APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
KofC George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Program 2025-2026
in memory of the Council's Passionate Pro-Life Leader
Father Vincent S. Sikora Knights of Columbus Council No. 7992

Up to eight scholarships of $750 each will be awarded to eligible 8th-grade, high school and college/university/trade school students. One scholarship designated the ***Mike Litzelman Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship,*** in honor of the dedicated right-to-life advocate, Mike Litzelman, will be awarded to the top scoring eligible 8th-grade applicant, should at least one eligible 8th-grader apply. All entrants, including the remaining 8th graders, are eligible for the remaining scholarships.

Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to further build up the *Culture of Life* at Nativity from the "ground-up", energizing eighth-grade, high school and college/university/trade school students to:

1. Become better educated on pro-life issues consistent with Catholic Church teaching.
2. Better understand Catholic pro-life thinking to help students be more confident, more at ease, and better equipped to address current life topics with their friends and others they interact with in the secular world.

NOTE: A student does not have to have any pro-life experience to win a scholarship. Every student that applies for a scholarship—or even reads the application—will be better equipped to address some of the most critical issues. This can lead to conversion of hearts, the saving of lives, and much reduced heartache and distress in the future!

Applicant Requirements

All applicants must meet these requirements:

1. The applicant or the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be registered member(s) of Nativity Catholic Church, Burke, Virginia.
2. Entry is limited to those individuals who are attending eighth grade or high school (public, private, Catholic, or homeschooled) or college/university/trade school during the current academic year.
3. The scholarship award may only be used for education-related expenses.

Entry Rules

1. Written and artistic submissions must respond directly to the required prompts and be the student's work.
2. All submissions must be in a Microsoft Word document with 1-inch margins with 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial) text. (The application submission form is included as a separate attachment in this application package.)

3. Written (and optional artwork) requirements are described in Parts II and III.
4. Entries should conform to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
5. The applicant is required to read the application in its entirety.
6. Pro-life experiences are not a requirement.
7. A previous scholarship award winner may submit an application, but must respond to a completely different topic in Part III than that for which a previous award was given.

Scholarship Award Criteria

Awards will be based upon the following criteria, with scores adjusted for grade level:
1. Applicant's efforts to educate self on pro-life issues consistent with Catholic Church teaching through this application process – 65%
2. Applicant's ability to exercise Catholic pro-life critical thinking – 35%

General Instructions for Completing the Application

Applications may be obtained from the Nativity Parish website: https://nativityburke.org/getek-memorial-scholarship/

Email completed application (including parental approval for minors) to: life7992@nativityburke.org, Subject: "Completed Student Application Submittal Form - KofC George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship" "with an email submittal date no later than midnight, Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Send separate email (with no attachments) requesting confirmation of receipt of above "Completed Student Application Submittal Form" email.

Note: Parental approval is only required for students under 18 years of age; for signature, the parent/guardian can simply type her/his name and date on Signature of Parent/Guardian line and then reply by email stating "I approve of my daughter/son, named xxx, applying for this scholarship." This should be done before, but NLT the date the student submits the application.

When the student completes the application, she/he can simply type her/his name in the Signature of Applicant line when submitting application.

Note that applications will not be returned and become the property of the Knights of Columbus.

To ensure a response, question(s) should be emailed to: life7992@nativityburke.org no later than midnight, five days before the application submittal due date, Subject: "KofC George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Program – Application Question(s)".

Detailed Instructions for Completing the Application

Part I – Biographical Information and Parent/Guardian Approval*

The form for all of your responses is found in the separate file, *Student Application Submittal Form - KofC George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship 2025-2026*.
*Note: Parental approval is only required for applicants under 18 years of age.

Part II – Description of How I've Become Better Educated on Right-to-Life Pro-life Issues through this Application Process.

Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights-for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture- is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination. Pope John Paul II, Christifideles Laici (1988), no. 38

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants." St. Mother Teresa

After *Live Action*'s Lila Rose's 10/2/2025 debate against abortion at Yale University, she reported in a 10/3/2025 email, *We won at Yale*, *"The room voted overwhelmingly for life, 64 to 31. The Yale organizer was shocked… change is here. The pro-life cause is advancing. God is on the move. In my remarks, I told the room that true women's empowerment cannot come through the bloodshed of our children. The child in the womb has the right to live. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and every life has equal worth. People's hearts are made for truth. I can see people waking up to these facts."*

"To promote the common good, we must form our consciences and vote, recognizing that: Many issues are important; Not all issues have equal moral weight; Protecting life is paramount. Above all else, addressing the tragedy of abortion is the "pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone" VA Bishops Pre-election Letter September 2025.

With great zeal we should educate ourselves on the truth of the humanity of the unborn, on the right to life issues, and against the greatest moral and civil rights issue in humanity—the barbaric killing of the weakest and most vulnerable among us, the innocent child in the womb—and the related grave threat of the Extreme Abortion Amendment to the Virginia Constitution as referenced by Bishop Burbidge (Bishop Michael F. Burbidge's Statement on Respect Life Month - Catholic Diocese of Arlington) and his urgent call to *Vote This November For Pro-Life Delegates*. As such, this Part II will focus on the right to life and pro-life responses to some popular pro-choice abortion slogans/claims that can be helpful to you in the future.

To be completed by the applicant.
Respond to (A) and (B). Responses to each item in Part II are limited to only one paragraph of any size (as indicated in each section) and are to be included in the separate *Student Application Submittal Form* file.

(A) Prompt. Click on the link https://babyolivia.liveaction.org/ and watch the (~3 min) Baby Olivia video. "*The Baby Olivia project provides a medically accurate, animated glimpse of human life from the moment of fertilization. The story details her growth as she progresses from one developmental stage to the next, in preparation for her continued life outside of the womb*." [liveaction.org] Describe in one paragraph what stood out to you or what interesting things you learned from watching the video.

(B) Respond to at least one of (B.1) – (B.3), and then respond to B.4.

If you haven't yet, you will experience people with pro-choice views, so it will be helpful to you down the road to take to heart some common sense, reasonable replies to the falsehoods of popular abortion slogans. Remember, you have the truth on your side!

(B.1) Prompt. Read the 1½-page debate article by Lila Rose, *Should Abortion Be Legal* (found in the separate "*Application Instructions Reference File"),* then describe in one paragraph what stood out to you or what interesting things you learned from Rose's responses to the pro-choice debater's three claims:

- "*Abortion is self-defense*" (Claim 1)
- "*Bodily autonomy justifies abortion*" (Claim 2)
- "*Truth is subjective*" (Claim 3)

(B.2) Prompt. Click on the link, https://www.liveaction.org/videos/playlist/pro-life-replies-to-pro-choice-arguments/full-series-pro-life-replies-to-pro-choice-arguments. This *Live Action* video series provides realistic replies to the tragic lies of popular abortion slogans.

Watch at least one of the three (~4 min) videos below, then describe in one paragraph (for each video you decide to watch) what stood out to you or what interesting things you learned:

- "*My Body, My Choice,*" (0:00 – 3:58)
- "*A Fetus Is Not A Person*" (12:54 – 17:16)
- "*I'm Personally Pro-Life, but I don't want to impose my belief on others*" (38:32 – 42:02)

(B.3) Prompt. Read the following two-page article by Scott Klusendorf, *How to Defend Your Pro-Life Views in 5 Minutes or Less*, www.prolifetraining.com/pro-lifer/how-to-defend-your-pro-life-views-in-5-minutes-or-less/, then describe in one paragraph what stood out to you or what interesting things you learned in his three simple steps to defend pro-life beliefs on the right to life.

- *Clarify the Issue*
- *Defend Your Pro-Life Position with Science and Philosophy*
- *Challenge Your Listeners to be Intellectually Honest*

(B.4) Prompt. Indicate the most frequent pro-choice remark(s) that you've personally heard/seen, and describe: how they relate to the example slogans/claims in B.1-B.3, any relevant situations you've encountered, and any thoughts you may have on how you might approach remarks such as these in the future. Respond in one paragraph.

Part III – Creating a Culture of Life

"Together, we are called to create a culture of life through prayer, through accompaniment of mothers in need, through support of pregnancy resource centers, and through unwavering advocacy for laws that promote and safeguard the dignity of every human person as a child of

God." Bishop Michael F. Burbidge's Statement on Respect Life Month - Catholic Diocese of Arlington, 9/29/2025.

To be completed by the applicant.

(A) Prompt: Select and Respond to one of the Prompts (either A.1, A.2, A.3, or A.4)
Response is to be included in the separate *Student Application Submittal Form* file.

For the applicant choosing the written response to the selected prompt, the written response shall be a minimum of 250 words (about a half-page) and be no more than two pages in length, and must be an evident expression of the prompt selected.

For the applicant choosing an artistic response to the selected prompt, the artwork shall be included in section Part IV below and fit within one page. The accompanying written response to the artwork shall be included in Part III (B). It shall be a minimum of 50 words and no more than one page in length and should describe in sufficient detail how the art expresses the particular aspects of the prompt selected.

- (A.1) Life is precious from the perspective of the unborn child that was aborted
  - Prompt. Portray through writing/art why you think the pro-life song, "*I Was Gonna Be*", (3.5 min.) was so successful and what that may tell us about how to do a better job of portraying the humanness of preborn children that never get to see the light of day nor the love of their mothers. (Background. "*I Was Gonna Be*", sung by 18-year-old Rachel Holt and written by Chris Wallin, sky-rocketed to one of the top country songs in the world in 2024.)
- (A.2) Life is precious from the eyes of a loving mother
  - Prompt. Watch the short (5 min.) video, **St. Gianna Beretta Molla - Lover of Life,** and provide your take through writing/art on various aspects of St. Gianna's life and her priorities from this video (and/or other sources if you wish), and relate it to someone you know that you admire and/or your life.
- (A.3) The *Culture of Life* is Good, True, and Beautiful
  - Describe through writing/art how Bishop Burbidge's statement, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge's Statement on Respect Life Month - Catholic Diocese of Arlington, 9/29/2025, exemplifies one or more of the aspects of the good, the true, and the beautiful. (See the "*Hints*" section in the "Application Instructions Reference File" for a key Catechism reference and practical examples.)
- (A.4) Choose a culture of life prompt below and respond through writing/art.
  - For grades 8th through High School, find a pro-life topic that interests you in the *Example Pro-Life Topics (and sample Catholic References)* section included in the "Application Instructions Reference File."
  - For college/university/trade school grades, find a pro-life subject that interests you in the *Example Pro-Life Subjects (and sample Catholic References)* section included in the "Application Instructions Reference File." Or choose from the *Example Pro-Life Topics (and sample Catholic References)* section.