



2020

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

SPECIAL THANKS

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Jason Armijo

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER ESSAY READERS:

Glenn Amorosia	Deirdre Kenny	Hannah Selner
Vinolia Anderson	Jeanne Kerr	Gina Severino
Anne Archer	Rick Klau	Amy Shanahan
Lisa Baker	Diane Kyncl	Teresa Solomon
Rawan Bardini	Russ Kyncl	Wendy Staudt
Bennett Bertoli	Jose Madrid	Bonnie Sutherland
Brian Brown	Tom Mallary	Kelly Terry
Katie Coons	John Mankus	Margaret Tezak
Walter Coughlin	Marianne Marvez	Joseph Thibodeau
Darlene Craven	Moira McNeil	Abigail Thomas
Claire DeLine	Kristi Michaud	Douglas Tumminello
Joanna Geselbracht	Ashley Mingus	Heidi Vielhaber
Jim Ginley	Florence Navarro	Flo Wagner
Collin Heng-Patton	Ashley Perea	Joe Weber
Janeen Horner	Paul Ritzdorf	Steve Witulski
Kelly James	Allan Rowley	

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF & FACULTY ESSAY READERS:

Sonia Adame	Barb Fuchs	John Micich
Bryan Bayham	Adriana Gomez	Addee Phillips
Meredith Blatner	Stephan Graham	Sylvette Rivera
Olivia Britt	Sharon Hart	Vianney Rodriguez
Ed Clements	Mike Lovinguth	Nicole Schifano
Samantha Eckrich	Scott McKillip	Megan Turilli

WINNERS AND PRIZES

1ST PLACE

Anne Zimmerman Scholarship
Isabelle Trujillo, *Class of 2020*

2ND PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship
Leslie Meraz, *Class of 2021*

3RD PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship
Gema Prado, *Class of 2020*

FINALISTS

Montserrat Garcia Rincon, *Class of 2022*
Jadyn Pasillas, *Class of 2021*
Gabriela Marquez, *Class of 2020*
Sheccid Apodaca, *Class of 2020*
Jimena Padilla Ortiz, *Class of*
Alyssa Avila, *Class of 2022*
Jennifer Maes, *Class of 2021*

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? How have your choices impacted your ability to grow as a young person? Overall, describe how you have personally grown into this definition since coming to Arrupe Jesuit.

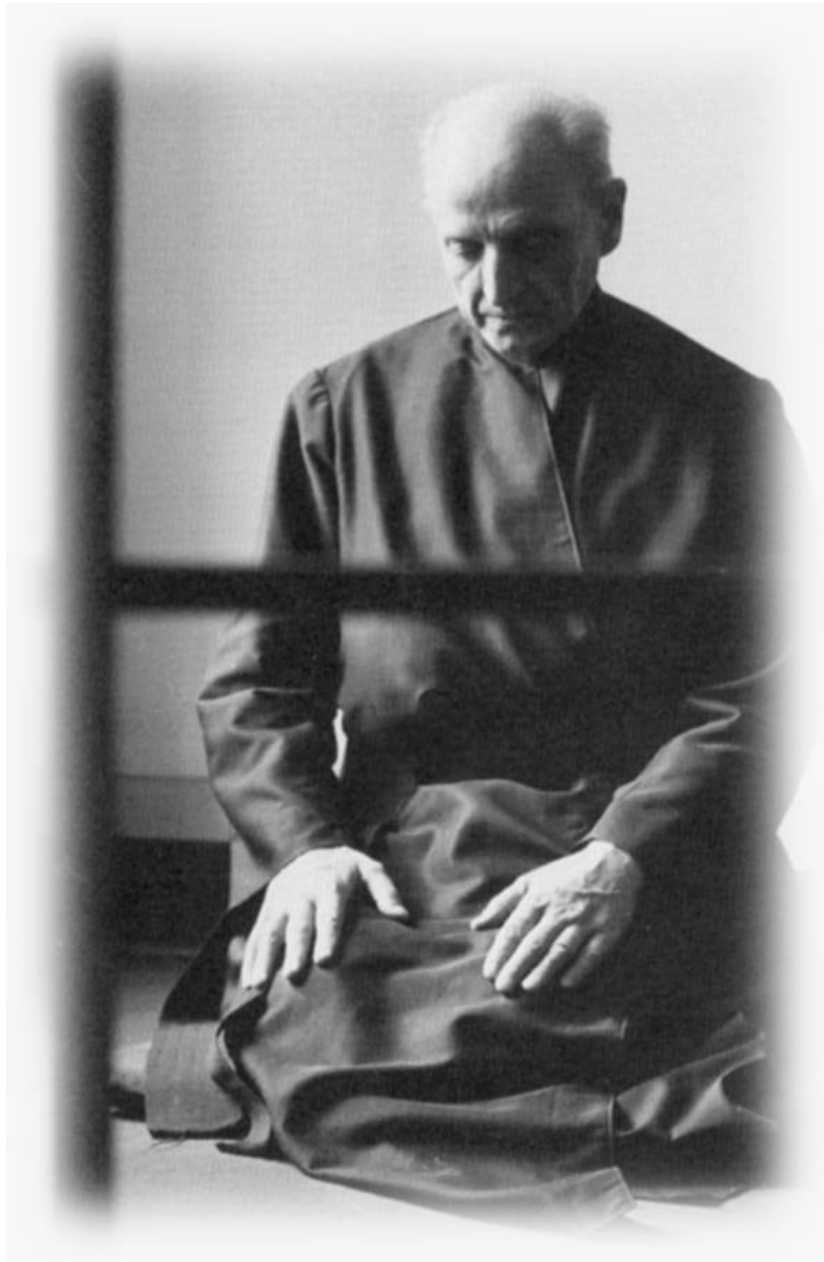
ELEVENTH: CHOICES

Choose two of the Graduate at Graduation characteristics (Open to Growth, Religious, Intellectually Competent, Loving, Committed to Justice, Work Experienced) to reflect upon, and then explain how you foster those characteristics in the greater community. How do you see yourself using both of these Grad at Grad characteristics to influence your community now, and into the future?

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

ISABELLE TRUJILLO
CLASS OF 2020

There has been an emphasis in my life that high school and college help us to form who we are as people. We develop our ways of thinking, our values and morals, self awareness of the injustices and issues surrounding our communities, and how we feel is the best way to live in vocation. Completing half of the crucial part in my life has helped me to grow as a person, while still keeping an open mind to the obstacles that are yet to come. My diploma is a significant step, but I think of how my teachers, friends, religion and Ignatian values have helped me get to where I am today.

Before attending Arrupe Jesuit, my spirituality was lacking a strong relationship with God. Catholicism felt much like a reluctant routine of attending theology classes and going to church. I was insistent on staying closed-minded to a new perspective in faith as I went into high school. I had never been exposed to Jesuit spirituality. My teachers at Arrupe contributed to my change of heart inside and outside of the classroom. They have continued to demonstrate what it means to serve others in Christ. Many stay after school to help struggling students or to be involved in extracurricular activities. My teachers also provide opportunities for students to become involved through retreats, community service projects, and social justice work. Soon enough, Jesuit values such as dedicating everything to the greater glory of God, being more for others, accompanying others through their suffering became a lifestyle. One of my teachers, Mr. Armijo, spoke about finding the "glitter" that God sprinkles on us in our lives on Kairos. He said it may be hard to see, but that God wants us to look for it as a reminder of His love and so that we may help others find their joy in life.

Making an impact on people is where I feel called to give my time and energy. Peer Ministry is a religious club at Arrupe where I can act on these Jesuit values through service. Volunteering for retreats and in-school opportunities sought out the relationship with God that I had been searching for. As a Freshman Retreat Leader, I met a girl named Kate, who was a member of my small group. She was very shy and not into the idea of bearing who she was to an unfamiliar group of people. After the retreat, a wave or a timid hello would be common in the hallway but nothing more. Later, I learned that she played volleyball as I did, so the sport we loved gave us a chance to see each other in another light. Learning that sometimes she is timid around strangers, that she occasionally needs a ride home, help wrapping her ankle and that

she has a great relationship with her cousins helped me to connect with her. Going from strangers to having a close-knit friendship, she's now comfortable around me and that she looks up to me as a sister. Being of service to her is no longer service, it is love and friendship.

In *Tattoos on the Heart*, Fr. Greg Boyle says, "Compassion isn't just about feeling the pain of others; it's about bringing them in toward yourself. If we love what God loves, then, in compassion, margins get erased." Jesuit education has helped me to recognize that living for others is my "glitter." I live in this world to encourage my peers to be the best versions of themselves with Christ. Continuing to live in Jesuit tradition would only help me grow in a deeper relationship with God and His plan for me. These ideals would also help me further discover ways I can impact the world around me. My ability to make change will come from focusing on the need for social justice and being a woman for others throughout my life as I constantly challenge myself to be a lifelong learner. Being a woman for others by serving those on the margins through Christ allows me to exemplify God's love for the world through Jesuit values.

2ND PLACE

LESLIE MERAZ
CLASS OF 2021

A human conscience is built off of life experiences and morals that one chooses to live by. I believe this is one of the most important things that shape you into being a good person. Here at Arrupe Jesuit High School, I get to learn and grow while having my mind nurtured with ideas and examples of what it means to be Catholic. Arrupe's Graduate at Graduation Characteristics (Open to Growth, Religious, Intellectually Competent, Loving, Committed to Justice, Work Experienced) are implemented to build up its student into successful adults. The two that I choose to live by the most are being Loving and Open to Growth.

People often live day-by-day overlooking the blessings right in front of them. The sunrise, the baby squirrel running across the street, the song playing on the radio, a simple smile. We always want more, and once we get what we want, we still long for more. So, I always make it a personal mission to appreciate the little things in life and to be loving, as each action is special in its own way and has a greater significance to something or someone else.

One good day on my lunch break from work, I decided to walk to Starbucks. I went to the long line of busy people rushing on their off hour and a man came behind me. By instinct, I turned, looked at him, and smiled, as I try to do with most people. To my surprise, he looked at me and smiled with a stunned face. Then he said "Hey, let me just say thank you. Not many people smile nowadays, especially to a stranger. So thank you." At this moment, I realized that a simple gesture I had become so used to doing, actually had a much bigger impact on the people around me. We were placed on this Earth as brothers and sisters, and it can be easy to miss the unique beauty that we were given as individuals. So, even if it's the matter of seconds, we were given the gift to be able to change someone's day. A smile is something so little that can show love to the people needing it the most.

Being Open to Growth has never been a walk in the park for me. In life, there are many moments when we want to give up. Times where everything piles up and we convince ourselves that we aren't strong enough. These are the instances that have proven to me the exact opposite. Because I made it through that struggle, because I pushed through and believed in myself when everything else was falling apart, I became the strong, perseverant person I am today.

My dad was deported to Mexico when I was 4 years old. I spend most of my life with just a phone call a day serving as our only communication. As I grew older, I learned that my dad had an inherited kidney disease that had him in bad condition. In 6th grade, right after my dad had his kidney transplant, I went to the doctors for some side pain and learned that I had the same disease. That day when we called him to deliver the news, was the first time I heard my dad crying in years. He told me, "You will be fine, mija. I will always be here for you. I love you with all my heart my princess." The next year, my dad passed away. This was the lowest time in my life. I stopped talking to my family and I pushed people away. I felt depressed about losing the man I loved the most and having to live the rest of my life with this disease, without him there to guide me through it. I shut down, as most 11 year olds would have done. But I kept pushing. I took life day by day, and slowly, I started to understand the reality of it all. We were put on this Earth for a short time. Our life will come and go, and all that will be left in the end is the impact that we made to the people around us. And as I started to meet new people, see new things, I realized that I was made for so much more than to give up. So though I still stumble, I have seen the beauty in life that reminds me to continue working hard. Being Open to Growth means that you have hope in a better future. It means to trust in God and the plan that he has for you. I am strong, I am valuable, I am smart, and I can do anything that I set my mind to.

3RD PLACE

GEMA PRADO
CLASS OF 2020

Throughout my four years at Arrupe Jesuit High School, a saying has stuck with me and it is “being a woman for others.” Being a woman for others will allow me to follow into Jesus’ footsteps and be of service to those who need my help. Before I had stepped foot in Arrupe Jesuit, I had never once heard of that saying. I have had so many opportunities offered to me, such as helping in soup kitchens and volunteering my time in school events. Through my Jesuit education, I could not be more grateful, especially now as a senior. As I graduate from high school and continue my path to be a woman for others, I will take what I learned and turn it into a beacon of hope for those in need.

As a senior, I was offered the opportunity to participate in the Senior Service Project. At first, I was a little hesitant because I knew that if I said yes, I might have to use my spring break to catch up on my school work. I decided to put more thought into this and discuss with a teacher the pros and cons. After a while of discerning, I had a moment of realization, if I wanted to be a woman for others I had to be selfless and put aside my needs to give my all to others. I decided to say yes and I was placed at SAME Cafe (So All May Eat). The SAME Cafe is a nonprofit restaurant that believes everyone deserves the opportunity to eat healthy food regardless of their ability to pay.

What I have noticed as I have grown up is that minorities are put down and not many people believe in them due to financial situations. Coming to SAME Cafe has taught me that through the smallest actions we demonstrate to those in need that we care and value them regardless of their situation. Every day that I walked in, not once did I see anyone in the kitchen complain or give up, they always had a smile on their faces. That smile was the result of knowing that they were making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. This inspired me in wanting to start my own nonprofit organization. My main role was to cut vegetables and help out in the kitchen cleaning. As I would help prepare the food and bake pizzas, I would hear how Theresa, the kitchen manager, would talk to those who would walk in and get to know their stories. I would hear her laughter and see smiles all around. I decided to sit down with a teenager who had walked in and we talked about his life, he told me that without SAME Cafe he would be lost and is grateful that the people there take their time to get to know who he is instead of judging him.

Nowadays, trying to receive healthy food can be really expensive. There are not many nonprofit restaurants that offer healthy food options. This can affect the health of minorities especially those in low income situations. While at SAME Cafe, I took the opportunity to talk more with Theresa and people who would walk in. What I learned from hearing the stories of those in need who walked in is that if SAME Cafe hadn't existed, they don't know where else they could have found people as loving and caring as those working at SAME Cafe who take the time out of their day to help them. People can learn from SAME Cafe and be influenced and hopefully, one day I will do the same and provide for the less fortunate. I have always been asked where I want to go to study and what I want to be when I grow up. I have always known that I have wanted to go to Regis University and study nursing. Many people had always assumed that it is because of the money, but the truth is that I could care less about the money made as long as I am using my knowledge to help others. There is no point in having a career where all I am thinking about is how to make money, if I am not using it for the benefit of others. Now that I have had a bigger insight on how a nonprofit is run, I want to use my knowledge through my education from a Jesuit high school and from Regis University to start my own nonprofit health facility. In the future, when I start my own nonprofit I want to offer minorities the opportunity and access to a proper health system without it being expensive and in return they could offer their time or any resources that could be used in the health facilities. Even after high school, I want to continue volunteering at nonprofit organizations to learn more about what it takes to start my own nonprofit organization. I will allow my Jesuit education and my experience with service to minorities to guide me into the world and help me be a light for those in need.

OTHER FINALISTS IN OUR TOP TEN

Montserrat Garcia Rincon

Jadyn Pasillas

Gabriela Marquez

Sheccid Apodaca

Jimena Padilla Ortiz

Alyssa Avila

Jennifer Maes

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 ARRUPE, SJ
(1907-1991)