



2019

FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ

WRITING CHALLENGE



SPONSORED BY:
THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
& THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE?

The *Pedro Arrupe, SJ Writing Challenge* is an opportunity for students to express in writing what principle or personal ethic is a driving factor in their lives.

It is meant to publicly recognize young people who reflect upon and write about their personal beliefs and values through the lens of their Jesuit Catholic education.

GOALS

- Build the Arrupe Jesuit writing community
- Encourage students to explore their Jesuit Catholic identity through self-examination and writing
- Improve narrative writing skills
- Recognize exceptional writers within the Arrupe Jesuit community

THE PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE AWARDS BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST EMCEE

Jason Armijo

WELCOME REMARKS

Fr. John Nugent, SJ

PRESENTATION OF FINALIST AWARDS

Nicky Schifano

PRESENTATION OF WINNERS & READING OF ESSAYS

Jason Armijo

Student Participants

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO
THIS WRITING CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY:

Anne Archer
Bryan Bayham
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Walt Coughlin
Barb Fuchs
Jim Ginley
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Maria Orozco
Ronny O'Dwyer

Nancy Padron
Megan Parker
Addee Phillips
Mickie Piechowski
Antonio Prado-Gutierrez
Susanna Rodriguez deLeon
Kim Smith
Margaret Tezak
Abigail Thomas
Megan Turilli
John Volpe

WINNERS AND PRIZES

1ST PLACE

Anne Zimmerman Scholarship

Juan Madera, *Class of 2019*

2ND PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship

Destiny Arias-Buckeye, *Class of 2019*

3RD PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship

Mireya Rivas, *Class of 2019*

FINALISTS

David Acevedo, *Class of 2019*

Alejandro Carrillo, *Class of 2020*

Valerie Caraveo, *Class of 2020*

Diana De La Rosa, *Class of 2019*

Victoria DeLoera, *Class of 2020*

Miguel Gutierrez, *Class of 2020*

Ariadna Sanchez, *Class of 2019*

PROFILE OF THE ARRUPE JESUIT GRADUATE AT GRADUATION

Open to Growth
Religious
Intellectually Competent
Loving
Committed to Justice
Work Experienced

ESSAY PROMPTS BY GRADE LEVEL

NINTH: *AWARENESS OF GOOD WILL/KINDNESS/LOVE*

When you reflect on your life so far, think about how you have been impacted by acts of generosity, compassion, care, service and love. At the time, you may not have recognized these acts as God's good will/kindness/love in your life. Describe an event or occasion when you've experienced good will/kindness/love in your life.

TENTH: *DISCOVERY OF SELF*

Based on your first two years at Arrupe Jesuit, how would you define what it means to be a man/woman for others? Describe how you have personally grown into this definition since coming to Arrupe Jesuit.

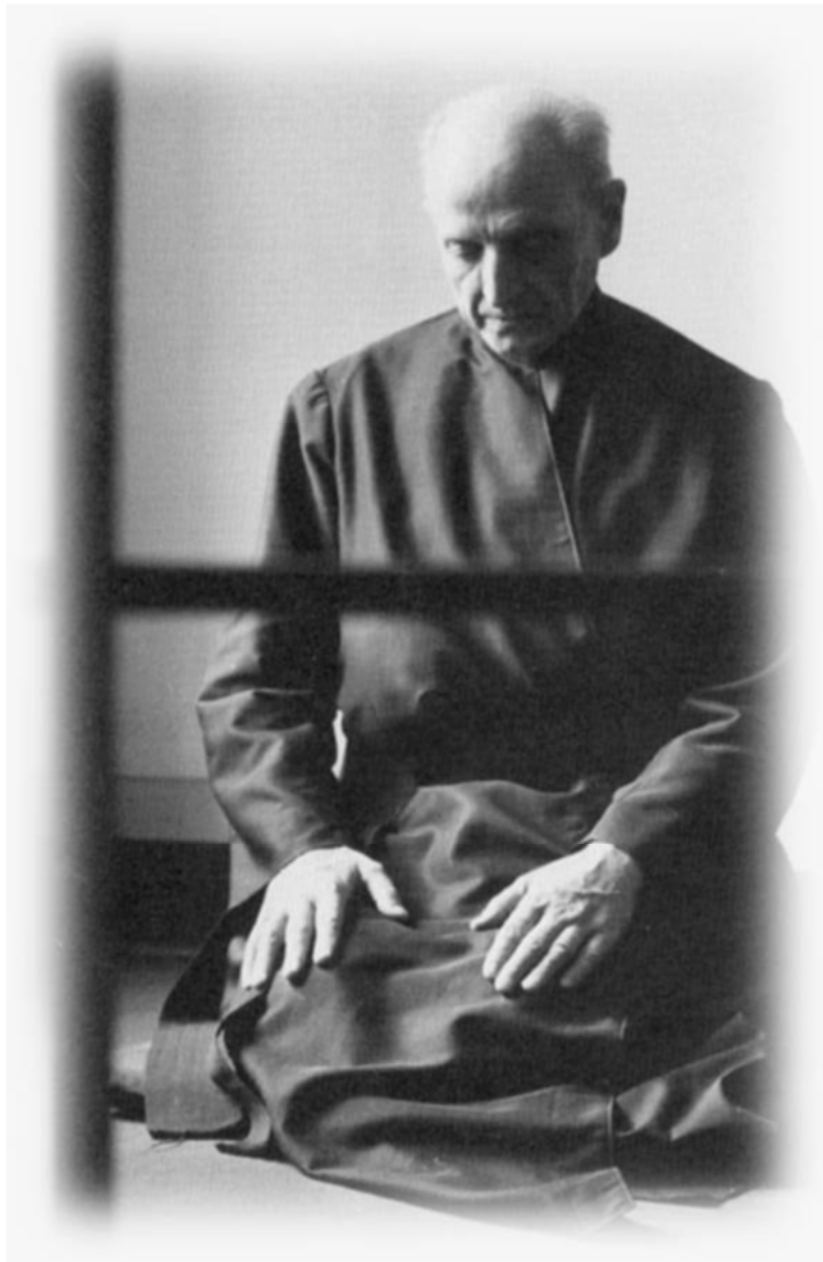
ELEVENTH: *CHOICES*

While a student at Arrupe Jesuit, there have been moments when you have faced difficult decisions. Describe a situation or event in which you have made a choice that best reflects you as a man or woman for others. If you did not make this kind of choice, what might you have done differently?

TWELFTH: *CARRYING IT FORWARD*

Look back over your time at Arrupe Jesuit. You've had opportunities to be a man or woman for others; additionally, you've been impacted by men and women for others both within and outside our school community. Now, envision how you will carry forward what you've learned from others and about yourself. How will what you've learned about being a man or woman for others impact how you live your life after Arrupe Jesuit?

THE PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
WRITING CHALLENGE
WINNING ESSAYS



1ST PLACE

JUAN MADERA CLASS OF 2019

As I stroll up to the stage, my heart begins to race. I feel the ends of my cheeks perk up as my name is being called at my high school graduation. My family's loud horns begin to screech in the distance and their cracking voices scream out my name. I stare at my parents while receiving my diploma, I see tears forming on my mother's tiny honey eyes. Her wrinkled cheeks begin to perk up as she smiles. Her tiny hands extend out as if she is giving me warm hugs. My father is next to my mother in his work clothes. The sun has kissed his cheeks all day. His face has droplets of cement hanging on. Despite having another exhausting day, he is jumping and clapping his hands in triumph. As I receive my diploma, I understand the importance of this diploma for my family. I am a first generation high school student. My experiences serving as a man for others and playing sports have shaped me during my time at Arrupe, and because of them I intend to become a nurse in the later future

I walk to my seat, and I reminisce on my high school experience. My parents made the great decision to have me go to Arrupe Jesuit High School. As I look throughout the years, I am astonished on how much a Jesuit education has influenced me. I tried to fulfill the graduate at graduation values at Arrupe. I had the opportunity to be a captain for the varsity soccer team. It was not an easy task but I was open to growth. I let others give me advice on how to become a great leader, and I let others lead certain practices to learn from their strengths as a leader. I wanted to ensure I leave a legacy.

Moving forward, I promised myself I would be lovingly inclusive and be a man for others. As a senior, I volunteered at the GrowHaus, which is a market that provides affordable vegetables. As I walked around crutches, I was vulnerable but felt fulfilled and warm hearted by still helping others who are in worse condition than me. Only a couple dozen were chosen to give our time to nonprofit organizations as others continued to go to school.

After my Senior Service Project, I was able to serve on a Kairos Retreat as a leader who would be appointed to pave the pathway that allowed others to love themselves with the power of God and their peers. This retreat showed me I wanted help others discover self love. Not only did it help others find self love, but help them be vulnerable and find God within themselves. This passion continued throughout when I was an intern at Denver Health in the pediatric emergency department. Denver Health is a safety-net hospital and ensures that everyone receives health care regardless of pay method. I was able to not only experience the medical field, but practice my value of being committed to justice. It is necessary that everyone has access to healthcare. This is not a privilege but a right and we should all fight to stand for our communities that are less fortunate.

As I continue my education, I want to pursue a Jesuit education and become a nurse. I would be able to continue living in a community of selflessness and love in my career. I can sustain giving back to the community and volunteer my time to a greater cause. It is important to me to resume living in a space where I can practice my beliefs on being a man for others. As I transform, I am devoted to practice the graduate at graduation values that my high school has taught me. I want to

be loving and spread my love to people who are struggling around the community by volunteering my time to give back. The benefit of this is meeting new people through all my service and being a man for others. This gives me the outstanding opportunity to be open to growth and learn from around the country. It is important to keep an open mind and learn everything possible from others to build a strong community of selfless women and men. As I seek to fulfill my mission of being a man for others, I am able to continue challenging the injustices of people around the community and be the voice for the voiceless. I am confident the values I learned at Arrupe will stay with me in college and beyond.

2ND PLACE

DESTINY ARIAS-BUCKEYE

CLASS OF 2019

Throughout my four years at Arrupe Jesuit High School, I have had numerous opportunities to be a woman for others and have been impacted by several men and women for others, inside and outside of Arrupe. These people and experiences have shaped who I am as an individual within my community and who I strive to be in the fullness of time. I will be able to carry out what I have learned about being a woman for others by selflessly giving myself to others in my everyday life, whether that be within the workplace, in college, or while raising a family.

When I think of a person for others who has had a powerful impact on me, I immediately think of my mom. My mom has always gone out of her way to give me the most support, whether that be with making sure there is food on the table to being someone I can turn to when life gets overwhelming. She has been most supportive throughout my high school career as I have experienced both milestones and hardships that have truly made an impact on my life. Even when she is struggling to make ends meet, she still manages to put the needs of my sister and I first, which is why she has been the most significant embodiment of a woman for others in my life. I have learned how to persevere even during difficult periods of my life because that is what a woman for others does. There is no purpose in giving up when there is so much work to be done within my community and around the world in order to be the change that I hope to see. My mom has also taught me how to work hard to reach success and in that success I can be able to provide for others. I will continue to follow my mother's example of what it means to be a woman for others and put the needs of others before my own, everyday of my life.

When I was fourteen years old, my family and I qualified for a house through Habitat for Humanity. Watching my mom give her time to build our home and contribute in the build of others' homes inspired me to be apart of that contribution. Being surrounded by other volunteers who dedicate their time to serving others helped me to understand that with all of us put together, we can certainly make a difference in the lives of families who receive a house through Habitat for Humanity. The various volunteers that I met and provided service with gave proof that one who offers service does not have to be skilled, educated, or experienced. The one thing that all "Good

Samaritan's" have in common is that they have a desire to make this world a better place each time they selflessly give themselves to others. Contributing in a family's new chapter of life is what makes volunteering with the organization such a beautiful experience and it is why I continue to volunteer with them. Making sure that these families are able to have a home that they feel safe in and can afford is what makes all of the sweat, dirt, and hard work worth it. Habitat for Humanity was the first organization that I volunteered with outside of Arrupe, which has inspired me to continue going out and doing the work of God on my own by finding different organizations within my community where I can be of service.

In late February, I had participated in the Senior Service Project where I was able to volunteer at the Mount Saint Vincent Home. The Mount Saint Vincent Home provides mental health treatment to children who have experienced trauma and ongoing hardships in their lives. I was told multiple times that it would be a difficult site to volunteer at, but that only made me more eager to participate in this opportunity. I worked with children from ages nine to eleven years old in the treatment center. All of the children I had the pleasure of meeting and working with had endured different kinds of trauma in their life and had very distinct stories from one another. Being surrounded by these children taught me to be precautious of others' feelings as we do not possess the slightest idea of what is going on in a person's life at any given moment. With that being said, the hidden battle scars a person possesses gives more reason to be compassionate to all, and that is the attitude I presented to these children every day that I walked into the doors of the treatment center. The hugs I gave and received was one of my favorite parts of this experience. I would hug those children forever if I could and give them all of the love they have been neglected of their whole lives. A valuable lesson I learned from the Mount Saint Vincent Home and the children I worked with is these kids give love so compassionately even though that love has not always been reciprocated. These children enlightened me with their wisdom and gave proof that just because the world can be cruel, does not mean it is necessary nor does it make it right to be cruel too. In contrast, spread endless love around; it can be that simple.

My time at Arrupe Jesuit High School has taught me how to serve those around me without expecting anything in return, which is something I will contribute into my everyday life. Being a woman or man for others is a domino effect. One person can inspire another person, after another. If we all made an effort to be men and women for others, this world would be more of a just place. I will take what I have learned from my support people and the experiences I have encountered while at Arrupe Jesuit with me into my life and the way I decide to live it. In doing so, I have faith that I will become the woman that I strive to be, who continues to commit selfless acts and finds success within that.

3RD PLACE

MIREYA RIVAS CLASS OF 2019

Looking back at my four years here at Arrupe, I've had many opportunities to grow as a woman for, and with others. I know these few short experiences have not only helped and shaped me, but the others around me as well. Serving as a role model for the other students at Arrupe has helped me shape a legacy that I hope continues to expand throughout the Arrupe community. Being a woman for and with others has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people with experiences that are different from mine.

I have witnessed my mom raise four kids on her own. She has shown me that no matter the circumstances, I need to continue to pursue my goals. I do not need another person to influence my decisions. As a result, my mom has motivated me to become the independent woman I am today. I was raised in a household where I was told to be my own leader. I was given the freedom to be who I am and not who someone wants me to be. With my mother's high expectations, I was able to grow up faster than everyone else. Being a woman of color has only added to this growth. As a Mexican-American, I am taught that women are always put in the kitchen, women are not allowed to work, women are only to stay home and tend to their husbands. I do not want to be an embodiment of intercultural stereotypes. I want to be successful in anything I pursue and be able to make a difference in the world.

With my mother's expectations, I knew that I had to make a difference at Arrupe. I needed to be able to share my story. But how? I decided to be a Senior Leader for the Juniors on Kairos. Kairos is an opportunity to step outside of our daily lives to seek silence, to build our relationship with Jesus Christ. I was notified that I would be a Senior Leader for Kairos 34. I was ready for this responsibility, I knew what I had to do; write a story about "Knowing Yourself," become Rector, and lead small group discussions. Being a rector was my opportunity to fulfill the duties of being the main student leader who orcestrates the day to day activities and live out the Arrupe legacy within the Junior class and within the other student leaders as well. The day came to leave for Sedalia. I was hit with nerves, but mostly, excitement. I was surrounded by people I knew supported and loved me, so if I messed up, there would be no judgments.

I was the first talk of the night and I was nervous. I had to talk about "Knowing Yourself" and the talk I was able to come up with was about freshman year. I got up and I completely lost it. I was shaking, my heart was beating, and it wouldn't stop, then I began to speak. I don't really remember anything about my talk or how it went. I blacked out and the last thing I remember saying was,

"We are out here trying to put up a front of us being the best or trying to fit in where we don't belong. We have this image of ourselves in our head that we want to uphold. We want to be at the top of everything. But in reality, none of these things will make us happy. None of these desires will lead us to fully know ourselves. We need to be able to make decisions for ourselves that will lead us to fully say, 'I did that. I am who I am.'"

I stepped down from the podium and applauses began immediately. By being a Kairos leader, I was able to open up about who I am as a person, and how much I have grown over the past four years. I not only shared my experiences, but I witnessed Kairos from a different perspective; this

time as a leader. I learned far more from the students themselves rather than the lessons that were being taught. The students taught me that no matter what, it is okay to open up about who you are and not to be afraid because we never know the reality of what someone else may be going through, because someone others may have had the same experience.

Last but not least, I recently had the opportunity to work at Mount Saint Vincent with many great people. Mount Saint Vincent provides mental health treatment, foster care services, preschool through eighth-grade education, and trauma-informed training — all focused on children and their families. I was placed at Mount Saint Vincent as a Senior Service Project; I was placed with the younger group of kids, with ages ranging from 7-9 years old. I had some background on the history there but I never really anticipated what was going to happen when I walked in on my first day. The morning started out great but as the day progressed, I noticed the kids were getting very agitated. The agitation led to aggression and the kids ultimately were “triggered” by one another, which led to an outburst. This particular outburst led kids to jump on tables and throw chairs. No one got hurt in the process but it did open my eyes to the different circumstances kids are exposed to.

My third day there I sat next to one of the boys, just to see if he needed any company. I ended up spending the whole day with him. He told me how he needed me to sit next to him in order to keep him calm throughout the day. He asked me to rub his back, tickle his arm or even play with his hair. We began spending more and more time together and I eventually became attached. I built this strong relationship with him. On my last day, one of the teachers had pulled me aside and explained to me that me being there and spending time with him was truly helpful because I was the first person in a while to show him any sort of love and support. The teacher had also explained to me that his aggressive behavior had also decreased in the week that I was there. I knew I couldn't leave without saying goodbye to everyone and when I finally made it to him, I began to tear up and he hugged me. The experience I had at Mount Saint Vincent was like nothing I have ever experienced before. I was able to be there for the kids and give them love and support. I witnessed a lot more than trauma: I witnessed authenticity, I witnessed hope and I witnessed courage. In the week I was there, I was able to grow and mature using what I experienced to make me a better person than who I was when I walked in the first day.

These past four years at Arrupe I have often been put in a position where I needed to lead others in the right direction and I can say I have been doing well so far. The thing about these decisions is that they not only involve me, but they involve and impact those around me. Being a woman for and with others has led me to make a decision about the future; I need to continue my legacy outside of Arrupe. Not only have these experiences impacted my life, but I can say for a fact that I have impacted those around me from Kairos 34 to Mount Saint Vincent. Kairos was an opportunity to open up to the other students and let them know who I really am and what my struggles are. Mount Saint Vincent was an opportunity to get closer to the children and really experience what they go through in their day to day lives. Being a woman for and with others has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people with authentic stories and I hope to continue volunteering at Mount Saint Vincent through the summer.

2019 FINALIST ESSAYS CAN BE FOUND
UNDER THE STUDENT LIFE TAB AT:
WWW.ARRUPEJESUIT.COM

Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read,
whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in Love, stay in Love,
and it will decide everything.

FR. PEDRO ARRUIPE, SJ
(1907-1991)