



## Saint John Paul II Memorial Scholarship Essay Application

Below are provided four quotes from the messages of the late Saint Pope John Paul II. Please prayerfully read and reflect upon them. Then **choose one of the quotes** as a basis for composing a roughly 1000-word, double-spaced, original essay. Include in your essay why this quote spoke to you, what the quote makes you think about and how it relates to your present life and the life of the Church and our contemporary culture—including perhaps some of the challenges before us as local and global citizens. Essays will be ranked and judged on the depth of reflection and the ability to relate Saint John Paul’s proposal about God’s identity and the nature of the human person to the daily life of a young Catholic Christian.

“In our society, characterized by the global phenomenon of migration, individuals must seek the proper balance between respect for their own identity and recognition of that of others. . . . We should encourage a mutual fertilization of cultures. This presumes knowledge and openness between cultures in an atmosphere of true understanding and goodwill. . . . It will be necessary to combine differences with the protection of values that are common and inalienable because they are founded on universal human rights. This gives rise to that climate of civic reasonableness which permits friendly and peaceful coexistence” (World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2005).

“Music, like all the languages of art, brings men and women closer to God, who has prepared for those who love him ‘what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived’ (1 Cor. 2:9). But at the same time, art can sometimes be the vehicle for a concept of the human being, of love or of happiness that does not correspond to the truth of God’s plan. . . . It is also up to you, dear young people, to renew the languages of art and culture” (Message to the Participants, Annual International Congress UNIV, 2005).

“Dear young people, may you always be motivated by the desire to discover the truth of your lives. May faith and reason be the two wings that bear you aloft towards Christ, the truth about God and the truth about man. In Christ you will find peace and joy” (Message on the Occasion of the Vigil of Prayer, Third European University Day, 5 March 2005).

“ ‘In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country. . . .’ (Lk. 1:39). The words of the Gospel story have once more brought before the eyes of our hearts the young maiden of Nazareth as she makes her way to the ‘city of Judah’ where her kinswoman Elizabeth lived, in order to be of help to her. What strikes us about Mary is above all her loving concern for her elderly relative. Hers is a practical love, one which is not limited to words of understanding but is deeply and personally involved in giving help. The Blessed Virgin does not merely give her cousin something of herself; *she gives her whole self*, asking nothing in return. Mary understood perfectly that the gift she received from God is more than a *privilege*; it is a *duty* which obliges her to serve others with the selflessness proper to love” (Homily, 15 August 2004).