This year, the essay contest has undergone substantial changes. The following is from the Supreme Council’s website:

“Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest”

The Order encourages all councils and assemblies to sponsor the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest at schools in their communities. The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Faith.

The Order has expanded the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 during the current school year. The contest has also been expanded to go through the different levels of competition to the international level.

The theme of the essay contest is “Going to the Peripheries.” The contest opens the doors of young minds, enabling the entrants to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work.

Through his Incarnation, the Lord has united himself forever with suffering humanity — not as an abstraction, but throughout history with each suffering person. Jesus is already at the peripheries. The question for us is whether He will be there alone or whether His disciples will be there with Him.” - Supreme Knight Carl Anderson
Discuss the role of the Catholic Church going to the peripheries, then select one of the following ideas to complete your essay:

a) Describe the work of one widely known current Catholic who went to the periphery.
b) Describe the work of one widely known historical Catholic who went to the periphery.
c) Describe the work of one person in your life, who helps alleviate human suffering.

(It appears that each essay must begin by discussing the role of the Catholic Church “going to the peripheries”. THEN, each writer would select one of the three above ideas to complete the essay!)

If there are any questions regarding the contests, please email me at zin31707@yahoo.com with the name of the contest in the Subject line. Good luck to all councils!