The purpose of this essay contest is to recognize excellence in writing that shares the distinctiveness of Catholic thought.

**THEME**

Catholic Citizenship

**AWARDS**

First Prize: $2,500 Scholarship  
Second Prize: $1,500 Scholarship  
Third Prize: $1,000 Scholarship

**ELIGIBILITY**

High School students in their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year of studies as of December 31, 2008

**TOPIC**

In a recent speech, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, of the Archdiocese of Denver spoke about the role of Catholics in politics: "As Christians, we can't claim to love God and then ignore the needs of our neighbors. Loving God is like loving a spouse. A husband may tell his wife that he loves her, and of course that's very beautiful. But she'll still want to see the evidence in his actions. Likewise if we claim to be 'Catholic,' we need to prove it by our behavior. And serving other people by working for justice and charity in our nation's political life is one of the very important ways we do that.

The 'separation of Church and state' does not mean—and it can never mean—separating our Catholic faith from our public witness, our political choices and our political actions. That kind of separation would require Christians to deny who we are; to repudiate Jesus when he commands us to be 'leaven in the world' and to 'make disciples of all nations.' That kind of separation steals the moral content of a society. It's the equivalent of telling a married man that he can't act married in public. Of course, he can certainly do that, but he won't stay married for long."

Your essay should explain how you understand the relationship between faith and politics. You might consider how should young Catholics understand citizenship or whether this would differ in other political systems than we have in the United States, for example.

**RULES**

1. Essays should be between 1,500 to 2,000 words in length. They should be written in English, typed in a 12-point font, and double spaced with 1" margins. All pages should be numbered. The essay must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. No names or identifying references should appear on the paper itself. Essays will be coded upon receipt to insure anonymity.

2. In one package, entrants must submit three copies of the essay and a completed Entry Form. Entrants are encouraged to mail entries as certified mail if they would like confirmation of receipt.

3. All entries must be received on or before January 30, 2009.

4. No electronic or faxed entries will be accepted.

5. All essays must be the original, unpublished work of the student.

6. Only one entry per student per contest year may be submitted.

7. Winning entries will become the property of DeSales University, including copyright.

8. Due to the volume of entries, submissions will not be returned.

9. Scholarships are not transferable and may only be used towards tuition charges at DeSales University upon successful matriculation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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