

## Office of the Superintendent ~ Catholic School Services

### R. C. Diocese of Brooklyn

Diocesan Office  
310 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Cathy Kenny: 718-634-2775  
FAX: 718-634-6673

To: Elementary School Principals, Oratorical Contest Coordinators, and Teachers of  
**Grades 6 to 8**

From: Cathy Kenny, Oratorical Contest Coordinator

Date: January 2019

Re: **Sr. Peggie Merritt Memorial Oratorical Contest 2019**

We are pleased to announce that we will once again have our **ORATORICAL CONTEST!** This annual contest provides a wonderful forum for the development of our talented students' oratorical skills. This is a great opportunity to foster the development of poise and confidence in our students and provide a medium to enhance the essential life skill of public speaking! Because of her many years of leadership and service with the Oratorical Contest, we have renamed this event the "Sr. Peggie Merritt Memorial Oratorical Contest", in memory of Sr. Peggie, who passed away in 2016.

### **SR. PEGGIE MERRITT MEMORIAL ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy  
70-25 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(718) 793-2086

Host Principal: Mrs. Dana McCann

**The contest begins promptly at 1:30 P.M.**

**Contestants and judges must arrive by 1:00 PM for registration and orientation.**

**Registrations will not be accepted the day of the contest.**

**Registration materials must be received by CATHY KENNY no later than:**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

**Applications received after the deadline will be returned.**

**In preparation for this event, we would like to remind you of the following points:**

1. Only **one student** per school may enter.
2. The student must be in **grades 6, 7 or 8.**
3. Individual school competitions must be held **before** the deadline to receive materials by Cathy Kenny – **April 9, 2019.**
4. Students must wear their **school uniform** (no costumes, props or gym uniforms).
5. All speeches are subject to the approval of the **Oratorical Contest Committee.**
6. Content of the speeches must be suitable for a Catholic school audience.
7. The contestant **must be accompanied by a teacher/principal that will serve as a judge.**

### **THE JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. The selection must have been originally delivered as a public speech by its author, a person other than the present contestant. Note: Political speeches, eulogies and commencement addresses are examples of acceptable speeches. **Monologues from a play, comedy routines and dramatic renditions are NOT acceptable.**
2. The presentation shall be from memory and shall be done without the use of a microphone, prop, costume or notes.
3. The contestant should develop the ability to convey the message in a sincere, honest and realistic style. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully: poise, quality of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, pronunciation and enunciation.
4. The contestant must be able to interpret the meaning of the speech and be able to carry it over to those who hear him/her. The speaker must be able to capture and hold the attention of his/her listeners.
5. Attempts at dramatization rather than the communication of ideas will be penalized. The intent is not to recreate the character of the original speaker – rather, the intent is to focus upon conveying the original message of the speaker.
6. The use of a podium is optional.
7. The length of the speech should be between 3 and 6 minutes. Speeches may be edited to fit within the time limit provided the content and message of the speech is not significantly altered. Points are deducted for speeches under 3 minutes and over 6 minutes.
8. Speeches entered should be **no less than 500 words**. This generally is equal to at least **1 typed written page that is 12 pt. font and singled spaced**. Two examples of speeches that would not meet these criteria are *Ain't I a Woman?* and the *Gettysburg Address*.
9. As part of the presentation, the contestant shall include an introduction which states the name of the person who delivered the speech, the title of the work, when it was delivered and a brief statement about the circumstances under which the speech was delivered.
10. The speech should not contain profanity or material deemed objectionable for a Catholic elementary school audience.

### **Registration Procedures:**

1. Complete the registration form. **Please print clearly in upper case letters.**
2. Be sure to **include the name of the teacher/principal** that will accompany your school's contestant and serve as a judge. **This is a requirement.**
3. Include a **copy of the speech** along with a **\$7.00 registration fee.** Checks should be made payable to: *Diocese of Brooklyn.*

**Mail to the attention of:** Cathy Kenny, Oratorical Contest Coordinator  
St. Francis de Sales CA, 219 Beach 129<sup>th</sup> Street, Belle Harbor, NY 11694

**DEADLINE:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019

# ORATORICAL CONTEST 2019

May 22, 2019 at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy

## REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEE: \$7.00

DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY:

Academy Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & E-mail Address of Contest Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ --- \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Speech title: \_\_\_\_\_

Speech was delivered by: \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_ (author) at \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT!**



**Enclose a copy of the student's speech entry, and print the name of the Teacher/Principal who will (must) accompany the above student and who will also act as a Judge in the space below:**



\_\_\_\_\_ Have you served as a judge at an Oratorical Contest in the past: ( ) Yes ( ) No

**REMEMBER: Enclose the Registration Fee of \$7 payable to "Diocese of Brooklyn"**

**ALL SPEECHES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE ORATORICAL CONTEST COMMITTEE.**

# Judge's Worksheet

## 2019 Diocesan Oratorical Contest

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Round \_\_\_\_ Order \_\_\_\_

Point Range is from 0 to 5  
(0 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

### Introduction

- Name of the Work \_\_\_\_\_
- Author \_\_\_\_\_
- Background \_\_\_\_\_

### Presentation Style (TIMING BEGINS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION)

- Sincerity \_\_\_\_\_
- Realistic Interpretation \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocal Delivery

- Voice Quality \_\_\_\_\_
- Pronunciation \_\_\_\_\_
- Variety of Pitch \_\_\_\_\_
- Volume \_\_\_\_\_
- Pausing \_\_\_\_\_
- Phrasing \_\_\_\_\_
- Emphasis \_\_\_\_\_
- Variety of Tone \_\_\_\_\_
- Diction \_\_\_\_\_

### Physical Delivery

- Eye Contact \_\_\_\_\_
- Poise/Stance \_\_\_\_\_
- Facial expression \_\_\_\_\_
- Body Language \_\_\_\_\_
- Appropriate Gestures \_\_\_\_\_

### Overall Emphasis

- Overall Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Communicated understanding of the speech's message \_\_\_\_\_
- Evoked emotion \_\_\_\_\_

### Points Lost for Time:

Deduct 10 points if speech is over 6 minutes \_\_\_\_\_

Deduct 10 points if speech is less than 3 minutes \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS

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