal justice system.

**CCHD Response:** In Baltimore, MD., students involved with *United Workers* led a successful effort to prevent the nation’s largest trash burning incinerator from being built in their neighborhood. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental contamination in the U.S. In Dallas, TX, *Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI)* has moved forward the public conversation about the relationships between communities of color and the police. DAI also led the effort to introduce parish IDs, which bring immigrants out of the shadows and lead to greater trust and collaboration between police and community members.
Many communities do not have access to basic services such as healthcare or to grocery stores and healthy foods.

**CCHD Response:** In Philadelphia, PA., CCHD has supported the community-building work of **Urban Tree Connection**, which is transforming an entire neighborhood (three-quarter acre farm surrounded by 60 houses) from empty lots to productive gardens that provide meaningful jobs, where youth are employed to work the land and the harvest the bounty. In Minneapolis, MN, **Appetite for Change** brings together community members, organizations and businesses to advocate for food justice so that fresh, affordable and culturally significant foods can be available in all neighborhoods.

Kids in many low-income communities have not had access to quality education. Educational disparities have been especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing some children to fall even further behind.

**CCHD Response:** Members of **MICAH Memphis** are asking tough but important questions during COVID-19, such as “Who can easily continue their education with wifi and devices and who cannot?” MICAH’s Education Equity Task Force seeks to ensure that every child has access to the quality education they deserve. Even before COVID-19, this task force was already working to address issues around poorly maintained schools; disproportionate consequences for students of color; insufficient resources for school nurses, counselors, and social workers; inadequate support for teachers and classrooms; and other issues that negatively affect educational quality and attendance among Shelby County Schools.

There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in our country, with 18.2 million households paying over 50% of their income on housing. This leaves little left over for other expenses such as food, childcare, or transportation—let alone saving for the future or responding to an emergency such as a lost job or surprise medical bill and makes many families vulnerable to falling into poverty.

**CCHD Response:** Recognizing the severe shortage of affordable housing in their area, **Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST)**, a **CCHD-funded** organization in St. Petersburg, FL, put pressure on local elected officials and won a housing trust fund that has created 1,469 affordable housing units to date.
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 Catechism:

1928. Society ensures social justice when it provides the conditions that allow associations or individuals to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation. Social justice is linked to the common good and the exercise of authority.

Visit this page to learn about the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Write the titles of the seven themes here and reflect about the work of a CCHD community group that you learned about earlier. Which theme of CST did that group live out?

"If we want to be true disciples of Jesus, we are called to become, united to Him, instruments of his merciful love, overcoming every kind of marginalization."

- Angelus Address, St. Peter's Square, February 15, 2015
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 did Covid-19 affect you, your family, friends, school, or parish?

2. Why does our faith call us to get involved with the community and work to address disparities revealed by COVID-19?

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, “Rebuilding Together at the Margins”?

Resources

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

1. **Learn** about the Two Feet of Love in Action at USCCB.org/twofeet. Watch a brief video at [https://youtu.be/SaUtC8EejDc](https://youtu.be/SaUtC8EejDc)

2. **Discuss**: Are the Stories of Hope that you learned about examples of Social Justice or Charitable Works?

   - For additional stories, prayers, and activities on racial justice, visit usccb.org/racism.

   - To find data and stories about how poverty affects different communities in the United States, visit: [www.PovertyUSA.org](http://www.PovertyUSA.org)
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.

This may be the diocesan CCHD representative or your diocesan contact for religious education, youth ministry, or Catholic education.

To find your CCHD diocesan director, visit USCCB.org/CCHD and click "Diocesan Directors" in the top right of the menu.

Your diocesan contact can provide info about the local submission process. While the annual national deadline is March 31, local deadlines will be earlier. If you learn that your diocese is not participating in the contest, youth in your school or parish can still participate. Contact the CCHD national office: mmorales@usccb.org. Be sure to describe details of any communication you have already had with the diocese.
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.):
____________________________________________________________________________________

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 did Covid-19 affect you, your family, friends, school, or parish?

2) Why does our faith call us to get involved with the community and help address disparities revealed by COVID-19?

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, “Rebuilding Together at the Margins”?
YOUTH CONTESTANT

Name and Last Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

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: ____________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

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: Your diocesan contact (usually the diocesan CCHD representative, or the diocesan coordinator for youth ministry, religious education, or Catholic schools). To find your CCHD diocesan director, visit USCCB.org/CCHD and click “Diocesan Directors” in the top right of the menu. Your CCHD representative can inform you who is coordinating the contest in your diocese, and can also inform you of your local deadline, which may be earlier than the national annual contest deadline of March 31.