

# GARAVENTA CENTER

## for Catholic Intellectual Life and American Culture

### 2023/24 High School Essay Contest

Current high school juniors are invited to submit original essays based on the prompt:

#### **“Surprised By Joy”**

Tell a true story about a time you found yourself experiencing genuine joy, even though the circumstances leading up to that moment might have seemed to call for just about any reaction EXCEPT joy.

#### **CONTEST RULES:**

- Essays should be no more than 1,000 words, typed, and double-spaced.
- Don't shy away from emotional “oomph.” Be honest, even playful.
- Each essay should include a personal title (do not use the contest theme as a title) on a separate cover page which includes author's name, email and permanent mailing address, as well as the high school name, sponsoring teacher's name and email.
- Student and high school name must not appear on the essay pages, only on the cover sheet.
- Students who make submissions must be current juniors.
- Open to all Catholic High Schools in Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah & Washington.
- Each school may submit up to four essays, each sent as a separate Word documents.
- All submissions must be Word docs sent via email to [garaventa@up.edu](mailto:garaventa@up.edu) (no PDFs).

#### **\$500 AND \$250 AWARDS**

Two top prizes and three honorable mentions will be awarded. Authors of the top two essays will receive \$500 each and three honorable mention winners will receive \$250 each. These are cash awards for the contest, not scholarships.



**Submission deadline:**  
**Friday, February 16, 2023**



*For questions or more information contact us at [garaventa@up.edu](mailto:garaventa@up.edu) or (503) 943-7702.*