Joy & Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Essay & Sermon Series Competitions

The Yale Center for Faith & Culture is hosting three competitions: a sermon series competition, an essay competition and a curriculum competition. These competitions seek submissions that address questions concerning joy and flourishing (the “good life”) for adolescents. The Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Program seeks to advance authentic human flourishing among youth by drawing on the theological insights developed by the Center’s God and Human Flourishing Program to enhance and support transformative Christian youth ministries.

Essay Competition

We ask that participants submit essays that engage with one or more of the following questions:

1. What is joy?
2. What is the relationship between joy and human flourishing? How does attention to joy shape one’s vision of a flourishing life? How does attention to an integrated flourishing life shape one’s account of joy?
3. How can recovery of joy as a central theological category of human experience:
   (a) return the quest for human flourishing to a central position in Christian theology?
   (b) return the quest for human flourishing to a central position in individual and social life?
   (c) help lay the foundations for adolescent flourishing?
4. What practices, attitudes, habits, and virtues help to inspire and sustain joy and flourishing for adolescents?
5. What are the biggest obstacles to and counterfeits of joy that adolescents face? How can we offer adolescents the spiritual communities, experiences, and resources that sustain resilience in confronting these obstacles or enable them to live with a measure of joy despite them?

The competition is open to all current (master’s and doctoral) degree-seeking students at accredited institutions, including seminarians.

For more information visit: faith.yale.edu/joy/jaffessaycompetition

Sermon Series Competition

We ask that participants submit sermons that engage with one or more of the questions above. The Sermon Series Competition is open to pastors and seminarians.

For more information visit: faith.yale.edu/joy/jaffsermoncompetition

Deadline: January 31, 2018

First Prize: $2,000
Runners Up (3): $500