



December 10, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this note finds you in good health as we enter into the joys of the Advent season. We are writing to inform you of the **2019 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, “**The Future of the Church will be Shaped by its Saints.**” Suggested approaches to this theme for the 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 400 essays were submitted from nine 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

Dan Kerns  
President, Georgetown Visitation