



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

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The Diocese of Memphis and Office of Catholic Schools Catholic Schools Week Arts Contest

The Office of Development and the Office of Catholic Schools are pleased to sponsor the 2027 Annual Catholic Appeal Art Contest. This contest is open to Catholic students elementary and high schools throughout the Diocese of Memphis.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week and begin the 2027 Annual Catholic Appeal, students are invited to reflect on the themes "**The Journey to Emmaus**" and "**On the Journey Together**." Through artwork, writing, or other creative expression, students are encouraged to share how they encounter Christ on their faith journey and how we walk together as a Catholic community.

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus reminds us that Jesus accompanies us in every stage of life, revealing Himself through Scripture, the Eucharist, and our relationships with one another. Likewise, the Annual Catholic Appeal theme, "**On the Journey Together**," reflects the shared mission of our Diocese as we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

This year's contest also provides an opportunity to reflect on the vision that has guided our Diocese under the leadership of Bishop David Talley: ¡**Adelante! Going Forward Together, On Mission...That All May Be One (John 17:21)**! As Bishop Talley prepares for retirement, we give thanks for his years of service and continue the journey forward together as one diocesan family.

Students are invited to submit an original work that expresses what "**The Journey to Emmaus**" and "**On the Journey Together**" mean to them personally. Selected winners and finalists will have their work featured through diocesan communications, including the Diocese of Memphis website, social media platforms, school communications, and printed materials.

All entries must be original and comply with the contest rules and submission guidelines.

Contest Rules:

1. Artwork submission must be an original creation and the work of the contestant. Group submissions are allowed.
2. Students must fill out an entry form to enter the contest. The entry form will be sent home via home-school communication folders within each of the schools.
3. Each contestant can submit only one entry per category. If more than one entry is submitted, only one entry will be judged.
4. Artwork must display the student's vision of what "The Journey to Emmaus" or "On the Journey" means to me. Students should attach a brief description of the art submission.
5. Students must submit a hard copy of the original artwork to their schoolteacher.
6. The Diocese of Memphis reserves the right to display, publish, and make work available to the public.
7. Artwork submitted to the contest will not be returned.
8. The Diocese of Memphis reserves the right to reject any entry.

Artwork Guidelines

1. Students should write their name on the back of their artwork.
2. All entries must be one of the following:
 - Writing Category: Poetry, prayer, essay, or song writing. Videos will be accepted for these submissions.
 - Visual Arts Category: Photography, painting, sketching, sculpture, collage. (If your chosen medium or genre is not listed here, that is OK! Go ahead and submit it.)
3. Art entries must be no larger than 12" x 18".
4. Video Entries should be no longer than 3 minutes.

Judges

1. Judges will select the best pieces of artwork based on the following criteria:
 - a. Creativity
 - b. Originality
 - c. Artistic quality
 - d. Depiction of the theme
2. Judges will use the following rubric:

Art Contest Rubric: "Journey to Emmaus" and "On the Journey Together"

Criteria	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score
Creativity	Highly innovative and imaginative; offers a unique perspective.	Shows good creativity; presents ideas in a fresh way.	Some creative elements; relies on common themes or ideas.	Lacks creativity; very predictable or derivative.	
Originality	Work is completely original; reflects the student's unique style.	Mostly original; some elements may be inspired by others.	Limited originality; heavily references existing works.	Not original; closely resembles existing art or ideas.	
Artistic Quality	Exceptional craftsmanship; technique and skill are evident.	Good craftsmanship; shows a solid grasp of artistic techniques.	Fair craftsmanship; some technical issues present.	Poor craftsmanship; lacks attention to detail or skill.	
Depiction of Theme	Powerfully conveys the theme; deeply explores "Growing Together in God's Love."	Clearly represents the theme; relevant and meaningful connection.	Some connection to the theme; lacks depth or clarity.	Little or no connection to the theme; unclear message.	

Total Score: ____ / 16

Comments:

- Judges can provide additional feedback in this section to help students understand their strengths and areas for improvement.

This rubric allows judges to assess each piece of artwork comprehensively while ensuring that students' efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Schedule and Deadlines

- Submission deadline: January 8, 2027. Entries must be brought to the classroom school teacher (who will bring to Main Office) by end of school day. Allison Thron from the Catholic Diocese of Memphis will pick up all art work from each school on January 11.
- Winners will be announced and contacted during 2027 Catholic Schools Week January 31, 2027, to Saturday, February 6, 2027. There will be 18 winners.