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

THEME
the god of disaster

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, 2006

TOPIC
On December 26, 2004, a tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed almost a quarter of a million people, and wrecked communities for thousands of miles. The coastal communities in Mississippi and Louisiana, including New Orleans, are still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005.

In the aftermath of these natural disasters, many writers and commentators saw these events as affirmations of either God's omnipotence or God's nonexistence. In reflecting on these kinds of natural events and their significance, entrants are challenged to answer the following question:

Who is the God of disaster? How can Christians believe in a good and loving God in the face of such horrific suffering?

Your completed essay should reflect an individual voice that interprets additional sources. Students are encouraged to raise ethical issues and to show how Catholic thought interacts with and influences contemporary culture. Readers are looking for well-crafted essays that stay on the chosen topic. They should be original and creative with a developed sense of the Catholic tradition. Essays should demonstrate depth and intensity of thought.

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 February 16, 2007.
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 All essays must be the original, unpublished work of the student.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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