

Newspaper Division

N01a: BEST FRONT PAGE: Broadsheet (17 x 22")

First Place

The Catholic Messenger, "Best Front Page" by Anne Marie Amacher, Barb Arland-Fye, Lindsay Steele

I really loved this entry. The pictures were very large and colorful, which made an impression on me as a reader/viewer. Additionally, the titles of the actual stories made me want to read on. I loved the focus on youth activism and social justice work. The organization of the pages was always clean and easy to follow.

Second Place

Pittsburgh Catholic, "Best Front Page" by STAFF

Overall, they covered a strong variety of topics, used many colors and fonts, and had a strong use of photos and other images. However, the layout was not as clear/easy to follow as it could be. Additionally, the headlines did not catch my interest as much as they could have.

Third Place

FaithLife, "FaithLife newspaper" by Mary Solberg, Rich Papalia

Strong use of photos, fonts, and colors. Solid graphic design and fusion between text and images. Admittedly, I was not as drawn to the topics covered in the articles as in some other entries. However, it was still a really strong entry.

Honorable Mention

National Catholic Register, "The Trump Presidency", "The Register at 90", "Fractured Faith: The Reformation at 500" by Jeanette De Melo, Tom Wehner, Amy Smith, Melissa Hartog.

N01b: BEST FRONT PAGE: Tabloid (11 x 17")

First Place

Orange County Catholic, "Issues of September 3, 10, 17, 2017" by Art Director: John Cheresch

This was a great submission! I love the very large, captivating picture of the boy on the first entry with his face painted. The large, bright white text stands out against this photo and caught my eyes and attention. On the second sample, I liked the one large picture and the three smaller ones of the side, all of which have brief text accompanying them. I also really liked the clever "reaching new heights" title on the 3rd, and the picture of the site mid-construction, which many do not get a chance to see.

Second Place

Catholic Standard, "Head of the Class"; "Mission of Mercy"; "True Blue" by Photographs by Jaclyn Lippelmann; Design by Javier Diaz and Jaclyn Lippelmann

I love this! The pictures brought a smile to my face. It was one of the few that I had a genuine reaction to when I saw it. The colors are bright, the photos large (and interesting!), and the layout is simple. I prefer this type of cover (which has minimal text) to those that tries to incorporate the start of articles into the cover and clutter it with words. These covers are sharp and clean and let the pictures speak for themselves.

Third Place

The Catholic Spirit, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ, "Best Front Page" by The Catholic Spirit staff

Strong use of colors, fonts, and layout. It is very aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate. I liked the colored text boxes and the large, bright photos.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic Health World, "Catholic Health World" by Judy VandeWater Les Stock

National Catholic Reporter, "National Catholic Reporter" by Toni-Ann Ortiz

N02a: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENT: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Catholic Sun, "'Lifesaving' Upstate Cord Blood Bank opens: Auburn family makes first donation at lab in Syracuse" by Tom Maguire

Timely coverage of a compelling topic. Is a classic case of a story that informs but also might spur others to act.

Second Place

Rhode Island Catholic, "Pastoral Planning Providing Guidance as Parishes Chart Future in Uncertain Times" by Rick Snizek

This was a thorough report on the difficult decisions that are considered and made about parish futures. Story pulled no punches and was well reported.

Third Place

The Catholic Sun, "Free dental clinic expands in Syracuse; Dental service shows off new suite to potential volunteers" by Tom Maguire

Loved the topic. Well-written and this story gives a nudge to others who might be considering donating their money or services to this important part of health care.

Honorable Mentions

The Boston Pilot, "Residents, clergy, and police walk for peace in Dorchester" by Mark Labbe

The Observer, "Governor Rauner Reneges on Promise to Veto Abortion Funding" by Penny Wiegert

N02b: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENT: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

CatholicPhilly.com, "Parish Mass attendance drops again, but cultural diversity surging" by Matthew Gambino and Lou Baldwin

Interesting hard-hitting look at attendance and trends supported by data. Clear writing. Challenging topic addressed head-on.

Second Place

The Leaven, "Hope Amid the Ashes" by Joe Bollig

This is a compelling package about recovery from devastating fires.

Third Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "The opioid epidemic" by Zoey Maraist

A solid local look at this very serious problem and how the church can be part of the reaction to it. Lot of work went into this story, it seems.

Honorable Mention

Clarion Herald, "An artistic transformation" by Beth Donze

N02c: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENT: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Laying down your life" by Ed Langlois

Great coverage of how the community and the Church responded to this terrible tragedy. Well written and thoughtfully presented.

Second Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Human shield protects assaulted parishioners" by Rocío Rios, Ed Langlois

Strong writing and reporting. Challenging topic. Nice work in a competitive category.

Third Place

The Michigan Catholic, "Beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey" by Mike Stechschulte and Dan Meloy This story was by far the biggest covered by The Michigan Catholic in 2017, and was a focus of many, many stories, culminating in a 44-page special supplement on Nov. 18

Solid ongoing coverage. Clearly a lot of work went into this package. Good writing and editing.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic Standard, "With public apology at liturgy and by renaming buildings, Georgetown confronts its slavery past" by Story by Mark Zimmermann Photos by Jaclyn Lippelmann

Tennessee Register, "More Latino families finding a home in Catholic schools" by Andy Telli

N02d: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENT: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

Texas Catholic Herald, "Terror, Heartbreak and the Beatitudes: The Story of Harvey's Reckoning" by Jonah Dycus, Rebecca Torrellas, Catherine Viola, Sean O'Driscoll, James Ramos

This was a thorough package that touched all aspects of this massive story and its wide impact. Comprehensive coverage of the impact on the community, and the responses to the devastation. Applause for the resources devoted to this important effort.

Second Place

Florida Catholic Miami, "Hurricane Irma" by Ana Rodriguez-Soto, Tom Tracy, Cristina Cabrera, Jim Davis, Marlene Quaroni, Archbishop Thomas Wenski

Great coverage. Bravo on pivoting under difficult circumstances. And the chainsaw-wielding nun story was a gem. Congrats on great work. Very competitive category.

Third Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Belle Plaine Catholics say 'no thanks' to Satanic monument" by Matthew Davis

Thoughtful coverage of this unusual and troubling debate. Both sides were presented so the reader could understand how this difficult situation came about. A good effort in a very competitive category.

Honorable Mention

Western New York Catholic, "Bicyclists do a 'Holy Roll' through 7 churches on Holy Thursday" by Patrick J. Buechi

Nice coverage of an unusual cycling effort. Refreshing.

Honorable Mention

The Florida Catholic, Orlando, "President Trump visits Orlando Catholic School" by Jean Gonzalez

N03a: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL EVENT: National Event, Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

The Leaven, "Human Trafficking" by Marc and Julie Anderson

Human trafficking is a timely and urgent crisis. This coverage represents the best of what Catholic journalism can provide. The author provided poignant stories, well-researched facts, and lists of resources to create a complete package for the reader.

Second Place

Clarion Herald, "Painful truths, hopeful future" by Peter Finney Jr.

Truth-telling can be painful but is necessary. The author used touching stories, captivating quotes, and clearly described detail to tell this important story about the history of slavery and Georgetown University.

Third Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Father Stanley Rother" by Maria Wiering

This making-of-a-saint story provides a fascinating view of a priest with remarkable spiritual courage. The story is well told with descriptive detail creating good human interest.

Honorable Mentions

Clarion Herald, "African-born clergy and religious in U.S. growing" by Beth Donze

St. Louis Review, "Between Heaven and Earth; Total(ity) amazement" by Staff

N03b: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL EVENT: National Event, National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Meeting rallies to 'stand with those whose backs are against the wall'; San Diego bishop urges crowd to become disrupters and rebuilders" by Brian Roewe

With an impressive list of sources, these well-written and crafted articles tell a powerful story.

Second Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Words are not enough: Racial justice activists urge action from Catholic leaders" by Heidi Schlumpf

Weaving past and recent news events with contemporary responses but Church leadership, this well-researched and crafted article lays out Church and world responses to the sin of racism.

Third Place

National Catholic Register, "Racism on Main Street" by Peter Jesserer Smith

Chronicling the horror of racism and its immediate effects, this coverage is informative and descriptive. The appeal to stomping out racism is strengthened with the references and quotes of diverse U.S. bishops.

Honorable Mentions

National Catholic Reporter, "A Nation Under Trump" by Dawn Araujo-Hawkins, James Dearie, Maria Benevento, Antoine de Tarlé, Heidi Schlumpf. Articles submitted: "Women amplify their political voices" "US foreign policy substantively the same" "Immigration rhetoric put into action" "The Trump presidency and Europe's dilemma"

Our Sunday Visitor, "The Church and the #metoo movement" by Michelle Martin

N03c: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL EVENT: International Event, Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Fatima: A century of devotion" by Ann M. Aughterton

With a descriptive narrative the author updates the story of the three children of Fatima and the beatification of two of them. The words paint a picture of the story.

Second Place

The Observer, "Pope Francis Visits Colombia" by Margarita Mendoza

Good first-hand account of Pope Francis

Third Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Liberty, equality and fraternity" by Ann M. Aughterton

Honorable Mentions

The Evangelist, "Local faithful rejoice at beatification of Rev. Stanley Rother" by Kate Blain

The Boston Pilot, "Vatican 'too optimistic' in talks with China, says visiting Hong Kong cardinal"

N03d: BEST NEWS WRITING ON A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL EVENT: International Event, National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Coverage of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors" by Joshua J. McElwee. Articles submitted: "Lone survivor on Vatican abuse commission resigns in frustration," "O'Malley pledges pope still committed to rooting out clergy sex abuse," "Francis speaks out about Marie Collins' resignation," "Papal abuse commission."

Bold in approach, the coverage of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors is told with precision. The addition of the first person story of the resignation of Marie Collins and Pope Francis' response rounds out this story which must see the light of day.

Second Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Coverage of Magnum Principium" by Joshua J. McElwee, Heidi Schlumpf, James Dearie, Dennis Coday, Sarah Mac Donald Articles submitted: "Francis decentralizes liturgical text translations," "Liturgical experts in US praise shift," "A short history of the 'liturgy wars,'" "Francis corrects cardinal on liturgical translations," "Wuerl: Liturgical translation reform is 'what the council said'" "Seize the moment: Authors say it's time to roll back the 2010 missal"

Changes in liturgical language always rouse interest and ire. These articles spell out with clarity the background and implications of the current guides coming from Rome to the local church by way of the USCCB.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Trump and the refugees" by Michael Swan

The current plight of refugees in the U.S. deserves attention and response by the Church and this series of articles does just that with good background and breadth of coverage.

Honorable Mention

National Catholic Register, "Coverage of Persecuted Christians in the Middle East in the wake of ISIS" by Edward Pentin and Peter Jesserer Smith

N04a: BEST INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYSIS NEWS WRITING: Investigative News Writing, Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

CatholicPhilly.com, "The Opioid Epidemic: A Catholic Perspective" by Gina Christian

The reporter did a comprehensive and fully exhaustive examination of the opioid crises and the wide-ranging effects it is having in Philadelphia. The series revealed the extent of the crisis through anecdotal and statistical evidence. The reporting also focused on the Catholic response to the crisis, even diving into whether addiction is a sin. And finally, the reporting also offered potential solutions to the problem, or at least options being provided through the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations. Top-notch and in-depth reporting.

Second Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Playing catch-up: Catholic schools reach out to Oregon's Hispanic community" by Katie Scott

Very well researched and tightly written story about efforts to expand the reach of Oregon's Catholic schools into the Hispanic community. Interesting personal anecdotes supported by a variety of timely facts and figures shows the reporters ability to deftly report and write a story exhibiting the challenges on both sides of the issue.

Third Place

Clarion Herald, "A ministry of presence" by Peter Finney Jr.

Highly descriptive reporting about a timely and emotional issue and what is being done to address it. Writing style is smooth and clear, painting a picture for readers absent the lurid details that often bog down these types of stories.

N04b: BEST INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYSIS NEWS WRITING: Investigative News Writing, National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Coverage of money and the Catholic church" by Tom Roberts. Articles submitted: "The Knights' reach" "Find common cause,' spokesman advises NCR" "Koch, Turkson speak at Catholic University's 'Good Profit' conference" "Money and church intertwined"

The research and investigation for this story appears to be exhaustive. Reporter dug through a vast amount of federal tax forms in conducting research for the story and followed that up with detailed interviews in support of the research. Impressively weaved all of the research into a series of stories that explains in interesting detail how great sums of money are being disbursed by powerful people and organizations with ties to Catholicism.

Second Place

The Catholic Register, "Saving our kids" by Michael Swan

Stories did an excellent job of portraying challenges in Ontario's child care system as well as explaining the proposed reform of existing child care laws. Good use of experts mixed with interviews of those who have gone through the system, which paints a much needed picture for readers.

Third Place

The Irish Catholic, "Pro-repeal group return billionaire's cash after ethics watchdog probe; Funding a softening-up campaign; TD warns over well-funded lobbies targeting pro-life law; Amnesty vows it will not comply with funding law; Light shed on dark world of overseas fundi" by Greg Daly

Detailed reporting that makes a concerted effort to explain complex legal and political issues. Direct reporting mixed with in-depth analysis well serves the reader.

N04c: BEST INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYSIS NEWS WRITING: Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing: The Gerard E. Sherry Award for Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Faith and science series" by Ed Langlois, Sarah Wolf, Kristen Hannum, Katie Scott, Paul Senz, Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen

This wide-ranging series uses research and interviews to explore provocative questions bridging faith and science, such as whether there could be intelligent life on other planets, the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, and the responsibility to address climate change.

Second Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Untold history: Blacks in Oregon Catholic schools" by Katie Scott

These stories sensitively explore how Oregon schools, which are mostly white, can better meet the needs of African-American students. Interviews with students, parents and staff show how schools are starting difficult conversations, and a piece on the history of racism in Oregon provides valuable context.

Third Place

The Leaven, "Human Trafficking" by Marc and Julie Anderson

This analysis of human trafficking in Topeka challenges readers to recognize that trafficking is happening in their community, tells powerful stories of those who have been affected and those who seek to free them, and provides resources for those who want to learn more and help.

N04d: BEST INVESTIGATIVE/ANALYSIS NEWS WRITING: Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up New Writing: The Gerard E. Sherry Award for National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Sexual violence victims break the silence" by Heidi Schlumpf

This analysis of the Church's silence on the #metoo movement allows victims of sexual violence to speak for themselves, provides statistics on how many people are affected, and interviews theologians who explain how the Church can do better.

Second Place

National Catholic Register, "Coverage of the Reformation at 500" by Register staff and Stephen Beale, Steve Weidenkopf, Mark Brumley, Matthew Bunson, Susan Klemond

A fascinating and exhaustively reported exploration of the Reformation at 500, this series challenges common misperceptions, brings historical figures to life through vivid writing, and uses timelines and short profiles to show how centuries-old events still have resonance in today.

Third Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Annulment reform seems to cultivate change of culture; What are the changes to the annulment process?" by Dan Morris-Young

As applications for annulment rise dramatically in some dioceses, this story explains how the process works, describes recent changes in canon law, and gathers perspectives from interviews with diocesan leaders across the country.

N05a: BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS/SPECIAL REPORTING: Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "'Switching sexes? Transgender ideology and the Church" by Jonathan Liedl

A very balanced and thoughtful exploration of this timely topic that few readers know about. Lots of voices and a clear explanation of the church's perspective provides. Stood out for good writing as well in an extremely competitive category,

Second Place

The Leaven, "Human Trafficking" by Marc and Julie Anderson

Well written and reported. Great perspective on a difficult topic. Sensitive tone.

Third Place

The Tablet, "Where Have All the Convents Gone?" by Antonina Zielinska

Very good coverage of an unusual topic. Enjoyed the intersection of the current state of the church and changing real estate business. Readers learned a lot. Clearly a considerable amount of effort was put into these stories.

Honorable Mentions

Florida Catholic Miami, "Farewell to Curley-Notre Dame" by Ana Rodriguez-Soto

Catholic Outlook, "End-of-life issues" by Jessica Caraballo, Omar Rodriguez, Steff Koeneman, Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy, Michael Brown

N05b: BEST IN-DEPTH NEWS/SPECIAL REPORTING: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Register, "Sale of Priceless 'Salvador Mundi' Puts Catholic Treasure in Anti-Christian Land" by Victor Gaetan

Exceptional article. Tackles curious, absurd, complex global world in which money trumps meaning and raises specter of potential ramifications of when that valued by some is seized by others who do not share those values. Editorializing—via use of the word *tragically* and *worrisome*, as example—is inappropriate and unnecessary. The article is solid news and, as such, should allow for readers to draw their own conclusions from an article that questions the welfare of things/people in the grips of the uncompromising.

Second Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Awareness fosters hope for often-invisible sex-trafficking victims in the Midwest" by J. Malcolm Garcia, Soli Salgado, Toni-Ann Ortiz

Interesting read. In-depth with breadth. Excellent intertwining of personal stories with support resources created to address human trafficking.

Third Place

Catholic News Service, "Catholic ministry in the global shipping industry" by Ezra Fieser, Mark Pattison, R.W. Dellinger

Well done. Excellent interplay that brings into perspective global issues just off U.S. shores.

Honorable Mentions

National Catholic Register, "Indian Nun's Killer Participates in Her Beatification Mass" by Anto Akkara

*National Catholic Reporter, "Coverage of Uncommon Conversation" by Brian Roewe, Luke Hansen Articles submitted:
"Uncommon conversation' on sex abuse falls silent" "Making things right" "Priest-perpetrator shares his story"*

N06b: BEST EDITORIAL ON A LOCAL ISSUE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Criterion, "Standing strong against the evil of racism in our time" by Mike Krokos

This editorial is well-researched and compellingly argued.

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "It's time to get uncomfortable" by staff

Persuasive logic and appeal to Christian moral attitudes and behavior characterize this strong editorial.

Third Place

St. Louis Review, "City's pro-abortion law only strengthens our resolve" by Staff

In keeping with Catholic teaching this editorial makes a strong case with words and descriptions for positive pro-life responses and actions in light of local legislation.

Honorable Mentions

The Record newspaper, "Take action on opioid crisis" by Marnie McAllister

St. Louis Review, "They're watching us" by staff

N06c: BEST EDITORIAL ON A LOCAL ISSUE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Tennessee Register, "Media fails if it does not serve the common good" by Andy Telli

This editorial presents a compelling logical plea for journalists and readers alike grounded in Catholic teaching in the Catechism.

N06d: BEST EDITORIAL ON A LOCAL ISSUE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The A.D. Times, "Praying for a 'Full House'" by Father Eugene Ritz

Creatively using a metaphor, the author compares the elements of a 5-card stud poker hand with the story of the Incarnation.

N07a: BEST EDITORIAL ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Compass, "Las Vegas: Our spilled blood" by Patricia Kasten

Well-written and argued, this editorial presents a compelling persuasive plea for change in attitudes and actions in response to violence.

Second Place

The Compass, "Health care needs fixing, not the scrap yard" by Patricia Kasten

Well-researched and stated, this argument is grounded in tenets of Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic principles on human dignity.

Third Place

Catholic Herald-Diocese of Madison, "Continue to welcome immigrants" by Mary C. Uhler

This editorial provides a clear reminder that welcoming the stranger is a tenet of Catholic teaching. The author offers distinct action responses for the readers.

Honorable Mentions

The Beacon, "Disasters don't discriminate; why does FEMA?" by Richard A. Sokerka

The Beacon, "Anti-Catholic bigotry" by Richard A. Sokerka

N07b: BEST EDITORIAL ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Record newspaper, "Curb Everyday Racism" by Marnie McAllister

The author presents a clear moral argument likely to raise shackles in some. The courage to speak this truth should be applauded by those in the church.

N07c: BEST EDITORIAL ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Intermountain Catholic-Diocese of Salt Lake City, "Here's Hoping This Story Will Make a Difference" by Marie Mischel

This captivating editorial with a creative approach puts a face on the DACA dilemma facing this country. The strong narrative eloquently told makes this one a winner.

Second Place

Tennessee Register, "Poverty is too complex to simply blame it on the poor" by Andy Telli

Based on a study of Catholic/Christian response to causes of poverty, this editorial confronts negative attitudes head on. The appeal to the tenets of Catholic social teaching is matched with the clear record of Catholic Charity's work with the poor accompanied by a challenge.

Third Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Rejoin the accord" by Ed Langlois

As the editorial clearly states, failure to abide by the Parish Accord puts everyone in peril. Clearly stated, this persuasive argument challenges those in power to new action.

Honorable Mentions

Tennessee Register, "DACA cancellation undermines Gospel mandate to welcome the stranger" by Andy Telli

Tennessee Register, "Don't lose sight of moral dimension in renewed fight over health care" by Andy Telli

N07d: BEST EDITORIAL ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

Catholic New York, "Missed Opportunity for Student Protesters" by Mary Ann Poust

Well-argued, this editorial uses clear logic and the strong words of wisdom from Notre Dame President Fr. John Jenkins to plead its case.

N07e: BEST EDITORIAL ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: National Newspaper

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Now is the time for action on guns" by National Catholic Reporter editors

Bravo for pointed and vivid language that takes on the issue of guns and politics. The bishop's story that leads the editorial has a power and immediacy that suggests NOW, as the rest of the editorial does too.

Second Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Default must be to trust the victim" by National Catholic Reporter editors

This appeal to transform culture because of misuse of power and authority around sexual relationships is presented with logic and a bit of emotional content as well. The editorial appeals to the mind as well as the heart.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Nuclear ban elusive" by Jim O'Leary

Argued with clarity and logic, this appeal reminds readers of Catholic teaching surrounding nuclear weapons as nuclear powers hold the future of the globe in the balance.

Honorable Mentions

National Catholic Reporter, "Time for dialogue on sexual ethics" by National Catholic Reporter editors

Our Sunday Visitor, "A Revolution of Love" by OSV Editorial Board

N08a: BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR EDITORIAL SECTION: Diocesan Newspaper

First Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Catholic Sentinel" by Ed Langlois, Kristen Hannum, Katie Scott, Sarah Wolf

A strong mix of thought-provoking opinions and political cartoons sets the bar high for excellence in viewpoints.

Second Place

The Tablet, "Best Editorial Pages" by Ed Wilkinson and Father John P. Cush

Timely, topical and relevant commentary.

Third Place

The Catholic News Herald, "Viewpoints" by Patricia L. Guilfoyle

N08b: BEST EDITORIAL PAGE OR EDITORIAL SECTION: National Newspaper

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Opinion & Arts" by National Catholic Reporter staff and contributors

Opinion and the Arts is characterized by creativity as well as breadth and depth of coverage. Content is representative of the wide range of the Catholic Intellectual tradition including art, literature, and critical thinking about current issues.

Bravo!

N09a: BEST FEATURE WRITING: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Rhode Island Catholic, "Regalia Changes Lead to Many Restless Knights" by Daniel J. Holmes

A well-detailed review of the history coupled with multiple perspectives to give the reader the knowledge and context of how to understand the changes in the Knights really made this article stand out.

Second Place

The Catholic Sun, "Family's first Christmas in U.S. makes a 'heart open to Jesus and this new life'" by Renée K. Gadoua

This article stood out for its ability to humanize an issue through the story telling of one family while weaving in details about the overarching social issue.

Third Place

The Compass, "Capuchin wants to end up as naturally as he can" by Patricia Kasten

An incredible unique story, beautifully told in such a way as to entertain and inform.

Honorable Mention

Arkansas Catholic, "Candy-cane priest has a sweet secret" by Malea Hargett

The Observer, "Ball Family's Gotcha: November Baptisms Mark Adoption Month" by Amanda Hudson

N09b: BEST FEATURE WRITING: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Faith and science go hand in hand" by Dave Luecking

The author's approach allows both sides to understand a highly confused issue with clarity and insight. A very engaging and interesting read.

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "In the footsteps of a saint" by Jennifer Brinker

A warm story told in a lively manner, that allows the story to come to life, is what made this article stand out.

Third Place

The Tablet, "Cuba's First Christmas Without Fidel" by Jorge I. Dominguez-Lopez

Wonderful insight to a world that has not always been so accessible. The writer's clarity and focus made for a compelling read.

Honorable Mentions

The Tablet, "Priest Pursues Prophets on Periphery of Diocese" by Ed Wilkinson

Orange County Catholic, "Guide, Protector and Friend" by Larry Urish

N09c: BEST FEATURE WRITING: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Michigan Catholic, "The Miraculous Healing at Fr. Solanus' Tomb" by Dan Meloy

A truly amazing story brought to life through excellent story-telling with clear imagery, pace and insight.

Second Place

Catholic Standard, "'#CivDei: Catholic University professor teaches Twitter course on St. Augustine's 'City of God'" story by Kelly Seegers, Photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann

A unique topic coupled with excellent use of interview to build a clear picture of a new way of teaching, academically and spiritually, that engaged the reader.

Third Place

Catholic Standard, "For African Americans, new history museum tells 'our story'" Story by Mark Zimmermann, Photos by Jaclyn Lippelmann

Excellent writer's voice and tone presenting a story in a very inclusive manner, highlighting facts that allow all readers to engage, is why this story stood out.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic Sentinel, "Faith reclaimed: How survivors of clergy abuse return to the church" by Katie Scott

Tennessee Register, "Church teaching intertwines charity and justice" by Theresa Laurence

N09d: BEST FEATURE WRITING: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Southern Cross Newspaper–San Diego, “Film Students Travel to ‘Endor’ to Shoot ‘Star Wars’ Fan Film” by Denis Grasska

A fun story told through a lighthearted but professional tone made this article stand out.

Second Place

Catholic San Francisco, “Destination parishes offer a sense of home to seeking Catholics” by Valerie Schmalz, Karessa McCartney

The clarity and organization of the writer made this article stand out. An interesting idea described in an articulate way.

Third Place

Catholic Courier, “Vietnam: Surviving stormy times” by Mike Latona

A compelling story with a personal touch, allowing readers to connect because of the engaging lay out of information.

Honorable Mentions

The Georgia Bulletin, “Congoese priest completes study as neuropsychologist for homeland” by A. Nelson

The Catholic Miscellany, “Finding Christianity at root of Easter Traditions” by Amy Wise Taylor

N09e: BEST FEATURE WRITING: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

Catholic Health World, “Kids learn to persevere against life’s hard knocks” by Renee Stovsky

A truly inspiring story that is enhanced through the quality of the writing and integration of story telling techniques.

Second Place

Catholic News Agency, “Gluten and Communion: What’s a celiac to do?” by Mary Rezac

A unique topic covered in an unbiased, even approach that gives all readers a chance to connect with an issue perhaps not often considered.

Third Place

Catholic Health Association, "SSM Health aids opioid-addicted pregnant women" by Betsy Taylor

The author's insightful and analytical approach to a very current and serious issue made this article stand out.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic Health World, "Where social determinants put babies at risk, Generate Health gives moms better options" by Renee Stovsky

Catholic Health World, "ArchCare offers residential care for people with Huntington's" by Julie Minda

N10a: BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Compass, "Who is that young man? He's Bishop Ricken's master of ceremonies" by Patricia Kasten

The subject's dedication to his role is evident through the quotations and descriptions.

Second Place

The Catholic Sun, "A tale of two evangelists: Brady Faith Center exec and buddy recall epiphany at Cornell" by Tom Maguire

The vibrant, bold personality of the subject leaps off the page thanks to the writer's use of details, descriptions and quotes.

Third Place

The Compass, "Faith and cooking are Hanten's recipes for success" by Amanda Lauer

The subject's commitment to her faith jumps off the page. Nicely written.

N10b: BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Leaven, "100 Candles" by Jill Ragar Esfeld

Incredibly rich in details and a true sense of the subject's personality.

Second Place

Clarion Herald, "Faith carried Regina Matrum through family tragedy" by Beth Donze

Excellent use of details and quotations to weave the story.

Third Place

Clarion Herald, "Catholic Foundation honors Rodi, pro-life advocate" by Beth Donze

The subject's personality is evident throughout the article through quotes and the many details of her life. Nicely done.

N10c: BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or less

First Place

The Florida Catholic Palm Beach, "Prisoner works to 'be the example'" by Jean Gonzalez

Second Place

Catholic Sentinel, "A grandson of slaves ascends to leadership" by Ed Langlois

N10d: BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

Catholic San Francisco, "Melissa Ohden survived her mother's abortion—and that's just the beginning of the story" by Valerie Schmalz

This story will haunt its readers for a long time and open eyes to the miracles of new human life.

N10e: BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Colman McCarthy makes sure students learn peace" by Tom Roberts

This story brings an interesting character to life and clearly demonstrates the impact he has on other people.

Third Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Helen Prejean sways hearts with stories" by Kristen Whitney Daniels

This story profiles a complex and determined personality that is touching the lives of many.

N11a: BEST REGULAR COLUMN: Culture, the Arts, and Leisure

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Cosmopolitan 17th-century art; Artworks that teach the faithful how to die well; Michelangelo's architecture of faith" by Menachem Wecker

Nice, diverse collection of well organized articles.

Second Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Columns by David A. King, Ph.D." by David A. King, Ph.D.

Conversational. I like how he addresses regular music fans and pop culture.

Third Place

National Catholic Register, "Apostasy and Ambiguity; What Does a Starship Need with God; All Saints Offers Story of Encounter, Welcome of Refugees" by Steven D. Greydanus

These are good.

Honorable Mentions

National Catholic Reporter, "Hulu's 'The Handmaid's Tale'; Nun's death unsolved; 'Sister Jaguar's Journey'" by Rose Pacatte

Catholic Star Herald, "Carl Peters Commentary" by Carl Peters

N11b: BEST REGULAR COLUMN: Spiritual Life

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Soul Seeing" by Michael Leach, Heidi Russell, Tom Smith Columns submitted: "Love revealed in brokenness" "I can't get the institutional church out of my system" "I know there will always be kindness"

A diverse collection of well-written columns with a lot of variety. Address profound topics in an engaging manner.

Second Place

The Compass, "Foundations of Faith" by Patricia Kasten

I liked the historical perspectives of these columns and thought they were well-researched and clearly written. Added value because she shows her sources her sources for her research.

Third Place

Catholic Star Herald, "Science and Catholicism" by Michael M. Canaris

These were great topics explored thoughtfully. I think the collection was informative and useful for most readers.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic News Service, "For the Journey" by Effie Caldarola

The Observer, "Ethically Speaking" by By Father Kenneth Wasilewski, Diocesan Ethicist

N11c: BEST REGULAR COLUMN: Scripture

First Place

The Florida Catholic, Orlando, "Sunday Word Column: "Elijah Moments," "How long is the wait," "Voices in the wilderness"" by Father Ben Berinti

This work showcases the author's voice—a voice with clarity, encouragement, and a sense of humor. Excellent work all around.

Second Place

The Evangelist, "Good News for Kids column" by Kate Blain

Excellent job—well-written columns for children that convey important messages while capturing children's interest.

Third Place

The Tablet, "Sunday's Scriptures" by Father Jean-Pierre Ruiz

Well-written columns that do a good job relating scripture to everyday life. Nicely done.

Honorable Mention

Our Sunday Visitor, "Tomorrow, the dawn; The sin of grasping; Accepting the invite" by Timothy O'Malley

N11d: BEST REGULAR COLUMN: General Commentary

First Place

National Catholic Register, "Immoral Uses of Biotechnology—Even With Good Intentions—Are Nevertheless Evil; When Redefining 'Normal' Is More Hurtful Than Helpful; It's Up to Us to Protect the Tree of Life" by Rebecca Taylor

Powerful persuasion backed by strong coverage makes this one stand out as a winner.

Second Place

Pittsburgh Catholic, "Robert P. Lockwood Columns" by Robert P. Lockwood

Great messages, and a strong voice that reflects humor, compassion, and caring. These columns are very well done!

Third Place

The Observer, "From the Editor" by Penny Wiegert

Nice job! These columns were relatable and had a concise point that connects with readers.

Honorable Mentions

Diocese of Beaumont, "One Steward's Response" by Richard Rosario

Our Sunday Visitor, "Childbirth class, nature and the musings of a mom-to-be; When it comes to the question of dining out, know thyself; The emperor's new gender—or lack thereof" by Gretchen R. Crowe

N11e: BEST REGULAR COLUMN: Family Life

First Place

Catholic News Service, "Faith at Home" by Laura Kelly Fanucci

Simply wonderful. Moving pieces that fill the reader with the love of God. Well done.

Second Place

Catholic Herald-Diocese of Madison, "Everyday Faith" by Julianne Nornberg

Nice job incorporating a spiritual message into columns about everyday life. Well done.

Third Place

Cross Roads, "Family Life" by Mike Allen

Great topics, strong writing. Well done.

Honorable Mentions

Aleteia.org, "Tom Hoopes—Voices and Views" by Tom Hoopes

Tennessee Register, "FAITHFUL MARRIAGES: A simple blessing can carry a father's faith to the next generation; The power of faith and kindness in marriage; A shared spirituality is the foundation of a happy marriage" by John Bosio

N12a: BEST REPORTING ON SPECIAL AGE GROUP: Children and Teens Younger than 18

First Place

The Observer, "Wellness Resource Program Lifeline for Boylan Students" by Lynne Conner

Excellent coverage and inclusion of quotes to bring feeling and understanding to the piece.

Second Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, ""East to West: A day in the life of Catholic schools"" by Dave Hrbacek

Great day-in-the-life piece.

Third Place

Catholic Standard, "Boy receives hero's send-off after his battle with cancer" by Kelly Seegers

This article abounds with details that reveal the subject's personality and how he touched many people's lives.

N12b: BEST REPORTING ON SPECIAL AGE GROUP: Young Adults (Age 18-40)

First Place

St. Louis Review, "The Power of One" by Jennifer Brinker

Well-written, excellent photographs and great use of information.

Second Place

Arkansas Catholic, "Keeping the Faith" by Aprille Hanson

Choice of subjects, use of quotations and use of statistics make a well-rounded article.

Third Place

Denver Catholic, "How do I date?" by Therese Bussen

Interesting and well-written.

Honorable Mentions

Our Sunday Visitor, "Spiritually thirsty millennials turn to the occult" by Nicholas Wolfram Smith

Rhode Island Catholic, "For Rhode Island 'Dreamers,' DACA Decision Means Uncertainty, Fear" by Lauren Clem

N12c: BEST REPORTING ON SPECIAL AGE GROUP: Senior Citizens

First Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, ""Shot down: WWII vet recalls ordeal inside German prison camp"" by Dave Hrbacek

Rich in details that bring the subject and his experiences to life.

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "Senior living: Dignity of the elderly" by Jennifer Brinker, Joe Kenny, Dave Luecking

Excellent, well-written variety of articles on seniors, senior services and their contributions.

Third Place

Catholic Sentinel, "Grandfamilies on the rise" by Katie Scott

Good use of statistics and personal stories.

Honorable Mention

The Leaven, "Welcome Central" by Jill Ragar Esfeld

N13a: BEST PHOTO STORY: News Photo Story

First Place

Catholic Standard, "Holy Land Festival seeks to unite Muslims, Christians in peace" by Jaclyn Lippelmann

The event itself is unique and worthy of attention but the photographer highlights that further by capturing both faiths in symmetry to one another. Placing the different goods being sold side-by-side as well as both faiths learning from the other through dance and languages truly highlights the communities coming together in peace as the headline conveys.

Second Place

The Compass, "A Priest Forever" by Sam Lucero

It's hard to avoid the sea of white robes that make new priesthood images all look the same. This grouping makes great use of diverse lighting, angles and steps of the ordination to not only capture all five new priests, but to capture them at different stages of the process as well.

Third Place

The Catholic Voice, "Easter Triduum" by staff

Readers can easily follow the journey of the parishioners through the stages of Easter celebration. The images also show a great diversity in in both viewpoints and subjects.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic New York, "Finest Society" by Mary DiBiase Blaich/Freelance for Catholic New York

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Pilgrimage to shrine" by Elizabeth A. Elliott, Joe Cashwell

N13b: BEST PHOTO STORY: Feature Photo Story

First Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Into the north woods: Catholic Youth Camp" by Dave Hrbacek

Readers are able to feel as if they were at summer camp alongside these kids as they follow along. The photographer captures a wide variety of interactions including kids activities and counselor roles along with great profiles to show a diverse group of subjects.

Second Place

Catholic Standard, "Nourished by the Body of Christ" by Jaclyn Lippelmann

The images and presentation of the images show great symmetry of presenting and sharing the host as well as highlighting the children in their journey.

Third Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Easter Vigil" by Joe Cashwell

The entire package comes together from start of the ceremony with the shadows of the fire to finishing with the bright cleansing light of the baptisms.

N13c: BEST PHOTO STORY: Sports Photo Story

First Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Wrestling tournament" by Joe Cashwell

Images are high quality and action packed, drawing the reader through the wrestling match with pace and anticipation.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Rugby tournament" by Joe Cashwell

The images all portray the Christendom Crusaders as the dominant team showing them outpacing and outperforming at a level above their opponents, matching the description of the match.

Honorable Mentions

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Softball championship" by Joe Cashwell

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Swim meet" by Joe Cashwell

N14a: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best Feature Photo

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Easter at the Cathedral Basilica" by Lisa Johnston

In a category with many strong images, this one quickly rose to the top. The combination of it being beautifully exposed and composed along with the humor made this one a winner. Great moment captured!

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "Mass beneath the Arch" by Lisa Johnston

Great composition and lighting made this image stand out. A nice moment with the photographer's ability to capture the crowd really told the story in one image.

Third Place

Catholic Courier, "Learning the ropes" by Jeff Witherow

Tight is right! This certainly hold true for this image. Great lens choice by the photographer patience waiting for the peak moment.

Honorable Mentions

The Dialog, "Holy Cross School in Dover welcomes 3-year olds" by Don Blake

Catholic Standard, "The House of Mary, Adorned with its Crowning Jewel" by Jaclyn Lippelmann

N14b: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best General News Photo

First Place

The Boston Pilot, "Illuminated" by Gregory L. Tracy

This image quickly rose to the top of a category with many entries. The quality (and most likely fleeting) of light and awareness by the photographer is perfect. An all around outstanding image.

Second Place

Clarion Herald, "Keeping the faith—for a third time" by Peter Finney Jr.

Kudos to the photographer for access in a sensitive situation. While the composition is wonderful, a little more emotion would have helped this rise to the top.

Third Place

St. Louis Review, "Saying goodbye to Sister Ebo" by Lisa Johnston

Touching moment! Nice job by the photographer for making this image in a sensitive situation.

Honorable Mentions

St. Louis Review, "Poor Clares in awe of the eclipse" by Lisa Johnston

Tennessee Register, "Bishop Choby celebrates Mass while recovering" by Rick Musacchio

N14c: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best Portrait

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Waiting in the wings" by Lisa Johnston

In an overall strong category, the unique composition and lighting in this image made it a winner. Great vision by the photographer to create something special with the instruments and the subjects.

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "CBC's solid finish" by Lisa Johnston

Great lighting and composition made this image stand out. Excellent arrangement of the subjects. A well thought out and executed idea by the photographer.

Third Place

St. Louis Review, "Caring for God's 'special people'" by Lisa Johnston

Just a great, real moment captured by the photographer that tells a story of compassion.

Honorable Mentions

CatholicPhilly.com, "Across the Aisles: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Philadelphia" by Sarah Webb

Catholic News Service, "Washington Vocation" by Tyler Orsburn

N14d: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best Scenic, Still-Life, or Weather Photo

First Place

The Visitor, "Earth Day aurora" by Sandy Clemons

Nice results on a difficult subject. The beauty of the northern lights is enhanced by the reflection in the lake. The image is nicely anchored by the pier and silhouettes of appreciative viewers. Great feel for Earth Day.

Second Place

Catholic New York, "AFTER THE STORM" by John Woods

Shows the power of Hurricane Maria on a metal and stone station of the cross.

Third Place

St. Louis Review, "Solar flare during eclipse" by Teak Phillips

Wonderful view of a rare sight. The solar flares provide more detail than the standard viewer was capable of seeing.

Honorable Mentions

The Compass, "Cemetery grotto in Brussels" by Sam Lucero

The Compass, "Stars and Steeple" by Brad Birkholz

N14e: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best Photo-Illustration

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Prepared for the eclipse" by Lisa Johnston

Simple yet very effective. I love the lighting.

Second Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Symbols—Office of the Bishop" by M. Alexander, T. Schulte

Very informative. Closeups of items and descriptions connect well. Garment background a nice connection.

Third Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "God is Faithful—We are Thankful" by M. Alexander, T. Schulte

Simple straightforward image for Thanksgiving. Connects to the message. Nice rustic look.

N14f: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Best Sports Photo

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Keeping an eye on the puck" by Lisa Johnston

Nice tight shot of goalie. Great timing of the goalies eyes connecting with the puck. Ice shavings in the air add to the action.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Wrestlers elevated" by Joe Cashwell

Great timing to show both wrestlers floating above the mat. An unusual sight you rarely see in wrestling.

Third Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Lacrosse team celebrates victory" by Joe Cashwell

Great celebration shot. Good position by the photographer in front of the celebrants. The girl leading the group sets the tone of the rest of the team.

Honorable Mention

St. Louis Review, "High jump before the rain" by Lisa Johnston

N14g: BEST PHOTOGRAPH: Share the Journey

First Place

The Florida Catholic Palm Beach, "AIM retreatants harvests fruits of Holy Spirit beyond limits" by Linda Reeves

The connection of Sharing the Journey is evident by the smile on Sister Sullivan and Erika's faces. The sharing is completed with Sister's hand on Erika's shoulder.

Second Place

Catholic Courier, "Rochester is still a 'sanctuary city'" by Jeff Witherow

Crowd and sign connect the concept of Sharing the Journey.

Third Place

Catholic News Service, "Pope Shares the Journey" by Paul Haring

Good timing of Pope's gesture while addressing immigration and the journey. Oddly framed.

N15a: BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE PACKAGE: News Package

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Mastermind at work" by Lisa Johnston, Teak Phillips, Jennifer Brinker, Joe Kenny, Dave Luecking

The many entries in this category included packages with several photos that were mediocre alongside a few strong images. This first-place entry was not only a clean layout, but each individual image was a strong, well composed story-telling image.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Diocesan pilgrimage to shrine" by Elizabeth A. Elliott, Joe Cashwell

Really nice variety of impactful images with the obvious effort by the photographer(s) to capture some really unique point of views elevated this package among the rest.

Third Place

The Monitor, "Light of the Church: Our Lady of Guadalupe pilgrimage, Mass draw 1,000 from across Diocese to Trenton's Cathedral" by Clara Baumann, Craig Pittelli, Armando Machado

Great color and overall strong images of the event. Removing a few of the smaller photos in order to play some of the stronger images larger would of given the package more impact.

Honorable Mention

Southern Cross/Diocese of Savannah, "Catholic youth 'called' to discipleship in mission" by Jessica L. Marsala

N15b: BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE PACKAGE: Feature Package

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Caring for God's 'special people'" by Lisa Johnston, Jennifer Brinker

Many of the entries in this category contained packages with several unnecessary images where the quantity outweighed the quality. This first place entry has less images than many, but the quality of the individual images is very strong. It tells a compelling story with powerful, real moments.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Celebrating life" by Connor Bergeron, Ashleigh Kassock, Zoey Maraist

Just a great all-around collection of images that really told the story of the event(s). The variety of angles and different perspectives, along with wonderful lighting and moments, elevated this entry.

Third Place

Texas Catholic Herald, "Embracing the 50 Days of Easter" by James Ramos

The combination of strong lighting, unique perspectives, and a clean layout helped this piece stand out.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic News Service, "Virginia Encuentro" by Tyler Orsburn

The Catholic Register, "Lasting images of a walk in faith" by Vincenzo Pietropaolo

N15c: BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE PACKAGE: Sports Package

First Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Rough and rugby" by Joe Cashwell, Staff

Great collection of images that worked well as a group, while each image stood alone as strong sports images capturing great action and a real feel for the event.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Panthers fall short" by Joe Cashwell

Well-covered event to not only capture the action, but the emotion of the loss also helped to tell the story.

Third Place

Catholic New York, "Let's Get Loud!" by Mary DiBiase Blaich/Freelance for Catholic New York

Some nice emotional images and good action. A few of the images could have used a tighter crop and a lower depth of field to eliminate the distractions in the background.

Honorable Mention

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Panthers defeat Cardinals" by Joe Cashwell

N16a: BEST USE OF ART OR GRAPHICS: Best Use of Art or Graphics

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Practice virtue" by Abigail Witte, Lisa Johnston

Excellent use of graphics to enhance the article and nice choice of white graphics and text on the cover.

Second Place

The Catholic Miscellany, "Holy Week: The days, the history, & the traditions" by Caroline Lindsey

Textural feel of the artwork adds to this piece.

Third Place

St. Louis Review, "Between Heaven and Earth" by Lisa Johnston, Abigail Witte

Artwork truly enhances the story and aids reader's understanding.

Honorable Mention

Arlington Catholic Herald, "10 ways to help the poor" by Ashleigh Kassock

N16b: BEST USE OF ART OR GRAPHICS: Best Original Illustration

First Place

The Catholic Sun, "Three Kings" by Mick Welsh

Beautiful, rich illustration.

Second Place

The Tablet, "Holy Week and Easter Masses on NET-TV" by Israel Ochoa

The boxy/linear nature of the illustration and color choices is appealing to the eye.

Third Place

The Compass, "Growing in Faith | Programs and Services" by Amy Kawula and Rachel Cunningham

Beautiful and soft illustration that adds to the information provided.

N16c: BEST USE OF ART OR GRAPHICS: Best Chart or Information Graphic

First Place

Catholic News Herald, "Catholic Charities Week" by Kathleen Durkin

Use of color, graphic choices and division make this interesting and active.

Second Place

The Leaven, "Do's and Don'ts of Confession" by Joe Bollig and Todd Habiger

Easy to understand and follow.

Third Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Human trafficking and the sex trade: A modern form of slavery" by Toni-Ann Ortiz

Nicely divided with enough information to enhance the story but not overwhelming.

Honorable Mention

The Tablet, "Generations of Faith – Your Generosity at Work" by Israel Ochoa

N18: BEST HEADLINE

First Place

Catholic San Francisco, "Lenten Exercises: Sisters race to support aging friars" by Christina Gray

Headline captured fine story with extraordinary and relevant photo added up to prize-winning entry. Mention of a religious theme in the headline also made it important to Catholics (and many other Lenten followers). Any time a religious and especially Catholic theme is shown is a plus for attracting readers of these publications.

Second Place

Catholic Star Herald, "Freshly painted fences make good neighbors" by Carl Peters

Well-done story with a carefully posed, attractive and relevant photo. Packages like this are going to be prize-winners when a headline captures the story.

Third Place

The Observer, "Here's the 411 on 815 Catholic" by Penny Wiegert

At first I read the story to understand what the headline meant. But that's the point: I wanted to read the story! Then well-done article and good photo pulled along. The headline-writer took a risk and it paid off.

Honorable Mentions

The Tablet, "Holy Stuff! They're Better Known As Sacramentals"

The Evangelist, "ORGAN STOPS: Music minister retires after four decades in Schenectady" by staff

N19a: BEST SUPPLEMENT OR SPECIAL ISSUE: Best Regular Special Supplement

First Place

The Catholic Register, "Estate Planning"

A planned giving section could easily sink into a 'give me your money and your life' quagmire. But not this section. Yes, ample space is devoted to ways to give to the Church, but this outstanding section offers help in planning ahead, how to deal with cremation, estate trustees, affects of tax reforms on giving, how debts of the deceased are handled, assisted suicide, wills, end of life care and even a reminder that now might be a good time to dejunk. These topics, along with inspirational stories from people who give and those who receive make this a wonderful reminder about dying for the living.

Second Place

Catholic Standard, "Catholic Schools Week" Stories by Kelly Seegers, Richard Szczepanowski and Mark Zimmermann, photos by Jaclyn Lippelmann

Catholic schools must show how to integrate academics with spirituality and this section shows how it's done. A kindergarten class learns that some children have no shoes, so pupils collect shoes. Spiritual direction along with tutoring is offered at a high school. A computer class sets up an app to make it easier to find food pantries. Another example: Rewrite the Ten Commandments using positive words: "Only believe in one God." And this: "Use God's name in a respectful way." And praying before listening to a speech by Martin Luther King Jr. This section clearly shows the connection between academics and spirituality in well-written and nicely selected stories.

Third Place

Catholic Standard, "The Class of 2017 graduation section" Stories by Mark Zimmermann, Kelly Seegers, and Richard Szczepanowski, photos by Jaclyn Lippelmann

A truly inspiring section because readers are treated to a dazzling display of outstanding students prepared for the next step. For one, it's football and for three young women it's collegiate lacrosse, field hockey and ice hockey. But we also read about plans to help expand Middle East and North Africa educational opportunities. Biochemistry is in the future for one Asian immigrant. And through all the stories we read of service opportunities utilized within their school years. Well written and well displayed, this is a wonderful read from beginning to end.

Honorable Mentions

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Graduation" by Catholic Herald Staff

The Monitor, "Ablaze: DYC 2017" by Monitor staff and freelance partners

N19b: BEST SUPPLEMENT OR SPECIAL ISSUE: Best One-Time Special Issue

First Place

The Irish Catholic, "Reformation 500: Five Hundred Years, 1517-2017" by Greg Daly

Said Pope Francis of Martin Luther: "Perhaps some of his methods were not right, although at that time...the Church was not exactly a model to emulate." And that pretty much sums up this remarkable study of Luther, his times and the consequences of his questioning. We get a deeper understanding of Luther's impact through a look at the attitude of peasants, the widespread dissemination of Luther's concerns via a new invention, the printing press, and the Church at that time. This wonderfully detailed and well-written section certainly could be a text for anyone wanting to know more about Luther, his times and the consequences of his deep concern.

Second Place

The Texas Catholic, "Marriage: A faithful, committed life" by David Sedeno, Seth Gonzales, Jenna Teter, Cathy Harasta, Michael Gresham

This outstanding section honors marriage by basically telling stories that mirror marriage, from the comical through the spiritual and into the deeply emotional. So, we read about the nervous groom who grasped a pew for support so strongly that continuation of the ceremony was in jeopardy. And the couple who attributed their joyful 50 years together to spiritual devotion. And the priest, a former Episcopalian pastor, who broke the news he and his wife had struggled with: The onset of Alzheimer's. A must-read for anyone considering marriage and for those enjoying the beauty of a deeply committed marriage.

Third Place

The Criterion, "Welcome Edition for Archbishop Charles C. Thompson" by Mike Krokos, John Shaughnessy, Sean Gallagher, Natalie Hoefler, Brandon A. Evans, Jane Lee, Ron Massey

Just ask a sister if you want to know the truth about her brother. Or someone who competed with and against that brother. And of course, those who are helped and comforted. And the words of the person himself. Those angles make this tribute to Archbishop Charles C. Thompson so readable. For the record, the sister adored him, the cross country runner admired his dedication, the Hispanic community opened their arms to him and the archbishop chose as his motto: Christ the Cornerstone. Outstanding piece of journalism.

Honorable Mentions

The Michigan Catholic, "Thank God Ahead of Time" by The Michigan Catholic staff ("Thank God ahead of time" is a saying for which Blessed Solanus is famous; it also fit the publishing schedule of this issue, which hit stands days before the beatification Mass.

The Catholic Sun, "Bishop Moynihan remembered" by Katherine Long, Tom Maguire, Willie Putmon, Mark Klentz

N19c: BEST SUPPLEMENT OR SPECIAL ISSUE: Best Special Supplement on a Bishop's Transition

First Place

The Michigan Catholic, "Chosen to Serve" by The Michigan Catholic staff

Outstanding effort to not only acquaint us with two auxiliary bishops through the words of family and acquaintances, but to also acquaint the public about what all of this means. So, we get headlines like "The tools of a bishop :What the miter, crosier and ring mean," and "What's the difference between an archbishop and an auxiliary bishop?", "How are new bishops selected, anyway?" and "Bishops of where? Titular sees carry centuries of history, tradition." Useful as well as instructional and uplifting.

Second Place

Catholic Outlook, "Thank you Bishop Kicanas" by Jessica Caraballo, Omar Rodriguez, Steff Koeneman, Michael Brown

This slick tribute to Bishop Kicanas gets right to the point. After a brief introduction, the magazine is turned over to the bishop for a first person account of his life and then to reflections from Church and civic leaders. Gorgeous pictures complete this wonderfully put together reflection. Easy to read and easy on the eye, this is a collectors' dream.

Third Place

The Texas Catholic, "Bishop Edward J. Burns" by Seth Gonzales, Jenna Teter, David Sedeno, Cathy Harasta, Michael Gresham

What's it like to move from the remote rainforest of Alaska with its nearly 300 days of rain to the bustling commercial hub of Texas and its less than 40 inches of rain all year? Editors of this tribute to the new bishop of Dallas set out to find the answer for this interesting and informative section. That contrast also is part of Bishop Burns' reflections on his move. Those pieces combine with praise from clergy and friends to create a wonderfully easy to read commemorative issue.

Honorable Mentions

Intermountain Catholic-Diocese of Salt Lake City, "Welcome, Bishop Solis!" by Laura Vallejo, Cris Paulsen, Arthur Heredia, Marie Mischel

The Georgia Bulletin, "Bishop Bernard E. Shlesinger III—ordination" by Georgia Bulletin staff

N21a: BEST SPORTS JOURNALISM: Sports news

First Place

Texas Catholic Herald, "We Believed: Houston Astros win World Series in biblical fashion; After Harvey, hope on parade as region rallies after epic win" by James Ramos

Charming and richly reported story that portrays the resiliency of a city and a faith community amidst the backdrop of the devastating floods that ravaged the Houston area.

Second Place

The Compass, "All eyes are on Holy Hill" by MARYANGELA ROMÁN

This story did a wonderful job of reporting on a below-the-radar connection between U.S. Open Championship, one of golf's four major tournaments, and the Discalced Carmelite Fathers from the neighboring Holy Hill shrine. The story vividly shows the effort to combine the golf tournament and the incredible beauty of the nearby shrine as a means of bringing spectators from around the world to a deeper religious connection, revealing a merger between sports and faith.

Third Place

The Visitor, "Baseball's No. 1 draft pick says Minnesota is 'where God intended me to be'" by Kristi Anderson

A wonderfully vivid portrayal of a Major League Baseball prospect who is revealed to be grounded by the faith he developed as a non-Catholic attending a Catholic school. Excellent use of secondary sources to paint a picture of a humble rising star.

Honorable Mentions

The Catholic Post, "The Spirit of Sport" by Tom Dermody

The Dialog, "Catholic school athletes have their baselines covered" by Mike Lang

N21b: BEST SPORTS JOURNALISM: Sports feature or column

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Street soccer goalie to play in Homeless World Cup" by Joseph Kenny

Powerful story of sport promoting important social change. In this case, a Catholic-rooted organization sponsors a soccer team, comprised of homeless men, that competes around the world. Colorful portrayal of how a homeless man is using his experience of being part of a team to empower himself to change his life. Excellent use of a sidebar story to fill in other necessary details.

Second Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "'Vikings offensive coach Shurmur keeps spiritual playbook ready'" by Matthew Davis

Well-written, descriptive story of the daily religious rituals of an NFL football coach and how the tie between faith and athletics began and evolved for him and spread to other family members. A sports profile not bogged down by the often mundane details of the game.

Third Place

The Leaven, "Simply the Best" by Todd Habiger

Honorable Mentions

Rhode Island Catholic, "Happy Trails: With the Moguls in Her Life Behind Her, Special Olympics Skier Draws Inspiration From Family, Strong Catholic Faith" by Rick Snizek

The Georgia Bulletin, "N. Golden" by N. Golden

N22: BEST SEASONAL ISSUE

First Place

The Evangelist, "Christmas Issue" by staff

From the wonderfully appealing cover picture of a family depicting Mary, Joseph and Jesus, to the back page spotlighting children of all ages, this issue is full of Christmas cheer along with reminders of the more ordinary—saving seats for Christmas visitors and Christmas Mass obligations. We are asked where is Christmas and then we are told: homeless shelters, inside children, Nativity scenes, in gifts sent to needy children around the world, regifting to benefit the poor who missed out on an initial giftgiving, and even residents of Santa Claus, Indiana, who each year answer thousands of letters.

Second Place

The Catholic Register, "A Saviour is born"

"A Saviour is born," proclaims the cover and the rest of this special Christmas issue reminds us of what that means to us. High school student adopting needy families, the need for peace, a wonderful poem reminding us where to find Christ, help for homeless youth and a wonderful gift to a parish by a Buddhist. We see professional nativity art and less-than-professional children art. It's all Christmas and it's all here in this outstanding effort reminding us what Christmas is all about.

Third Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Eucharistic Congress 2017" by Georgia Bulletin staff

Each year the Georgia Bulletin covers the Eucharistic Congress from every linguistic, cultural, age and geographical angle in an easy to read and certainly complete look at this gathering of thousands. We follow along from the opening Mass through services and discussions, to a final piece reminding us that God does not want us to be discouraged in this time of mercy. Another thoughtful and inspiring peek into this thoughtful and inspiring event.

N23a: BEST REPORTING ON THE CELEBRATION OF A SACRAMENT > N23a: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 5,000 or less

First Place

The Boston Pilot, "Prison ministry brings Middlesex inmate to Baptism"

A captivating lead pulls in readers, and the rest of the story provides the details and quotes to make this story come to life. Strong photography. This one's a winner.

Second Place

The Boston Pilot, "Sacred oils prepared for Chrism Mass" by Mark Labbe

Would have liked to know more about how the oils are actually prepared, not just bottled, but this is an interesting story that goes beyond typical coverage. Nicely done.

Third Place

The Boston Pilot, "Hundreds prepare to enter Catholic Church at Rite of Election" by Mark Labbe

The reporter includes a nice cross-section of the elect and uses quotes to provide color and context. An interesting read.

Honorable Mention

The Observer, "Annual Be Reconciled Offered for 4th Year" by staff

N23b: BEST REPORTING ON THE CELEBRATION OF A SACRAMENT: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Present to the people" by staff

Outstanding, in-depth coverage that uses a variety of angles to showcase the ordination and the people behind it. Great work.

Second Place

The Evangelist, "New priest" by Kate Blain, Nate Whitchurch

Nice job conveying the personality of the new priest.

Third Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Growing the Catholic Church" by Elizabeth A. Elliott

Nice coverage with ample supporting quotes from those involved.

Honorable Mention

St. Louis Review, "Processions bring Jesus to the neighborhood" by Jennifer Brinker Lisa Johnston

N23c: BEST REPORTING ON THE CELEBRATION OF A SACRAMENT: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Hawaii Catholic Herald, "Conversion stories" by Darlene J.M. Dela Cruz

Great piece exploring why two people turned to the Catholic faith. Nice job of digging into a few stories to provide a compelling read.

Second Place

The Michigan Catholic, "Priests in the Park" by Dan Meloy

Nicely done. High-quality coverage with lots of interviews and perspectives from both the priests and confessors.

Third Place

Hawaii Catholic Herald, "In solemn rite, bishop ordains Alfred Guerrero to the priesthood" by Patrick Downes

Excellent detail to help readers feel as if they were at the ceremony. Would have liked more detail about Father Guerrero's background and calling to the priesthood, but overall this is a strong piece.

N23d: BEST REPORTING ON THE CELEBRATION OF A SACRAMENT: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Catholic Sun, "Anointing of the sick brings spiritual, sometimes physical healing" Writer and Photographer: Joyce Coronel; Graphic Designer: Mick Welsh

Great job telling a concise and compelling story.

Second Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Newly ordained priests urged to imitate St. John the Baptist" by N. Golden, M. Alexander

Excellent work and in-depth coverage giving a feel for the personalities of the newly ordained. Nice job.

Third Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Ministry in women's prison in Alto leads five to seek Confirmation" by N. Golden, M. Alexander

Interesting story and writing that gives readers a sense of being there. Nice job.

Honorable Mention

Denver Catholic, "I do means I do" by Therese Bussen

N24: BEST COVERAGE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ISSUES

First Place

National Catholic Register, "Conscience in Residency Project; Trump on Religious Freedom; Contraceptive Mandate Relief in Sight" by Elisabeth Deffner, Joan Desmond, Brian Fraga

It is often hard to top the work of the *National Catholic Register* and you can't this year. The article "Conscience in Residency Project" introduces tough topics and the fine doctors in the battle. The discussion on President Trump and religious freedom structured by Joan Frawley Desmond is a vibrant and complete article. The piece on contraceptive mandate relief is another important topic with good insight and coverage.

Second Place

St. Louis Review, "Life and liberty; Life issues intertwined; Attorney general has history of defending religious liberty" by staff

Putting a pair of stories on legal issues next to each other might seem like a mistake. But, the *St. Louis Review* used stories on House Bill 174, that would acknowledge the rights of alternatives-to-abortion agencies to freely assemble and engage in religious practices or speech without government interference, directly next to a new law in St. Louis on pregnancy and reproduction. The treatment of these pieces shows readers just how important legislation and legal matters impact our faith and daily lives.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Religious freedom"

The Catholic Register puts a face on the battlefield in Canada's "Professional Obligations and Human Rights Policy, which would force referrals for abortions and for assisted suicide. It shows us Dr. Ramona Coelho (a local Ontario doctor) and how it would impact her work. It always helps to see people and not just debate policy.

Honorable Mentions

Our Sunday Visitor, "Taking exception; Undoing the HHS mandate; Pluralism, accommodation at core of cake case." by OSV Editorial Board, Helen Alvare, Gretchen R Crowe

The Evangelist, "Fortnight for Freedom/Religious liberty" by staff

N28a: BEST REPORTING ON VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR DIACONATE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Compass, "Five priests ordained in Ledgeview" by Jeff Kurowski

The priesthood means so much, including taking out the parish picnic garbage. And it's all here in this vocation section that offers space for five new at the priesthood to discuss the route that led them to their current callings, Excellent writing allows us to make that journey with the five, past sports, past vocations and, yes, past girls.

Second Place

The Compass, "Vocations Commitment" by Jeff Kurowski & Amy Kawula

The central theme of this carefully crafted special section on vocations is commitment to God, yes, but also to others, especially for those of all ages seeking an education, because this section focuses on dedication to education. Those pursuing a better life for themselves or for others will gain important insights into what it takes to help others through inspired teaching.

Third Place

The Beacon, "God is his co-pilot" by Michael Wojcik

Whether it was God's intervention, the crucifix, the prayer card or the air bags, Father Nwosu survived the crash that totaled his car but only bloodied his mouth. The car had rolled and flipped so today the priest is grateful for life and uses his experience to testify of heavenly protection. A well written inspiring piece.

Honorable Mention

Rhode Island Catholic, "Celebrating a 'Golden Summer' at Camp Dorothy" by Daniel J. Holmes

N28b: BEST REPORTING ON VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR DIACONATE: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

Orange County Catholic, "Mindful Pursuits" by Larry Urish

The priest celebrating Mass is a familiar figure. Now picture him on a surfboard or racing a motorcycle or installing a grill on a vintage car. Yes, priests have a life outside of the parish hall, and this short article beautifully leads us to that life. A marvelously creative approach to the life of a priest.

Second Place

The Evangelist, "Vocations Section" by staff

A complete package on vocations with so many small gifts inside. Like the hospital chaplain frustrated that he can't make pain disappear. Or the deacon's appeal for dialogue that invites rather than discourages discussion. Much to admire in this wonderful approach to religious vocations.

Third Place

The Tablet, "Priest Pursues Prophets on Periphery of Diocese" by Ed Wilkinson

Street artists: Influential prophets? That's how Father Mann sees them. He also sees them as among the peripheries Pope Francis said should be preached to. And so Father Mann does just that as wonderfully explained and illustrated in this engaging look at a street ministry. But the best part of this outstanding article allows the priest to explain his ministry.

Honorable Mentions

Clarion Herald, "When saying 'yes to the dress' is a 'yes' to God" by Peter Finney Jr.

The Leaven, "These are my best Masses" by Joe Bollig

N28c: BEST REPORTING ON VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR DIACONATE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

The Monitor, "Vocations" by Monitor staff and freelance partners

Many sections devoted to vocations are long on biographies and statistics and short on interest. Not in this wonderfully-organized-and-written effort. The role of family and local church leaders in guiding members to consider church vocations is stressed. Plus the peace that comes upon accepting a call. But we also get personal stories of how all of this works to improve lives. And a reminder that we must magnify callings to the point of being a true saint. Very nicely organized, presented, written and thought out.

Second Place

Catholic Standard, "The Living Water': Archdiocesan priest gives gift of water and faith through mission in Togo, Africa" by Kelly Sankowski

This piece combines clever writing and the story of a remarkable priest who not only provides water to quench immediate thirst, but also the everlasting water that quenches spiritual thirst. Both the writer and the priest make such an accomplishment secondary to the value of all of this to the people served. Very well done.

Third Place

The Monitor, "Momentous Journey: Diocese welcomes new shepherds as Bishop O'Connell ordains four men to priesthood" by Jennifer Mauro

This well-written article begins with a deacon nervously awaiting ordination to a priest and ends with that same person reflecting on his new life. In between are the rites and words that make it all possible. A very well crafted peek into the tension and joy of entering a new vocation.

Honorable Mention

The Michigan Catholic, "Boundless Confidence in the Lord" by Dan Meloy

The Catholic Post, "Priests Pedaling for Prayers: 340-mile ride across diocese sought increase in vocations" by Jennifer Willems

N28d: BEST REPORTING ON VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR DIACONATE: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Priesthood Ordination" by The Catholic Spirit Staff

The archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis ordained 10 priests at one time so this called for an extensive examination of the lives of these 10. And excellent writing conveys what we need to know about how these 10 found their way to the altar. Their lives varied enough to make each story stand alone, yet enough commonality exists to create a wonderfully readable section on vocations.

Second Place

The Visitor, "Farm life, family open door to vocation" by Kristi Anderson, photos by Paul Middlestaedt

Faith, family and farming brought a young man to the priesthood and this well-designed article allows him the space to explain his route. And he does an excellent job. Those quotes and space to let him speak rather than someone else telling the story sets this apart from others. Very nicely illustrated and written.

Third Place

Florida Catholic Miami, "Archbishop ordains nine to priesthood" by Ana Rodriguez-Soto, Tom Tracy, Marlene Quaroni

This lavishly illustrated section provides insight into why and how nine men chose the priesthood. The strength of this section is in the varied background of those nine so each story stands alone, from jet setter to investment banker to those who felt they were going nowhere until discerning that the priesthood was for them. Outstanding presentation and writing.

Honorable Mention

The A.D. Times, "Spotlight on Seminarians" by Staff Writer Tara Connolly

Denver Catholic, "For Christ alone" by Carmen Elena Villa

N28e: BEST REPORTING ON VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD, RELIGIOUS LIFE OR DIACONATE: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Register, "Monastic Life in Ireland by Michael Kelly, New Priests Honor Mom with Old Tradition by Patti Armstrong, Doctor the Priesthood is Calling By Nicholas Wolfram Smith"

A wonderful package that spans all that is Catholic, the small but steady growth of monastic life in Ireland, a warm and fuzzy family story of two brothers who became priests, and a look at those who have combined PhD knowledge with priestly wisdom. Each article stands alone, but also becomes part of a bigger picture of vocations.

Second Place

The Irish Catholic, "Maynooth: ready for a vocations reboot?" by Greg Daly

This carefully crafted piece begins with an examination of the troubled Maynooth seminary in Ireland but soon widens to look at not only efforts to reinvent Maynooth but also to the numbers of persons studying for the clergy in Ireland and worldwide to give us a taste of cautious optimism seasoned with a healthy dose of realism. A great read for those contemplating the future of the clergy.

Third Place

Aleteia.org, "Millennial and monastic: It doesn't get more counter-cultural than that" by Elizabeth Scalia, Fr. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P.

Millennials in monasteries? Women moving into contemplative communities at a time when many of their age contemplate what to watch on TV? Perhaps this is oversimplification, but this very readable piece uses interviews with three nuns to show that on line means a relationship between them and God, not between them and Facebook. A most readable view of what counterculture is really all about.

N29: BEST COVERAGE OF IMMIGRATION

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Yearning to breathe free; The migrant road; Friends of DACA student question policy change" by Joseph Kenny Lisa Johnston

Excellent writing throughout. Focus on individuals enhances impact on reader. Fine photos are given space to get reader's attention. Strong background material explains the issues to reader.

Second Place

The Record newspaper, "Fear is the only certainty, Dreamers say" by Ruby Thomas, Jessica Able, Marnie McAllister

A strong steady series of articles, commentary and editorial support. Short individual stories of individual immigrants are very compelling. Good photos support theme.

Third Place

Catholic San Francisco, "Best Coverage of Immigration" by Christina Gray, Valerie Schmalz

Focus on individual family helps explain the issues. Good commentary by Archbishop identifies this as a major issue for Catholics.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic News Service, "Immigration: Three perspectives" by Dale Gavlak, Mark Pattison, Manuel Rueda, Tyler Orsburn.

Our Sunday Visitor, "Who has the power to help immigrants?; Seeking a path; Uncertainty reigns for DACA's 'Dreamers'" by Don Clemmer, OSV Editorial Board and Brian Fraga.

N30: BEST REGULAR COLUMN BY A BISHOP OR ARCHBISHOP

First Place

The Catholic Moment, "Selection of columns by Bishop Timothy L. Doherty" by Bishop Timothy L. Doherty.

Strong writing on important topics. The messages conveyed are clear, concise, and easy for readers to understand. Excellent work!

Second Place

Sooner Catholic—Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, "Put Out Into the Deep" by The Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley—Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Strong voice on interesting topics. A great job relating to and connecting with readers.

Third Place

Diocese of Beaumont, "Working Together for Good in His Name" by Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, SVD

Honorable Mentions

Catholic New York, "Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?" by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan

The Compass, "Bishop's Corner" by Bishop David L. Ricken

N34: BEST EXPLANATION OF THE CHURCH'S POSITION ON MARRIAGE

First Place

Our Sunday Visitor, "Polyamory and the American mainstream; A lasting bridge; Prenups, marriage: No match made it heaven" by Maria Wiering; OSV Editorial Board; Patti Maguire Armstrong

This set of stories upholds journalistic integrity while negotiating views on highly interesting and relevant subject matter.

Second Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Catholic marriage vs. secular culture," "Recommitting: the Church's new marriage rite," and "Our marriages support our priests" by Jessica Trygstad, Father John Paul Erickson and Brad Parent

This coverage is clear, succinct, easy to understand, and above all, useful to the reader.

Third Place

The Irish Catholic, "The Church's challenge to reach out to lost sheep may be more logistical than doctrinal; 'The Pope is a Catholic'; Building on doctrine that speaks to real human situations" by Greg Daly

Well-reasoned and accessible writing make this coverage useful and impactful.

N35: BEST COVERAGE OF LOCAL POLITICS

First Place

St. Louis Review, "A sanctuary of life; Life and liberty; Pro-life strikes back" by Jennifer Brinker Joseph Kenny

Stories do an admirable job of following the progression of a controversial bill, from start to finish, impacting religious freedom. The reporting offers an in-depth look at the various aspects of the bill and explains in detail, with an extensive number of sources, its potential impact.

Second Place

Rhode Island Catholic, "Pro-abortion legislation could bring radical change to R.I. abortion laws; 2018 budget to restore bus passes for elderly, disabled RIPTA riders; Senate passes bill to end 'death-in-prison' sentences for convicted youth" by Lauren Clem & Rick Snizek

Consistently impressive reporting and writing on a wide-range, and often complex, local political issues, from pro-abortion legislation, to bus passes for the elderly and a proposal to end death-in-prison sentences for convicted youth. Strongly descriptive and informative reporting.

Third Place

Catholic Standard, "Catholics and other faith groups voice concern over D.C.'s proposed 'rain tax' increase," "Despite opposition, physician-assisted suicide law takes effect in the District," "Physician-assisted suicide bill fails in Maryland for third straight year" Story by Richard Szczepanowski, photos by Jaclyn Lippelmann

Quality explanatory reporting on politic issues as wide ranging as physician-assisted suicide and a proposed "rain tax" increase.

N40: BEST REDESIGN

First Place

The East Tennessee Catholic, "The East Tennessee Catholic" by Bill Brewer, Dan McWilliams, Jim Wogan, Emily Booker

Redesigning one's publication is scary. Double scary for a staff that is restructuring. In an effort to provide more information to readers, staff at the *East Tennessee Catholic* went back and shifted its publication from a tabloid to a broadsheet. It was a great decision. The newspaper today has a newsy, modern feel and a sense of more information. A fringe benefit was almost twice as much space as before for its Spanish-language section. It's an attractive and newsy makeover.

Second Place

Our Northland Diocese, "Our Northland Diocese 2017 Redesign" by Janelle C. Gergen

This newspaper moved to modernize its look and layout with a stronger reliance on color and visual placement. It was a success. It offers a clean, newsy feel from its redesigned logo to a much-improved page 2/3 designed to draw readers into the paper.

Third Place

Western New York Catholic, "Western New York Catholic Redesign" by Western New York Catholic Staff

In an effort to attract more readers, the *Western New York Catholic* redesigned itself bringing a more modern look. It achieved a successful redesign that was hurt by a stolid feel despite such improvements as a nifty new table of contents on page 3.

N45: BEST COVERAGE OF THE PAPAL TRIPS OVERSEAS

First Place

Catholic News Service, "Pope Francis' visit to Colombia" by David Agren, Cindy Wooden, Paul Haring

Excellent detail in reporting, very well written. Most informative and sophisticated journalism of any entry in this category.

Second Place

National Catholic Reporter, "In Egypt, Francis appeals for peace; Francis pushes for peace in Colombia; Rohingya plight dominates pope's trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh" by Joshua J. McElwee, Soli Salgado

Excellent job reporting on a variety of news events around the world. Very well written.

Third Place

Catholic News Service, "Pope Francis' visit to Myanmar, Bangladesh" by Cindy Wooden, Robert Duncan, Paul Haring, Tyler Orsburn

Excellent range of coverage of papal visits to several locations.

Honorable Mentions

The Irish Catholic, "Pope faces a difficult challenge amidst tension in Myanmar; Catholics express joy amidst Pontiff's politically-charged visit; Pope excels amid delicate politics and conflict zones" by Chai Brady

The Tablet, "The Pope in Colombia" by Ines San Martin, Antonina Zielinska, Melissa Enaje

N46a: BEST COVERAGE OF VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES: Diocesan newspaper

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Affirmation of peace is commitment to justice; High-fives build trust, erase divide; Whatever happened to trust?" by staff

Compelling and important coverage of a local community, from a Catholic angle.

Second Place

The Catholic Voice, "Support for families who suffered violence" by Carrie McClish

The support for families that suffered violence coverage is important, needed and well written.

N48a: BEST COVERAGE OF PRO-LIFE ISSUES: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Arkansas Catholic, "Death penalty in Arkansas" by Malea Hargett

The stories of execution are gruesome and told with detail. Yet telling them is a moral imperative borne by the author and paper that effectively expands the Church's pro-life teaching.

Second Place

The Observer, "Best Coverage of Pro-life issues" by Louise Brass, Amanda Hudson, Penny Wiegert

This coverage uses three different themes to address pro-life issues. The positive nature of the coverage provides a unique tone to the conversation about this important topic.

Third Place

The Boston Pilot, "Local students 'Witness to Life' at March—Counter abortion with love, says 40 Days for Life prayer launch speaker—Palliative Care Colloquium addresses spirituality in health care" by Mark Labbe

Good detail and description characterize this series of stories chronicling three approaches to pro-life issues.

N48b: BEST COVERAGE OF PRO-LIFE ISSUES: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Power of one; Journey to adoption; Alternatives-to-abortion agencies enrich lives" by Jennifer Brinker

Strong writing, great graphics and photos as well as well-told intriguing stories characterize this pro-life coverage as distinctive.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Lodging for Life; Vigil for an execution; The Power of One; Doing the job of God's angels; Free medical clinic blessed in Manassas; A lifetime of love in two days" by Zoey Maraist, Elizabeth A. Elliott, Connor Bergeron, Mary Stachyra Lopez

The Catholic Herald coverage represents pro-life teaching from womb to tomb with intriguing stories of personal struggle and triumph as well as informative background articles.

Third Place

The Criterion, "Pro-Life Stories / Adoption Stories" by Natalie Hoefler

This refreshing series on adoption moves the pro-life needle beyond rhetoric to life-changing Catholic Christian action. The writing filled with poignant quotes and accompanying family photos tell the story with joy.

N48d: BEST COVERAGE OF PRO-LIFE ISSUES: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Catholic Spirit, St. Paul, MN, "Cathedral baby," "Sidewalk counselor" and "Modern adoption" by Maria Wiering, Dave Hrbacek and Jessica Trygstad

Compelling stories told with good detail and quotes mark this coverage.

Second Place

Catholic New York, "Coverage of the March for Life in Washington, D.C. and pro-life celebrations in New York." by Written by John Woods, Dan Pietrafesa and Ron Lajoie. Photos by Chris Sheridan and Maria R. Bastone.

Vivid and colorful photos and text characterize this coverage.

N48e: BEST COVERAGE OF PRO-LIFE ISSUES: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "States debate death penalty issues; Arkansas' execution schedule spurs activists; Ohio scrutinizes execution drug" by Kristen Whitney Daniels

Strong descriptive writing chock full of well researched facts and relevant details make this series of stories stand out as the best treatment of pro-life issues.

Second Place

National Catholic Register, "Small Blessings: Volunteers Give Proper Burial to Babies By Elisabeth Deffner; Human Coalition Helps Change Hearts of Abortion Determined Mothers by Joan Desmond; Abortion Divide Deepens in US by Brian Fraga" by Elisabeth Deffner, Joan Desmond, Brian Fraga

Strong writing and storytelling characterize these articles.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Pro-life coverage" by Michael Swan

The compelling personal stories of heroes committed to pro-life action and response sets two of these articles apart from the fray. The companion editorial is clearly stated and presents a moral imperative.

N50a: BEST REPORTING ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH ISSUES: Diocesan newspaper

First Place

The Visitor, "Together in hope: Catholics and Lutherans commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation" by Kristi Anderson

Some of the packages in this category were more elaborate, but I don't think any other one struck me the way this did—a Catholic-Lutheran service, a Catholic-Lutheran small group, and a comprehensive list of other such gatherings in the local area. Seems to me that a reader would be well-served by this coverage.

Second Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Putting the church back together; Seeking unity in uncertain times; Interreligious kindness" by Zoey Maraist, Elizabeth A. Elliott

Multiple sources, good context, well-written.

Third Place

Arkansas Catholic, "Call to light/Break in unity observed by coming together/Shared faith found in Advent" by Aprille Hanson Malea Hargett

Collectively, these three articles serve as a unifying force for the readers of the publication.

Honorable Mentions

Florida Catholic Miami, "Catholic-Lutheran relations" by Jim Davis

Catholic Standard, "On 500th anniversary of the Reformation, UMD's Catholic Student Center receives '95 Reese's'", "At interfaith service, religious leaders offer prayers..." "Catholic and other faith groups voice concern over D.C.'s proposed 'rain tax' increase"" Stories by Kelly Sankowski and Richard Szczepanowski

N50b: BEST REPORTING ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH ISSUES: National newspaper or wire service

First Place

The Catholic Register, "Ecumenical and Interfaith Issues" by Michael Swan, Fr. Damian MacPherson, Jim O'Leary

This was a timely topic. The reporter's commitment to varied and credible sources, the complementary sidebar, and the rallying-cry editorial collectively brought the topic to life.

Second Place

Catholic News Service, "Interfaith and ecumenical encounter in Egypt" by Carol Glatz, Cindy Wooden, Chaz Muth, Paul Haring

Excellent spot coverage of historic meetings. Would've been stronger with additional sources and some historical context.

N53a: BEST LAYOUT OF ARTICLE OR COLUMN: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Rhode Island Catholic, "Bishop Tobin's Deep Roots Were Forged in the Steel City" by Laura Kilgus

Excellent layout with nice use of text, photographs, fonts and color.

Second Place

The Compass, "POW bracelet holds cherished memories for Verstegen" by Sam Lucero

Image choices and sidebar use and placement nicely balance the article and overall layout.

N53b: BEST LAYOUT OF ARTICLE OR COLUMN: Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

The Leaven, "Human Trafficking" by Todd Habiger

This layout is superb. The use of black and white, quotes, font choice and more are excellent selections for this article.

Second Place

The Catholic Miscellany, "Holy Week: The days, the history, & the traditions" by Caroline Lindsey

This layout is very pleasing to the eye and easy to read and interpret.

Third Place

The Leaven, "Generations" Design by Todd Habiger

The layout and placement of elements allows for this piece with many parts to be more easily read and understood.

Honorable Mention

The Catholic Miscellany, "Protecting creation takes more than just recycling" by Caroline Lindsey

N53c: BEST LAYOUT OF ARTICLE OR COLUMN: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,000 or less

First Place

Hawaii Catholic Herald, "The Local Lenten Table" by Darlene J.M. Dela Cruz

This layout's simplicity and use of white space is well done.

Second Place

The Monitor, "Well-Being At Risk: Concern for youth triggers pushback against popular Netflix series depicting suicide" by Clara Baumann

Nice use of a single color lines/arrows to separate and draw attention to special information.

Third Place

Our Northland Diocese, "Making Catholic voices count" by Katrina Genereux

Nice layout and good use of color and boxing.

N53d: BEST LAYOUT OF ARTICLE OR COLUMN: Non-Weekly Diocesan Newspaper, Circulation 25,001 or more

First Place

Catholic News Herald, "Living Stones" by Tim Faragher

This layout is simple and clear and enhances the article.

Second Place

Denver Catholic, "A Restoration for the Ages" by Filippo Piccone, Aaron Lambert, Karna Lozoya, Andrew Wright

Layout and choice of photographs and fact points provides reader a greater understanding of the article.

Third Place

Catholic San Francisco, "Farewell Archbishop Niederauer: We thank you, and we thank God for you." by Rick DeVecchio, Karessa McCartney

Nice use of symmetry and bold photographs. Well done layout.

Honorable Mention

The Visitor, "A new creation" by Dianne Towalski

53e: BEST LAYOUT OF ARTICLE OR COLUMN: National Newspaper or Wire Service

First Place

Our Sunday Visitor, "Summer Catholic Trivia Challenge" by Michael R. Heinlein and Chelsea Alt

Beautiful layout with nice choice of graphics while keeping the text readable and uncluttered.

Second Place

Hawaii Catholic Herald, "Ohio company's candles helping church celebrate Easter for generations" by Patrick Downes

A simple and effective layout that is uncluttered and permits the reader to easily take in the information.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Save our kids" by Lucy Barco

Clean and easy to understand layout.

Honorable Mention

The Catholic Register, "Canada at 150" by David Chen

N54a: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

First Place

St. Louis Review, "Ending the school to prison pipeline" by Joseph Kenny

These stories of people caught in the school-to-prison pipeline vividly capture how young people are failed by systems based on punishment rather than understanding. The article details efforts by St. Louis religious and community organizations to resolve conflict and provide more support for students. The powerful examples show that people, with help, can change the course of their lives.

Second Place

Catholic Health World, "Centura program equips Peruvian and Haitian birth attendants to save newborn lives" by Julie Minda

The story opens with a gripping anecdote of a nursing technician who used training from the Helping Babies Breathe program to save the life of a newborn in a remote Peruvian community. The story details the challenges faced by women in the Amazon basin and their babies who need medical care. Clear and compelling, the story promotes empathy and understanding.

Third Place

The Catholic Messenger, "Love in the time of memory loss" by Barb Arland-Fye

These poignant stories of three men who helped their wives face memory loss before their deaths invited readers to experience the beauty of their long-term marriages. While there is sadness in each recounting, there is also great love.

Honorable Mentions

The Florida Catholic Palm Beach, "Mothers build a new life at Mary's Shelter" by Linda Reeves

Tennessee Register, "Prison ministers 'buoy the hope' of the incarcerated" by Theresa Laurence

N54b: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Call to Family, Community and Participation

First Place

Arlington Catholic Herald, "Love: the universal language" by Mary Stachyra Lopez

This story profiles an American family who hosted a Colombian girl through a summer program and ultimately decided to adopt her. Through detailed scenes of the girl and her new family bonding, their care for each other becomes evident.

Second Place

Catholic Health Association, "Sisters of Charity advocates for relatives who become surrogate parents" by Julie Minda

This profile of a couple who adopted their cousin's children helps readers understand the situation faced by millions of children in the U.S. who are being cared for by relatives. Honest and detailed, the piece explains both the joys and the challenges of becoming kinship caregivers.

Third Place

Catholic Health Association, "Reaction to discovery of bones is a case study in cultural sensitivity" by Dale Singer

The discovery of bones at the site of a Catholic hospital that had once been a cemetery brought out tensions between the hospital and the local community. By including voices of people on all sides of the conversation, most importantly the descendants of those who had been exhumed, the story gives a balanced portrayal of how the conflict was resolved.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic News Service, "Ohio community cafe responds to hunger while building a following" by Dennis Sadowski

The Catholic Register, "Family heart beats strong in Philippines" by Jean Ko Din

N54c: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Rights and Responsibilities

First Place

The Catholic Accent, "The Opioid Crisis in the Diocese of Greensburg" by Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Jerome Zufelt, Elizabeth Fazzini, Mary Seamans, Lloyd McCullough, Lori Padilla

The opioid crisis is one of the most important challenges facing parishes and communities. *The Catholic Accent* developed its reporting on this theme over the course of the year, including a compassionate and enlightening pastoral letter, statistics on deaths related to opioid addiction, and personal stories of families who have been affected.

Second Place

Southern Cross/Diocese of Savannah, "Individual rights and the common good" by Father Douglas K. Clark

In the context of mass shootings both recent and past—which are far more common in the U.S. than in other countries—the author considers the challenges of reconciling individual rights with the common good. Referring to the Constitution, Church catechism, and a relevant Supreme Court decision, he calls on lawmakers to develop reasonable gun laws to avert the more drastic step of repealing the Second Amendment.

Third Place

Orange County Catholic, "The Sacredness of All Life" by Cathi Douglas

As gene editing advances, the scientific practice raises moral and ethical questions about how it can be used. The story clearly describes how gene editing works and how it can be used, and it gives nuanced explanations from doctors and theologians about how it fits with Catholic teaching.

N54d: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

First Place

St. Louis Review, "In Plain Sight" by Jennifer Brinker

This story showcases photos from homeless residents who were given cameras to document their lives. Using their photos, staff photography and detailed interviews, the piece explores with great empathy how people become homeless and the choices they face, helping readers understand what it's like to be in their position.

Second Place

Florida Catholic Miami, "Going out to the peripheries" by Ana Rodriguez-Soto

This story allows readers to walk the streets of Miami with team members of the Lazarus Project, who work with homeless residents who have severe mental illness, addiction and other problems. The story focuses on relationships, portraying the interactions between Lazarus Project members and the homeless people they encounter. It ends poignantly with one case manager telling a man she has worked with previously, "You did it before. You can do it again."

Third Place

The Beacon, "The Village Angels of Tanzania" by Michael Wojcik

Through this story, readers travel to Tanzania to follow the work of a ministry serving the poor and elderly. The story explains the historical context of how the villages in the area welcomed half a million refugees from the Rwandan War and then faced difficult economic conditions after they moved on. It also describes how the classroom and sewing machines provided by the ministry will help villagers educate and support themselves.

Honorable Mentions

The Georgia Bulletin, "Open Door Catholic Worker community closes home, but leaders will still serve" by A. Nelson

Catholic Sentinel, "Tiny houses are big gift to homeless women" by Katie Scott

N54e: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Dignity and Rights of the Workers

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Conflicts on campus" by Menachem Wecker

This story uses detailed and rigorous reporting to investigate a contentious subject: disputes over faculty health care and unionizing at a Catholic university. The reporter is fair and precise in explaining competing claims about the course of negotiations between faculty and administrators. Persuading a variety of people to talk on the record led to the story providing a valuable range of perspectives.

Second Place

FaithLife, "Autistic students get 'safety net'" by Mary Solberg

Students who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum explain in this story how a university program helped them find meaningful work. The story foregrounds their experiences and clearly describes both the challenges they face and the success of the program, one of the oldest and largest autism support programs in the U.S.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Churches fight wage 'fear-mongering'" by Michael Swan

This article sorts through the debate about whether to raise the minimum wage in Ontario to \$15 an hour by offering evidence from economists and interviewing sources who describe how providing wages above the poverty line is supported by Catholic moral teaching. The story clearly explains the issues, draws on Church encyclicals for a broader context, and prioritizes the potential impact on workers' lives.

N54f: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Solidarity

First Place

National Catholic Reporter, "Sisters listen to help heal as Rwanda marks 23 years since the genocide" by Melanie Lidman

More than 20 years after the genocide in Rwanda, the Benekira Sisters describe how they work as Sister Listeners to help community members process their experiences. The depth of reporting and explanation of the complex political situation in Rwanda—the government acknowledges genocide only against Tutsis, not against Hutus—make clear the challenges the sisters face in helping people heal.

Second Place

The Criterion, "Give them a chance" by John Shaughnessy

This story demonstrates the solidarity created between two women through a prison ministry task force. Both women describe eloquently what they have gained through their friendship, and the piece also provides valuable context about what people need when they move from prison to re-entering society.

Third Place

The Catholic Register, "Nuclear meeting is a 'cry to humanity'" by Michael Swan

Through interviews and historical analysis, this story explains the Church's position on nuclear weapons as it previews a Vatican nuclear disarmament summit. While the story presents the reasons some oppose a new treaty, providing balance, it also articulates a forceful argument criticizing Canada's failure to participate in the discussions.

N54g: BEST REPORTING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES: Care for God’s Creation

First Place

Clarion Herald, “Loyola law students take Flint crisis to global tribunal” by Beth Donze

Long after most national attention has moved on, the residents of Flint, Michigan, still suffer from contaminated drinking water. This story powerfully details the effects people have faced—including, in some cases, death—and explains that Loyola University law students have turned to an international human rights tribunal to seek an affirmation that clean and safe water is a basic human right.

Second Place

The Catholic Register, “Digging for the truth” by Michael Swan

This story skillfully examines the call by Canada’s bishops to improve oversight of Canadian mining operations in Latin America. When the mining industry counters that it is being unfairly criticized, the reporter investigates the claims and finds that, while Canadian companies are less likely than others to have problems at their mines, the systemic problems in the industry still need to be addressed. The piece makes complex issues accessible to a wide audience, getting to the heart of the matter.

Third Place

National Catholic Reporter, “Students undertake Carbon Challenge” by Brian Roewe

The details of how high school students and their teachers bring the principles of “Laudato Si” into their schools—from the “ID a Tree” challenge to taste tests of fair-trade chocolate—are told in lively anecdotes, providing a guide to other schools who want to incorporate the values of environmental justice into their classes.

N55: BEST STORY AND PHOTO PACKAGE

First Place

St. Louis Review, “Caring for God’s ‘special people’” by Jennifer Brinker Lisa Johnston

The story of these characters revolves around struggle and perseverance, which is evident in the reporting and photos capturing the work ethic and happiness of those living at the Blue Rose.

Second Place

The Georgia Bulletin, "Parish builds warm community with Brookhaven police officers" by N. Golden, M. Alexander

It's not unusual to see donation and adoption programs like these, although many seem to be centered around holidays. But this program seems to be one of a kind, and that much is made clear throughout the story. The significant effort that has been put into community building from this program is highlighted in every photo.

Third Place

Tennessee Register, "Totality" by Rick Musacchio, Andy Telli

Various schools experiences with the eclipse are told fully with both written stories from the event as well as a great collection of imagery. The presentation as a whole showed the importance of the event in terms of historical value and educational value to those students involved.

Honorable Mentions

Catholic Health World, "Warm socks, sturdy footwear and compassionate connection raise spirits" by Ellen Futterman

Catholic San Francisco, "San Francisco's farewell to Archbishop John R. Quinn" by Rick DeVecchio, Valerie Schmalz, Tom Burke, Debra Greenblat, Karessa McCartney