

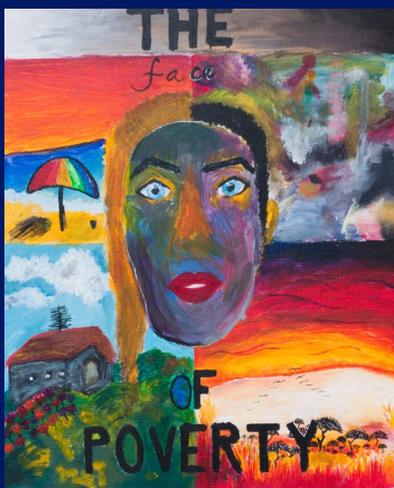
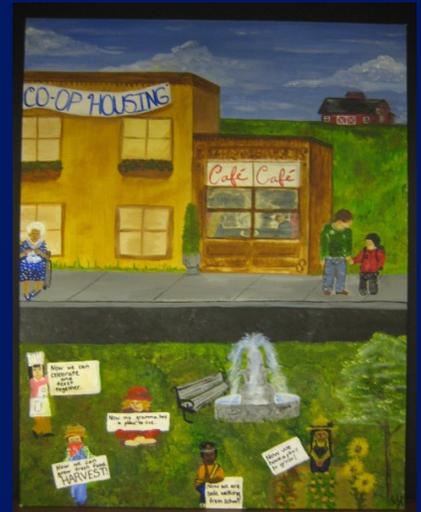
Catholic Campaign for Human Development

CREATING ON THE MARGINS

A cross-discipline contest for grades 7-12

Contest Packet
FOR EDUCATORS

2020 Contest Theme:
“More than a Roof” - St. John Paul II



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CREATING ON THE MARGINS

What is this contest?

The Creating on the Margins contest is a **tool for schools and parishes** to engage young people in the **Gospel call of Luke 4:18 to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.** 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 can explore **U.S. poverty** and related issues such as **affordable housing, hunger, racial justice, or migration** in the context of their **faith**. They will also learn what empowered people, who are low-income, are doing in their communities to make positive changes. Recognizing this connection with local anti-poverty efforts is vital to creating 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, homelessness or another important issue highlighted in this year's theme.

The contest is co-sponsored by the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**, the **National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)** and the **National Federation of 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: the **creativity** of the work and 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 annual theme, **"More than a Roof."** Their essay responses will be an opportunity to explore the underlying factors of the national crisis in affordable housing and homelessness and how it affects their community.

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 NFCYM's annual conference for the national award ceremony for the winner and a chaperone. *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.

Before beginning the contest, be sure to get in touch with your **local diocesan contact for the contest** to find your local deadline and other important information. The annual national deadline is March 31, 2020 but your **local deadline is usually in early March**. Contest rules can be found at: USCCB.org/YouthContest and USCCB.org/Concurso-Juvenil.



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CREATING ON THE MARGINS

Youth from a School or Parish Can Participate. It's easy to facilitate!

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

2020 Contest Theme: "More than a Roof"

- **Read** the **Backgrounder on Affordable Housing** to help you understand the issue.
- **Lead a Prayer** with Pope Francis.
- **Teach** how unaffordable housing affects families and individuals.
- **Explore** the stories of groups of low-income people responding to the crisis.
- **Share** the Supplemental Resources.
- **Have Students:**
 - **Respond** to the reflection questions.
 - **Create** a work of art.
- **Submit** entries to your **local** contest.



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Backgrounder on Affordable Housing

Our country is facing an affordable housing crisis. The gap between wages and housing costs is too large. Rent prices keep rising and household incomes are not keeping up. **Housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of a household's income.** Households paying more than this are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. **Today, more than 38 million households are cost burdened.**

This problem of housing affordability is fueled by a lack of supply. **There is not enough low-cost rental housing to meet the needs of low-wage workers and households on fixed incomes.** The United States has a shortage of more than 7 million rental homes that are affordable and available to extremely low-income renter households. Many of the housing units that are being built today are high-end units. According to national data, on a single night in January 2018: 553,742 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States, including 40,056 veterans, and 33% of the homeless population were families with children.

In the midst of this crisis more households need help making ends meet. **Regrettably, only one in four households who qualify will receive federal housing assistance.** Robustly funding affordable housing and community development programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) budgets can help address the serious problem of housing affordability. But federal housing assistance has decreased since 2010, failing to keep pace with the demand. Instead of maintaining and growing programs which stabilize housing for those in need, programs have been cut or kept operating at similar levels.

Securing improved funding for affordable housing programs is vital to improve on these programs and develop better solutions to prevent and end homelessness and housing instability. **It is increasingly recognized that affordable housing is linked to other aspects of human flourishing including: health, education, employment and civil rights.** Without stable housing, it is difficult to work towards other goals. A safe and decent home allows parents to maintain jobs, children to stay in the same schools, and the local economy to be supported. Having a home also underscores the inherent dignity of the persons who live there.

The Church has traditionally viewed housing not as a commodity, but as a basic human right. This conviction is grounded in our view of the human person and the responsibility of society to protect the life and dignity of every person by providing the conditions where human life and human dignity are not undermined, but enhanced. **Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, "A house is much more than a roof over one's head. It is a place where a person creates and lives out his or her life."** Society has the responsibility to protect these rights, and the denial of housing to so many constitutes a terrible injustice. To address this crisis, we need to respond both to the direct needs of individuals and families, and to work to support policies and programs that transform our communities into places where all people can thrive.



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Pope Francis' Reflection

Introduce the Prayer

Begin by reading together the Gospel passage **Luke 2:1-7**. Have the students **imagine themselves in the shoes of St. Joseph**. Then read the homily that Pope Francis gave during his first visit to the United States in September 2015. After delivering an important address to Congress, he didn't have a fancy lunch with Senators or Congresspersons. Instead, **he had lunch with hundreds of men and women experiencing homelessness**. It was a gesture that helped show us that that the Church should always be close with and care for those who are marginalized and often forgotten. During the lunch, he shared with the guests this homily:

Have students take turns reading paragraphs from Pope Francis' Homily

Joseph had to face some difficult situations in his life. One of them was the time when Mary was about to give birth, to have Jesus. The Bible tells us that, "while they were [in Bethlehem], the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:6-7).

The Bible is very clear about this: there was no room for them. I can imagine Joseph, with his wife about to have a child, with no shelter, no home, no place to stay. The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head. We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? Why are we homeless, why don't we have housing? These are questions which many of you may ask, and do ask, every day. Like Saint Joseph, you may ask: Why are we homeless, without a place to live? And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live? Why are these brothers and sisters of ours homeless?

Joseph's questions are timely even today; they accompany all those who throughout history have been, and are, homeless. Joseph was someone who asked questions. But first and foremost, he was a man of faith. Faith gave Joseph the power to find light just at the moment when everything seemed dark. Faith sustained him amid the troubles of life. Thanks to faith, Joseph was able to press forward when everything seemed to be holding him back.

In the face of unjust and painful situations, faith brings us the light which scatters the darkness. As it did for Joseph, faith makes us open to the quiet presence of God at every moment of our lives, in every person and in every situation. God is present in every one of you, in each one of us. I want to be very clear. There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing. There are many unjust situations, but we know that God is suffering with us, experiencing them at our side. He does not abandon us.

Ask the Students these Reflection Questions

Now consider the following questions to share with another person or for silent reflection:

1. When you imagined yourself in the shoes of St. Joseph, how did you feel?
2. Why is it important to remember that Jesus was born homeless?
3. How does our faith invite us to respond to those who are experiencing homelessness?

Excerpts from *Greetings of the Holy Father: Visit to the Charitable Center of St Patrick Parish and Meeting with the Homeless* © September 24, 2015, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.



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Understanding and Addressing Poverty

Have Students take the Spent Challenge

Poverty is a reality for many persons across the United States. The Spent Poverty Challenge is an online game that invites the user to make it through the month and support their family while only getting paid minimum wage. It can help us to see the interconnectedness of low wage jobs, healthcare, and affordable housing. **Take the challenge at PlaySpent.org.**

Have a Student read about connection between Poverty and Housing

Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, "A house is much more than a roof over one's head. It is a place where a person creates and lives out his or her life." Having shelter is a core human right and essential for all persons to thrive. **Yet across the United States, millions of families spend over half their income on housing costs, as rent has increased faster than wages.** Families are left with few resources for other necessities: food, utilities, transportation, and healthcare. They live paycheck to paycheck, unable to build up savings, and fearful of eviction and homelessness. In both rural and urban communities, affordable housing is becoming less and less available.

To make matters worse, cheaper housing options are often located farther from public transportation and employment opportunities, in segregated under-resourced neighborhoods, and in areas where schools underperform. Minority homeownership rates lag behind their white counterparts, and yet research shows that minorities face extra hurdles in getting approved for mortgages. (Learn more at USCCB.org/racism with the [Racism and Housing](#) backgrounder.)

Share the story about the group of low income persons responding to crisis

In southeast Florida, a large portion households spend half of their monthly income on rent or mortgage. Many of these families have united with local faith communities to encourage construction of affordable housing units, renegotiating mortgages, and supporting local schools. Read their story at PovertyUSA.org/stories/creating-affordable-housing-florida.

Watch the Video: Two Feet of Love in Action

Our faith challenges us to alleviate poverty. There are two distinct but complementary ways to live out our faith. Charitable works meets human needs one person at a time. Working for social justice means addressing social structures that contribute to poverty. To follow Christ, it is necessary to walk with both feet of love in action—charitable works and social justice.



Download a copy of the [Two Feet of Love in Action](#) handout and **watch the Two Feet Video**. Then consider the differences between these two approaches and how we are personally called to respond to affordable housing and homelessness crisis. More info at USCCB.org/TwoFeet.



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Groups Addressing Unaffordable Housing

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) is the anti-poverty program of the Catholic bishops in the United States. It supports groups of low-income people to make change in their communities. Dozens of these groups work to promote affordable housing and prevent homelessness. **Have students select one group from each category below and learn more about them by exploring their websites:**

Homelessness

- **The Coalition on Homelessness**, in San Francisco CA, is a grassroots organization led by homeless people and supported by allies working to expand access to housing in San Francisco, to protect the rights of the poorest people in our society, and to create real solutions to homelessness. www.cohsf.org/
- **Elpis Enterprises**, in Saint Paul MN, operates three businesses to provide young people who are homeless with paid work experience and employment readiness training. They believe employment is the first step towards self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of poverty. www.elpisenterprises.org
- **Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE)**, in Tampa FL, is a community organization consisting of 23 multicultural and interfaith member congregations. They successfully advocated for a county program providing 2,800 homeless persons with their birth certificates and IDs, which are necessary to gain access to many programs and services. Now HOPE is organizing to encourage the county to establish a Hillsborough Affordable Housing Trust Fund with local dedicated public funding of \$10 million for affordable housing for working families and seniors. www.hillsboroughhope.org

Affordable Housing

- **The Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO)**, in Chicago IL, empowers renters through education and organizing to improve their living conditions, preserve housing, stabilize rent to prevent homelessness, and organize tenants to work together for housing justice. MTO works to make housing a human right. www.tenants-rights.org
- **The Texas Tenants' Union, Inc**, in Dallas TX, organizes tenants and provides the knowledge and leadership skills they need to solve their rental housing problems, preserve affordable housing, and win public policy improvements affecting low income renters. www.txtenants.org
- **Diamond State Community Land Trust**, in Dover DE, is a community-based organization creating a growing inventory of permanently affordable homes, encouraging minority home ownership, and serving as steward of the resources invested in those homes and the people who dwell in them. www.DiamondStateCLT.org
- **My Front Door**, in Cheyenne WY, empowers working families to achieve financial freedom through affordable housing options, financial planning, and participant goal setting and follow-up. They have a proven track record and are well-known advocates for supplying families with the opportunity of home ownership and providing a path out of poverty. www.myfrontdoor.org/



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Supplementary Resources

Explore a few of these Supplementary Resources, that help us understand about the root causes of poverty in our communities, and how we can support actions to address it. **You can share one or two of these resources with your students.**



THE POVERTY LINE



Poverty Quiz:

How much do you know about poverty in the United States? **Take Poverty USA's interactive quiz** to find out. Featuring both multiple choice and true-false questions, this quiz will help you to learn more about poverty and its impact on people across the country. Visit: PovertyUSA.org/poverty-quiz

Learn about U.S. Poverty

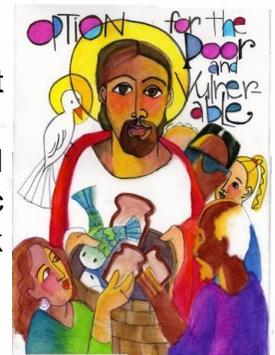
PovertyUSA.org includes facts about poverty, an Interactive Poverty Map, educational videos, a list of CCHD groups in your state, and Stories of Hope about how groups are addressing poverty's causes.

We Are Salt And Light

The website WeAreSaltAndLight.org includes more than 100 resources, success stories, videos, and assessment tools to help faith communities pray, reach out, learn and act together.

Catholic Social Teaching 101

Catholic Social Teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of today's world. The seven-part video series by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services explains each of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. You can view the videos, discussion guides, and artwork by visiting: WeAreSaltAndLight.org/CST101



Stack of the Deck Game

This game is an educational activity that uses three volunteers and a series of guided exchanges of playing cards to illustrate how a person's race, background, experiences, and choices can impact his or her opportunities and economic status. For instructions, visit: USCCB.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/stack-of-the-deck.cfm

Advocacy Toolkit:

How can we set up, prepare for, engage in, and follow up on visits to our legislators? This advocacy toolkit walks us through the basics, including using social media to promote advocacy. Consider organizing groups in advocating for affordable housing programs in your local community. Start by visiting: ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org/act/toolkit



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Make and Share a Creative Work

2020 Contest Theme: *“More than a Roof”*

- After reflecting and writing their essay responses, youth should make a creative work about the theme of this year’s contest. Be sure to include the youth essay with the entry form for the national contest. **The students’ entries will be assessed by both their essay responses and their creative work.**
- Examples of “creative works” eligible for the contest include: videos, photos, PowerPoint presentations, paintings, drawings, dramas, poems, sculptures, stories, and songs.
- Please note that creative work must be submitted to the local (diocesan) contest first. Dioceses then select a winner for each age category for submission to the national contest (see next page).
- Visit USCCB.org/YouthContest for all contest rules.

****NOTE: Entries featuring ANY music, photos or videos MUST have all accompanying permission forms attached to the Entry Form in order to be considered for judging. (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.)**

Ideas to Help Youth Educate their Peers

- Display youth art work where others can view it, such as the school lobby, cafeteria, or parish hall.
- Host an Open House Gallery and invite friends, parents and community members. Have youth present to explain their work.
- Have a school assembly to recognize winners. Invite diocesan and local newspapers.
- Have youth present at parish or school meetings.
- Have youth share their creative work on social media. They can also share links to the learning resources.
- Display photos, text, or URLs of winning entries in the school newspaper or parish bulletin.
- Contact a local coffee shop to display work.



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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. This may be the [diocesan CCHD representative](#) or your diocesan contact for religious education, youth ministry, or Catholic education.

You can find contact details for your local CCHD diocesan coordinator by visiting: USCCB.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/diocesan-coordinators-catholic-campaign-for-human-development.cfm

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: JPHDmail@usccb.org. Be sure to describe details of any communication you have already had with the diocese.



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Contest Entry Form (p. 1 of 3)

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. Why does the Church teach that all people have a right to affordable housing?
2. Select a CCHD funded group that addresses Homelessness. How do they address the problem with the “foot of charitable works”? How do they address the problem with “the foot of social justice”?
3. Select a CCHD funded group that addresses Affordable Housing. How do they address the problem with the “foot of charitable works”? How do they address the problem with “the foot of social justice”?
4. Describe how your creative work reflects this year’s theme: “More than a Roof”?



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Contest Entry Form (p. 2 of 3)

Youth contestant * 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:



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Contest Entry Form (p. 3 of 3)

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: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent & Date of Signature

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

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). Contact info for the diocesan CCHD representative is at www.usccb.org/cchd under "Who We Are." 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.



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