

Sample Letter to Send to Schools and Parishes

Please insert the appropriate information where you see [insert_____]

[insert DATE]

Dear [insert name of Principal, Teacher, Youth Minister, Religious Educator, or Catechist],

You are invited to participate in this year's **Creating on the Margins Youth Art Contest**. This national art contest, for students in grades 7-12, explores how our Catholic faith invites us to respond to poverty in the United States. This year's contest is co-sponsored by **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**, the **National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)** and the **National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)**.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development developed the contest in response to the bishops' statement, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, in which the bishops of the United States encouraged "new initiatives to integrate the social teachings of the Church more fully into educational and catechetical programs and institutions."

The Creating on the Margins Youth Art Contest provides age appropriate lesson plans and resources to help youth to learn about the different dimensions of poverty and what the Church is doing to empower low-income persons to address it. **The theme of this year's contest is "More Than a Roof" and reflects upon how the crisis of unaffordable housing and homelessness affects both families and individuals in our communities.**

The contest is designed to be used *across disciplines*. Contestant entries can be of any form—for example, video, short story, painting, song, photography, etc. Youth in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate.

Both schools and parishes can participate in the contest in five easy steps. Using the contest packets for educators available at www.usccb.org/youthcontest, educators (1) teach students about different dimensions of U.S. poverty and the work of CCHD, (2) use the Two Feet model to reflect on our Catholic response, (3) guide the contestants to create multimedia work based on the 2020 contest theme, *More than a Roof*, (4) help the young people become educators of others, sharing what they learned with classmates, families, and the community, and (5) submit the parish or school entries to the diocesan contest.

Schools and parishes submit art entries to the diocese, which will select winners for each grade category (grades 7-9 and grades 10-12). *[INSERT information about how winners will be honored locally, for instance, with local prizes or an awards reception.]* The diocesan winning entries will be sent to the CCHD national office for judging in the national contest. The national CCHD office will then select a national grand prize winner and other winners. The national grand prize winner will be awarded his/her prize on the main stage of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

Please send your entries to *[INSERT the CCHD diocesan office address]* no later than *[INSERT the diocesan deadline]*.

We look forward to your participation!

Sincerely,

[INSERT your name]

CCHD Diocesan Director

Suggested Enclosures:

- *Printed contest packet for educators from www.usccb.org/youthcontest*
- *Creating on the Margins Youth Contest flyer from www.usccb.org/youthcontest*