



December 12, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this note finds you in good health as we celebrate the joys of the Advent season. I am writing to inform you of the **2020 John Carroll Society Margaret Mary Missar High School Essay Competition**, and to ask you to encourage participation in your school.

This competition is one of just a few local essay contests directed towards offering our students the opportunity to reflect on some of the serious and profound issues regarding the Church and their faith. This year, The John Carroll Society chose the theme, “**Seeking Hope and Contemplation in Our Modern World.**” Suggested approaches to this theme for students to consider are attached to this letter.

We ask that you distribute the attachments we are providing in this email to your Religion Department Chair, Director of Campus Ministry, Chaplain, and/or others who might be interested and able to encourage student participation. Some schools use the essay contest as a class assignment and submit the best student work. Other schools encourage broad support from their entire student body. Schools may enter as many essays as they wish. Last year, over 300 essays were submitted from seven high schools. **This year, it is the John Carroll Society’s goal to have representation from each of our Catholic High Schools.**

Warm regards as we prepare for Christmas.

Sincerely,

Catherine Karrels
Head of School
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart