

**SACRAMENTO DIOCESE  
BLACK CATHOLIC COUNCIL  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
ESSAY CONTEST**

Official Rules and Guidelines

The Black History Month Essay Contest is open to all catholic high school students (grades 9-12) in the Sacramento Diocese and high school students who actively participate in parish youth programs throughout the Diocese. Three winners will be selected. Winners will be notified by mail.

- Entries must be emailed to [bcc@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:bcc@diocese-sacramento.org) or [Charlene\\_har@msn.com](mailto:Charlene_har@msn.com), or mailed to Charlene Harris at the Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway, and Sacramento, CA 95818, by 5:00 p.m. **February 10, 2012.**

Students may select one of the following essay topics:

1. Other than illegal hits to the head and questionable calls by referees, a controversial issue this NFL season is a phenomenon called *Tebowing*. Denver Broncos quarterback, Tim Tebow, openly proclaims his faith in interviews, post-game press conferences, coffee shops, or wherever he is. After a touchdown and during particularly tense game moments, he drops to one knee, putting his fist to his forehead in what looks like a power prayer stance that people have given the nick name – *Tebowing*. The reaction to *Tebowing* has been polarizing with some people applauding him and some people openly tweeting and publicly ridiculing him for being so open with his faith.
  - a. What is your point of view on *Tebowing*?
  - b. Tell us about a Black Catholic Leader in the United States. Were their accomplishments similar to those of Tim Tebow?
  
2. We live in a time when society confuses joy with happiness, but Scripture does not. Happiness is human; joy is divine. Happiness is fleeting, but true joy is eternal. Without God, who is Love, joy is not possible. But, if Love is the root, joy is the fruit (CCC 1829).
  - a. What is the role of Joy in the lives of young Catholics?
  - b. Tell us about a Black Catholic Leader in the United States. How did they share Joy with others?

- Each student may enter only one essay.
- Essays should be no longer than 1,000 words in length.
- Essays submitted must include: contestant's name, home address, telephone number, school or parish youth group the student attends, grade level and title of the essay.
- The first place winner will receive \$200; the second place winner will receive \$100; and the third place prize winner will receive \$75.
- Contact Charlene L. Harris at 916-733-0160 or email me at [bcc@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:bcc@diocese-sacramento.org) or [Charlene.har@msn.com](mailto:Charlene.har@msn.com) for any further questions.
- All essays must be submitted in one of the following formats:
  - Simple text (.txt)
  - Rich Text Format (.rtf)*
  - Microsoft Word (.doc)