



Catholic Campaign for  
Human Development

# Contest packet for Students 2021-2022

A cross-discipline art contest for grades 7-12

Contest Theme:

“Builders of Peace  
in Our Communities”



**CREATING** ON THE  
MARGINS

# Contents

## Builders of Peace in Our Communities

### 2021 - 2022

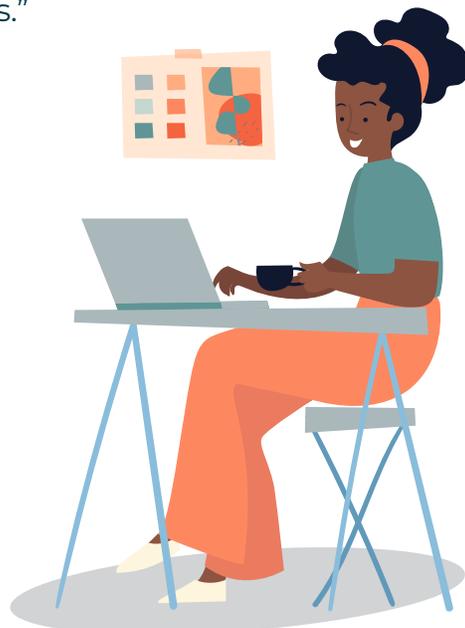
- Prayer
- Backgrounder with stories of hope
- Reflect and share
- Creative Work instructions
- Entry form

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

- Read the prayer
- Learn more about what it means to be a builder of peace in your community by reading the backgrounder.
- Encounter the Stories of Hope to understand the challenges communities are confronting, and how the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is responding.
- Create a piece of art that reflects this year's theme "Builders of Peace in Our Communities."
- Respond to the reflection questions.
- Submit entries to your local contest.

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## 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.*

# 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:

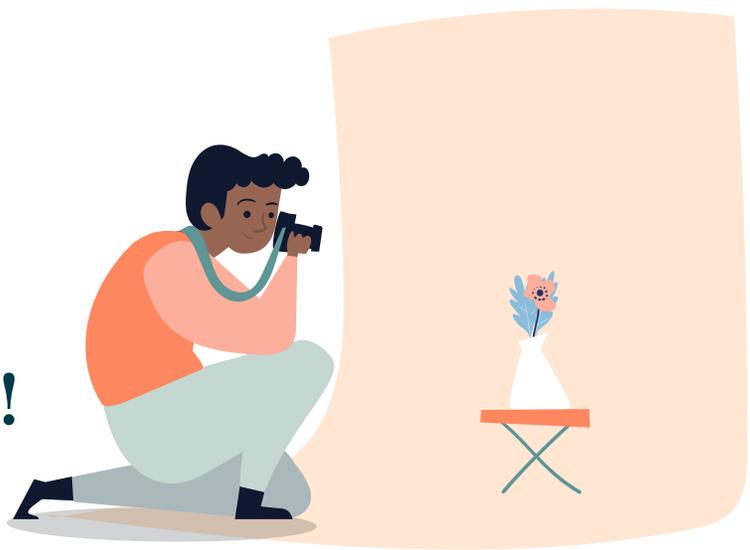
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family Community and Participation
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

## 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

# Create a Work of Art and Submit it!



Now that you have learned about the call to build peace and how the Church is responding, make a creative work exploring the theme “Builders of Peace in Our Communities.” Examples of creative works eligible for the contest include: paintings, poems, videos, photos, PowerPoint presentations, drawings, dramas, sculptures, stories, and songs.\*\*

Next, fill out the official entry form on the following pages, including responding to the four short essay questions. Your contest entry will be assessed by both your essay responses and your creative work. Please note that the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Then contact the contest coordinator in your diocese to submit your entry. This may be the diocesan CCHD representative or your diocesan contact for religious education, youth ministry, or Catholic education. Dioceses will select a winner for each age category and submit it to the national contest.

To find your CCHD diocesan director, visit [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org) and enter “CCHD Diocesan Coordinators” in the search. Please note that the contest’s national deadline is March 31, 2022, but the local deadlines will be earlier. So be sure to connect with your diocesan contact to find out details about the submission process for your local contest.

If you learn that your diocese is not participating in the contest, you can still participate. Contact the CCHD national office at [mmorales@usccb.org](mailto:mmorales@usccb.org). Be sure to describe details of any communication you have already had with the diocese.

**\*\*NOTE:** Anyone whose voice or image is recorded in an audiovisual submission must also submit a copy of the waiver form included in the following pages. Also, entries that feature ANY music, photos or videos created by another person MUST include proof of permission to use it. This includes but is not limited to magazine pictures, songs, any person featured in ANY way in a video or picture, music or stock images from the internet.



# 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.”



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**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:** 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](http://USCCB.org) and enter "CCHD Diocesan Coordinators" in the search.

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