



Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton 2023 Essay Contest

The Tolton Ambassadors-Chicago are accepting essays from Catholic school students for the Venerable Father Augustus Tolton 2023 Essay Contest. This year we are also accepting essays from students who do not attend Catholic schools but are parishioners in a Catholic church community.

Essays must be 500–1500 words in length.

Parent permission is required to participate.

Essays should answer one of the 2023 theme questions:

5th and 6th Grade

We know that Fr. Tolton did not have an easy life. In fact, his life was filled with many trials and tribulations. Can you identify instances in his life where he overcame great adversities? What gave him the strength to go on? How can his life and actions be a guide for us today?

7th and 8th Grade

Fr. Tolton overcame many obstacles to become a priest. More than 100 years after Fr. Tolton's death, we still struggle with the same issues that he had to face like racism and exclusion. How can Fr. Tolton's life inspire change in our world today?

High School

Fr. Tolton once said "The Catholic Church deplores a double slavery - that of the mind and that of the body." Both freedom of mind and body were extremely important to Fr. Tolton. Why do you think these two things meant so much to him and are they important to you today?

Essays will be judged on originality, connection to theme, paragraph construction, organization and mechanics.

Essays must be submitted by an Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic school faculty member or a Catholic parish administrator to:

toltonambassador.chicago@gmail.com

Essays must be submitted by 11:59 pm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Winners will be announced Monday, May 1, 2023. There will be one winner in each grade category.

Winners will receive a new tablet!

The prizes will be awarded Saturday, May 6, 2023 during the Tolton Essay Luncheon.