MEMO

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
Catholic Herald

Date: November 6, 2026

To: Principals, Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education, Youth Ministers

From: Katie Hollcraft, Editor of *Catholic Herald* Magazine

RE: Young Storytellers Contest - High School submissions being accepted

Catholic Herald magazine is looking to feature young storytellers from throughout the diocese in our inaugural Lent/Easter 2027 issue being mailed out next March. All high school students in our schools and parish youth programs (freshmen through seniors) are welcome to participate in one of four categories: original short story, poem, photograph, or illustrations. First place for each category will appear in our print issue. First and second runners up will appear on our website and social media accounts. Prompts for each category are attached.

The theme of the issue is "By his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53) and submissions will be judged by a panel taking into consideration 1) interpretation and clarity of the theme, 2) originality and creativity, and 3) style and composition. All submissions are due by **Thursday, December 10, 2026** and should be sent to khollcraft@scd.org. Students to be featured will hear back by January 22, 2027.

Thank you!

Catholic Herald Young Storytellers Contest – High School

Short Story Prompt
Write a short story in which the protagonist goes on a journey to seek healing for a wound, internal or external, physical or emotional. The short story should be 1,200-1,500 words. Submissions should be sent in a Word document via email to khollcraft@scd.org with the subject line: "Full Name – Short Story submission."

Illustration Prompt
Choose a Gospel healing account (e.g. Jairus' daughter, Blind Bartimeus, etc.) and illustrate that encounter or an image inspired by that encounter. Illustrations should be sent as a scanned PDF or JPG and should be 300 dpi at print size (check image file properties). Email submissions to khollcraft@scd.org with the subject line: "Full name – Illustration submission."

Photography Prompt
Choose someone in your life who is a healer (physical or emotional) and make them the subject of your photo. The photo must be captioned with the subject's full name, what's happening in the photo, and one line explaining why you chose them. Photos should be submitted as a JPG and should be 300 dpi at print size (check image file properties). Email submissions to khollcraft@scd.org with photo caption in the email body and "Full Name – Photo submission" in the subject line.

Poetry Prompt
Write a one-page poem reflecting on any of the subjects prompted above: Isaiah 53, a journey to seek healing for a wound, a Gospel healing account, or a person in your life who is a healer. You can submit any style of poetry. Submissions should be sent in a Word document via email to khollcraft@scd.org with the subject line: "Full Name – Poetry submission."

***NOTE:** Any submissions suspected of using AI to generate images, writing, or editing will not be considered. This competition is hosted by the Diocese of Sacramento, as such all submissions should respect our faith traditions and Church teaching.