

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton 2024 Essay Contest

The Tolton Ambassadors-Chicago would like to announce that they are accepting essays from Catholic school students and students who faithfully attend a Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago for the **2024 Venerable Father AugustusTolton Essay Contest.**

The contest is for students in grades 5 through 8
Essays must be 500 –1500 words in length.
Parent permission is required to participate.

Essays should answer the following question:

We know that Father Tolton was the first recognizable Black Catholic priest in the United States. The road to priesthood and his life after ordination was not easy. We know his life was full of challenges, yet he continued to pursue his dream and became a Catholic priest. Reflect on Father Tolton's life as you answer the following:

Chicago has received over 30,000 men, women and children who fled from their home countries in South America in pursuit of a better life in the United States. You have seen news reports and read articles on their plight since arriving in Chicago. Some say, "We do not have enough resources to share with them." How do you think Fr. Tolton would want us to handle this crisis? What message would he give to inspire Catholics to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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 Church administrator to:

toltonambassador.chicago@gmail.com

Essays must be submitted by 11:59 pm Sunday April 14, 2024.

Winners will be announced Monday April 22, 2024. Three people will be awarded prizes.

Winners will receive a cash prize 1st place $300, 2nd place $200, 3rd place $100

The prizes will be awarded Saturday May 4, 2024 during the Tolton Essay Luncheon. Luncheon tickets are free for students who submit essays and their parents. Tickets are $30 or $15 for those 12 and under.