# 2025-2026 National Education Contest
## Themes/Divisions/Categories/Rules

THEMES OF CONTEST: (Choose **One**) The Least of These. Matthew 25:40 **OR** The Least of These: Lifting Others Up.

Divisions & Categories: Note: Students may be Catholic and Non-Catholic

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|---|---|---|
| Division 1 | Grades 4-5 | Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art |
| Division 2 | Grades 6-7-8 | Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography |
| Division 3 | Grades 9-10-11-12 | Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography |
| Division 4 | Adult **CDA** members | Poetry, Art, Photography |

**Rules**: **All entries must be of contestant's own imagination and creation**

**Essay: Typed only,** not to exceed 450 words on one page; not front and back.

**Poetry:** Any style of poetry, typed, not to exceed eight (8) lines

**Art:** Size: 8 1/2 x 11 No Lettering (your art carries the message). Do not put your name on the Art. How the theme is carried out in Art will be part of the judging, in addition to artistic talent. Medium: Crayon, markers, ink, paints (watercolor, acrylic, oil), charcoal, pencil (black or colored), pastels (chalk) and duct tape. **No computer art and colored in.**

**Computer Art:** Size: 8 ½" x 11" or 8" X 12", No Lettering. Art must be artist's own creation and should fill the majority of the page. NO clip art or images imported from web sites.

**Music:** Lyrics and notes must be on professional music score paper (melody, harmony, and accompaniment, all of which must be notated accurately), and **must be contestant's own creation**. Please use composition music paper **with** composer's name. CD or thumb drive (no Mp3, MIDI, or other electronic formats allowed) of the performance must accompany the entry using the music score paper and name on it. While the composition must be the contestant's own creation, the performer of the composition does not need to be the composer. No DVD.

**Photography**: Size 8" X 10" picture depicting the theme. Do not add matting. The contestant must have taken picture. May not be a computer downloaded image or a picture of a picture. Can be color or black and white. Cannot be a collage. **Cannot be a copy of a photography as it needs to be the photograph. Can have words in the photo.**

Judges will use rules of Clarity, Grammar, Spelling, Interpretation of Theme, and all peculiar rules in the categories listed above.

**GENERAL RULES**

1) Contestants may enter a Category only once but may submit entries in multiple categories. A local Catholic Daughters Court must sponsor contestants.
2) Entries on other themes or not conforming to the rules will be disqualified.
3) **Entries will not be returned**. All contest material becomes the property of the National Court with the right to display and/or publish any or all material.
4) Decisions of the judges will be final. Judges reserve the right to make no award in a Division or Category. Commercial entries will be disqualified. Judging will be based on the Rubric Scoring provided.
5) A **2025-2026** Entry Form must accompany each entry properly signed and completed. Names must be legible. Forms are to be glued or taped to back of entry, except for Music. **Music** entry forms to be put in plastic sleeve and CD or thumb drive with it.

**DEADLINE:** **Local Court Deadline is** 2/4/26 **Send your entry, complete with 2025-2026 Entry Form to the Local Court Contest Chairperson. If mailed, entries must be postmarked by** 2/4/2026

**Awards:** The one first place winning entry for each Category in each Division (**either theme, not both**) will be forwarded to the State Contest Chairperson and the winning entries at the State level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson.

Awards at the local level will be determined by the local Court. Winning entry awards at the state level will be determined by the State Court. National Prizes for each Division are:

**FIRST PLACE-$100.00 SECOND PLACE-$50.00 THIRD PLACE- $25.00**

# 2025-2026 Education Contest Entry Form

(Tape or glue this form to the back of your entry *except* for music.)
MUSIC NEEDS TO HAVE PLASTIC SHEET PROTECTOR WITH ENTRY FORM AND CD OR THUMB DRIVE W/NAME ON IT, SECURED AND MUSIC IN ANOTHER SHEET PROTECTOR. BOTH NEED TO BE SECURED.

**Please type or print**

Category:_____

Division:_____ Grade:_____

Theme: _____

Name:(Please Print)_____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of School (or Court if adult): _____

**Signed Statement:** This contest entry is my own creative work. I did not copy all or any part of this entry from any other person's work. I agree that if my entry is a National winner, it may be published by the National Court or put on its website.

**Contestant's Signature:** _____

**DO NOT CUT OFF THE BOTTOM OF THIS SHEET!**

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**Return to:**
Name of Sponsoring Court: Mother Teresa No. 2510

City of Sponsoring Court Sioux Falls State: SD

Name of Education Chairperson: Kathi Lindquist

Phone: 605-940-7256

Address: 1600 South Marion Road

City: Sioux Falls State: SD Zip: 57106

**This signed form MUST ACCOMPANY all contest entries and be fully, legibly completed. Do not fold or roll entries.**

**Note to Education Chairpersons:** Please be sure to include your court name, number, city, and state as well as the name and address of the chairperson to whom the entries are to be returned to by the participant.

Winners will be listed on the Catholic Daughters website after August 20,2026.
Catholic Daughters of the Americas website: www.catholicdaughters.org