
Welcome to the 2024 Catholic Media Awards

The Catholic Media Awards honor Catholic Media Association members for outstanding work produced in 2023. The awards will be presented at the Catholic Media Conference, scheduled for June 18-21, 2024, in Atlanta. Winners will be announced in The Catholic Journalist, accompanied by comments from the judges, and will also be featured on the CMA website and social media platforms.

All member publications can enter any Spanish-language category.

Free Entry Guidelines

Member Organizations and Freelancers are eligible for one free entry per year, and is automatically added to your cart during the regular submission period. If someone else in your organization has already used the free entry during the regular submission period, you will be invoiced for the difference after the submission period has closed.

New for 2024

Unless otherwise specified, entries must be the work of someone on the staff of, or a freelance contributor to, a CMA member organization.

Update: Hard copies are NO longer required for print submissions. You will simply upload a pdf of the work to the submission form.

To save time, you may duplicate your submission form. Once the entry is duplicated it copies all information. Then you only need to select a new category AND make sure all files needed are appropriately updated.

Please use the all member packet to reference for individual excellence awards.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- One free entry per CMA Member Organization or Freelance Member when submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024. Free entry may be your only entry.
- \$38 for all entries submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.
- \$48 for all entries between Feb. 1 and Feb. 7, 2024 at 11:59 a.m. CST.
- All entries are for work published in 2023.
- All members must be in good standing as of March 31, 2024.
- **Deadlines**
 - 11:59 p.m CST, Jan. 31, 2024 (\$38 per entry)
 - 11:59 a.m CST, Feb. 7, 2024 (\$48 per entry)
 - Payment deadline is Friday, Feb. 9, 2024.

Judging

Entries are judged by selected professionals knowledgeable about Catholic media, including faculty from prominent Catholic journalism schools. Our judges bring a wealth of experience in various media, ensuring a fair and informed evaluation of each entry, and are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity throughout the evaluation process.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Catholic Media Awards is a recognition program for CMA members. The following eligibility requirements apply.

1. Entries must be from a Publisher or Freelance Member in good standing. Member dues must be paid by March 31, 2024 to receive an award. **No refunds** offered after judging.
2. Entries must be the original work of a Publication or Freelance Member. Include bylines/credits on all submissions. Plagiarized entries are prohibited.
3. **Publisher Members** may submit the work of any employee or freelance member. The author/creator need not be a Staff Member or Freelance Member.
4. **Freelance Members** may only enter all categories. Your work must appear in the print edition of, on the website of, or in promotion of a Publisher Member.
 - **To avoid duplicate entries**, we ask Freelance Members to consult with the publication that printed the material before submitting it. Please confirm that the publication is not submitting the same work in the same category as you.
5. Only entries published in calendar year 2023 are accepted.

Reasons for Elimination or Disqualifications

- Less than two submissions per category: Every category requires at least two submissions, by different entrants, to qualify for evaluation. ***Under this scenario we will refund your entry fee, if this was NOT your free entry.***
 - Entry does not meet submission requirements: Entries must be submitted properly and include all required components to be evaluated by the judges. Please check the category descriptions to make sure your entries are correct.

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Quick Look

The Quick Look chart is designed to let you find entry categories by type instead of number. Use the category number to find the detailed description and to submit your entry in the award software. New categories are listed first followed by the entire category list.

Type	Number	Title		
Hot Topic Photography	S352	Hot Topic - Eucharistic Revival	7	NEW
	S854	Best Photo - Eucharistic Revival	20	
General Excellence				
General Excellence	GS111	Spanish Publication of the Year		
Design				
Design Advertising	S335	Best Single Advertisement Originating with the Publication		
Design Advertising	S347	Best Special Supplement or Special Issue		
Design Publication Design Publication	S351a	Best Layout or Article Column		
	S351b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Layout of an Article or Column - Newspaper • Best Layout of an Article or Column - Magazine 		
Hot Topic	S352	Hot Topic - Eucharistic Revival		NEW
Design Publication	S361	Best Cover- Magazine		
Design Publication	S362	Best Cover- Newspaper		
Design Publication	S363	Best Use of Art or Graphics		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S363a: Best Use of Art or Graphics - Best Original Illustration • S363b: Best Use of Art or Graphics - Best Chart of Information Graphic 		
Digital Publication Digital Publication	S382a	Best Redesign		
	S382b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S382a: Best Redesign - Print to Print • S382b: Best Redesign - Print to Digital 		
Digital	S402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Use of Video on Social Media 		
Digital	S403	Best Podcast		
Digital	S404a S404b	Best Online Content Not Published in Print		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S404a: Best Online Content Not Published - Photo • S404b: Best Online Content Not Published - Feature or News 		
Editorial				
Editorial	S521f	Best coverage - Canonizations		
Editorial	S521g	Best Coverage - Papal Trips		
Editorial	S521h	Best Coverage - Pro-Life Issues		
Editorial	S521i	Best Coverage - Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate UPDATED		
Editorial	S521j	Best Coverage - Political Issues		
Editorial	S521k	Best Coverage - Racial Inequities		
Editorial	S531	Best Editorial		

Editorial	S532	Best Editorial Page
Editorial	S534	Best Essay Reflecting on Faith Formation
Editorial	S537	Best Feature Writing
Editorial	S541	Best In-Depth Analysis
Editorial	S545	Best Interview
Editorial	S565	Best News Writing – Local/Regional Event
Editorial	S567	Best News Writing – National/International Event
Editorial	S571	Best Personality Profile
Editorial	S572	Best Parish Profile
Editorial	S573a	Best Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Reporting – On Cultural Heritage • Best Reporting – On Family • Best Reporting – On Immigration • Best Reporting – On Latin America • Best Reporting – On a Local Issue • Best Reporting – On Sports
Editorial	S573b	
Editorial	S573c	
Editorial	S573d	
Editorial	S573e	
Editorial	S573f	
Editorial	S575	Best Reporting on a Special Age Group
Editorial	S576	Best reporting on Catholic Education
Editorial	S577	Best Reporting on the Celebration of a Sacrament
Editorial	S579a	Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Call to Family, Community and Participation • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Care for God's Creation • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Dignity and Rights of the Workers • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Life and Dignity of the Human Person • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Rights and Responsibilities • Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues – Solidarity
Editorial	S579b	
Editorial	S579c	
Editorial	S579d	
Editorial	S579e	
Editorial	S579f	
Editorial	S579g	
Editorial	S581	Best Sports Reporting
Editorial	S584	Best Reporting –Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate UPDATED
Editorial	S591	Best Single Issue or Section
Editorial	S592	Best Digital Single Issue
Editorial	S598a	Best Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Writing – Analysis • Best Writing – In-Depth
Editorial	S598b	
Photography		
Photography	S811a	Best Multiple Picture Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Multiple Picture Package – Feature • Best Multiple Picture Package – News
Photography	S811b	
		Best Photo Story

Photography Photography	S821a S821b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Photo Story - Feature • Best Photo Story - News
Photography Photography	S831a S831b	Best Story and Photo Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Story and Photo Package - By an Individual • Best Story and Photo Package - By Two or more individuals
Photography	S840	Best Photograph - Feature Photo
Photography	S841	Best Photograph - Spot News
Photography	S842	Best Photograph - General News Photo
Photography	S843	Best Photograph - Photo-illustration
Photography	S847	Best Photograph - Sacramental
Photography	S848	Best Photograph - Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate UPDATED
Photography	S851	Best Photograph - Catholic Education
Photography	S852	Best Photograph - Immigration/Migration
Photography	S853	Best Photograph - National/ International Event

Categories & Descriptions

General Excellence

GS111: Spanish Publication of the Year

Formerly called "General Excellence." Judging will consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall graphic design.

An entry consists of uploading **one PDF** of any **three** consecutive issues published during 2023. Only one entry per publication is permitted. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

Design Advertisement

S335: Best Single Advertisement Originating with the Publication

Best original ad prepared by the publication's staff for an advertising client. This may include digital or print advertisements.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the material was published.

S347: Best Special Supplement or Special Issue

Criteria for this award stress originality of layout in a special supplement or special issue.

Each entrant must submit **one PDF** of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

S351a: Best Layout of an Article or Column – Newspaper

This category recognizes a newspaper's best use of graphics, text and/or photography in a single article or column.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the material was published.

S351b: Best Layout of an Article or Column – Magazine

This category recognizes a magazine's best use of graphics, text and/or photography in a single article or column.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the material was published.

S352: Hot Topic – The Eucharistic Revival

Questions? Contact: Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org

NEW

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This category is for coverage of a hot topic, in this case, the National Eucharistic Revival taking place from 2022 to 2025 in the U.S. You can use the link [here](#) to learn more information about the movement.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **up to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

Design Publication

S361: Best Cover – Magazine

Judges will consider graphic elements, typeface, and the extent to which the layout is creative and compelling.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the cover only (not the entire issue).

S362: Best Cover – Newspaper

Judges will consider graphic elements, typeface, and the extent to which the layout is creative and compelling.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the cover only (not the entire issue).

S363: Best Use of Art or Graphics

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the artwork or graphic and accompanying story was published. Entrants may choose the subcategory that most closely fits their work.

Judges will consider the quality of the art as well as its ability to help readers better understand the news article.

- **S363a: Best Original Illustration**
 - Graphics developed by the publication's staff or commissioned from a freelance artist specifically for the publication to help explain a news or analysis story.
- **S363b: Best Chart or Information Graphic**
 - A chart, graph or other info-graphic developed by the publication's staff or commissioned from a freelance artist specifically for the publication to help explain a news or analysis story.

S382: Best Redesign

This category honors the redesign of a Spanish-language publication. Judging will focus on front page design, interior page layouts, graphic elements, readability, and organization of content.

Please upload **one PDF** of the work to the submission form and a PDF copy of one page/image for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet. Please submit two to four samples of the redesigned publication and one sample of the "before" version. A letter

may be submitted to explain the redesign process and the staff work necessary to complete it.

- **S382a:** Best Redesign – Print to Print
- **S382b:** Best Redesign – Print to Digital newspaper

Digital

S402: Best Use of Video on Social Media

This category is for prerecorded video specifically intended for use on social media platforms. The video may cover either news or feature story, and must have been published on social media.

An entry consists of a link to the published video on a social media platform, and may include a letter about the story, video production methods, and why the particular social media platform was chosen.

S403: Best Podcast

This category is for podcasts. An entry consists of the URL of the webpage where judges may download and listen to a podcast episode(s).

Submission includes one to three podcast episodes. Submissions must include a letter with episode titles and description about the podcast.

S404a: Best Online Content Not Published in Print – Photo

This category is for photo content posted on a publisher website. Content that also appears in the print publication is not eligible. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category.

An entry consists of three to five photographs covering the same event or topic. The photos may appear either alongside an article or in an independent photo gallery on the publication's website. URLs may be submitted where judges can view the news content online. If more than one URL is being submitted, please list them in a Word or PDF Document and upload them into the entry field that allows file uploads.

S404b: Best Online Content Not Published in Print – Feature or News

This category honors the extent to which publications are increasingly posting original features or news content on their websites. Content that also appears in the print publication is not eligible.

An entry consists of three to five feature articles published online within a 60-day period that by themselves demonstrate sound writing and storytelling, and in the aggregate suggests a publication staff's belief in the immediacy and value of reaching an online audience.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. URLs may be submitted where judges can view the news content online. If multiple URLs are being submitted, please list them in a PDF or Word Document and upload them into the entry field that allows file uploads.

Editorial

S513: Best Regular Column

This category is open to newspapers or magazines. Judges will review any **three to five** different articles by one or more authors. For an entry written by multiple authors to be considered, it must be a column of the same name, written from time to time by different authors. The columns do not have to run consecutively. Judges will focus on the overall effectiveness of the columns submitted.

A column may be entered in one subcategory only. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **three to five** columns were published. Please select the subcategory that best fits your column.

- **S513f:** Spiritual Life
- **S513g:** Political Issues
- **S513h:** Pro Life Issues
- **S513i:** Racial Inequities

S521f: Best Coverage – Canonizations

This category is for original content about the canonizations of saints (in Rome and/or local observances). Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. They will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the items.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages of which **one to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) about canonizations were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

S521g: Best Coverage – Papal Trips

This category is for original content about Pope Francis' trips originating with a publication.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Entries must include **one to three** items. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, and videos that accompany the articles.

S521h: Best Coverage – Pro-Life Issues

This category is for original content about all pro-life issues.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Entries must include **one to three** items. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, and videos that accompany the articles.

S521i: Best Coverage – Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate **UPDATED**

This category is for coverage of a religious man or woman, deacon, priest, bishop, or cardinal.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Entries must include **one to three** items. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, and videos that accompany the articles.

S521j: Best Coverage – Political Issues

This category is for in-depth coverage of 2023 political issues. If a publication does not have three articles to submit in this category, it may enter an item in another category (i.e., best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. They will also consider photographs, artwork or videos that accompany the articles.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

S521k: Best Coverage – Racial Inequities

This category is for in-depth coverage of Racial Inequities. If a publication does not have three articles to submit in this category, it may enter an item in another category (i.e., best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. They will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the articles.

Examples include: peaceful protests, racial injustice, racial inequality, corruption or cultural exclusion and racial relations.

Publisher and Freelance members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. Digital and print publications may enter this category.

S531: Best Editorial

An article giving the viewpoint of the publication, editor, or staff on a subject on which different opinions can be held. The editorial may be signed or unsigned but must be written by a member of the publication's staff. Judges will focus on the persuasive quality of the editorial, rather than simple commentary.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the editorial is published.

S532: Best Editorial Page

Judging will focus on the content of page(s) as well as their layout, variety, and overall effect.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the editorial page or section from **three** consecutive or non consecutive issues.

S534: Best Essay Reflecting on Faith Formation

An article giving the viewpoint of the publication, editor, staff or contributor on the value of continuing religious formation and education for both adults and children. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the item was published.

Judges will consider **one** piece (such as articles, editorials, columns) on faith formation. Judging will focus on the quality of the writing and the value of the essay as an educational and/or formative tool.

S537: Best Feature Writing

These entries are stories, in magazines or newspapers, covering a group, trend, or event of general interest, not "hard" or breaking news. Story should exhibit thorough reporting, but should be distinguished by the quality of its writing, its accessibility, and its human-interest value. Editorials, book and movie reviews, personality profiles, background articles and news analyses may not be submitted in this category. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts, or illustrations. An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published.

S541: Best In - Depth Analysis

Analysis writing focuses on how well the paper informs about or interprets an event or situation that is controversial, confusing or misunderstood. Can be a series (maximum of 3 clips, please) or a single article, and may include sidebars. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts, or illustrations.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the **article or series** was published.

S545: Best Interview

The interview may be in question-and-answer or narrative format. Stories should have an eye for atmosphere and detail.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the interview was published.

S565: Best News Writing – Local/Regional Event

Entries are from straight news writing on a subject or topic originating primarily in the geographical area where the newspaper is published. Can be a single story or series (maximum of 3 clips, please) in one issue or several, and may include sidebars. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts, or illustrations.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published.

S567: Best News Writing – National/International Event

Entries are from straight news writing on a subject or event of international impact originating outside the geographical area where the newspaper is published. The entry may include coverage of local aspects of the subject, or event. Can be a single story or series (maximum of 3 clips, please), in one or several issues, and may include sidebars. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts, or illustrations.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published.

S571: Best Personality Profile

Entries in this category should answer two questions: (1) Who is this person? and (2) Why does he/she make a difference? Stories should have an eye for atmosphere and significant personal details, as well as stated beliefs and accomplishments. Judging will focus on quality of writing and ability to convey through words a sense of the whole person.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published.

S572: Best Parish Profile

This category profiles one particular parish community and its ability to promote and build faith formation through its ministries and leadership. Judging will focus on quality of writing and writer's ability to present through works a complete picture of the community and what makes it unique and innovative.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the article was published.

S573: Best Reporting

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry must be **one to three** pieces of work. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing page(s) on which the material was published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

S573a: On Cultural Heritage

This category recognizes reporting on devotions, festivals, ethnic traditions and community events that demonstrate and build a community's cultural heritage. An entry may be a single story or a series.

S573b: On Family

This category recognizes outstanding reporting on news that impacts family life, with an emphasis on Church teaching on the sanctity of marriage. An entry may be a single story or a series.

S573c: On Immigration

This category honors coverage of immigration issues on a local or national level. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. An entry may be a single story or a series.

S573d: On Latin America

This category is for a one-shot section, feature, news article or series about a Latin American area and its impact on a Spanish-speaking U.S. community.

S573e: On a Local Issue

Entries for this category will demonstrate excellent reporting on issues of local importance and their impact on members of the faith community. Topics may include a variety of issues, such as politics, education, and health care. An entry may be one article or a series of articles on a single issue.

S573f: On Sports

This category is for a one-shot section, feature, series, or personality profile of an athlete or sports team. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

S575: Best Reporting on a Special Age Group

Coverage should be of what members of a certain age group are doing, not simply of events. An entry may be a single article, a series (maximum five clips, please), pictures, or a special section.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the article or series was published.

S576: Best Reporting on Catholic Education

This category is an article about any aspect of Catholic education. Judges will consider the reporter's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing page(s) on which the article was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online.

S577: Best Reporting on the Celebration of a Sacrament

This category is for **one to three** articles, columns, editorias, or special section of one of the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Judges will consider the reporter's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items were published. Entries include articles, columns, editorials, or special sections. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online.

S579: Best Reporting on Social Justice Issues

This category is for **one to three** article(s) or columns about one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching (based on the USCCB article linked [here](#)).

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the material was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please select the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **S579a:** Call to Family, Community and Participation
- **S579b:** Care for God's Creation
- **S579c:** Dignity and Rights of the Workers
- **S579d:** Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- **S579e:** Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- **S579f:** Rights and Responsibilities
- **S579g:** Solidarity

S581: Best Sports Reporting

This category is for a one-shot section, feature, series, or personality profile of an athlete or sports team. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

S584: Best Reporting Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate **UPDATED**

This category is for a one-shot section, feature, series, or personality profile of a religious man or woman, deacon, priest, bishop, or cardinal. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

S591: Best Single Issue

Entries can be made for either liturgical season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) or secular holiday (Fourth of July, Mother's Day, etc.). Judges will consider depth of content that relates to the season; cover layout and interior page design. Special Sections can be entered here.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the **single issue** was published. Each entrant must also submit a PDF copy of one page or image for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

S592: Best Digital Single Issue

Entries can be made for either liturgical season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) or secular holiday (Fourth of July, Mother's Day, etc.). Judges will consider depth of content that relates to the season; cover layout and interior page design. Special Sections can be entered here.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the **single issue** was published. Each entrant must also submit a PDF copy of one page or image for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

S598a: Best Writing – Analysis

Analysis writing focuses on how well the publication informs or interprets an event or situation that is controversial, confusing or misunderstood. This category recognizes reporting, through one's own initiative and work, which will be judged on news value, evidence of investigative work and quality of reporting and writing. Entire story must have been published in one issue.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file of the pages on which the article was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online.

S598b: Best Writing – In-Depth

In-depth writing focuses on the initiative of the publication to present facts of an event or situation of importance that may otherwise be unknown to the reader. This category recognizes reporting, through one's own initiative and work, which will be judged on news value, evidence of investigative work and quality of reporting and writing. Entire story must have been published in one issue. Related graphics, sidebars, photos or videos published in the same article will be considered with the entry.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file of the pages on which the article was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online.

S719: Best Coverage on V Encuentro

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. This category is for a one-shot section, feature, news article, or series about the ongoing process V Encuentro. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork or videos that accompany entries.

An entry consists of one PDF file containing page(s) on which the material was published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

Photography

S811a: Best Multiple Picture Package – Feature

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. A multiple picture package is **two or more** photographs covering the same event or topic. A picture package is a group of related photos that do not tell a complete story and are almost always accompanied by text.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the multiple picture package was published.

S811b: Best Multiple Picture Package – News

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. A multiple picture package is **two or more** photographs covering the same event or topic. A picture package is a group of related photos that do not tell a complete story and are almost always accompanied by text.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the multiple picture package was published.

S821a: Best Photo Story – Feature

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a feature story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design is secondary and will be judged as such.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

S821b: Best Photo Story – News

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a news story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design is secondary and will be judged as such.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

S831: Best Story and Photo Package – By an Individual

UPDATED

This award is for **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

S832: Best Story and Photo Package – By Two Individuals or More **UPDATED**

This award is for **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

S840: Best Photograph – Feature Photo

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S841: Best Photograph – Spot News

Photo should illustrate either a unique news event or a unique twist on a normally occurring news event (ordination, graduation, etc.). News value and aesthetic will be judged. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S842: Best Photograph – General News Photo

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S843: Best Photograph – Photo-Illustration

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S847: Best Photograph – Sacramental

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S848: Best Photograph – Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate **UPDATED**

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. May include Holy Days and Liturgical seasons. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S851: Best Photograph – Catholic Education

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S852: Best Photograph – Immigration/Migration

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S853: Best Photograph – National/International Event

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. Photos may be black and white or in color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

S854: Best Photograph – Hot Topic Eucharistic Revival **NEW**

Photos may be black and white or color. Digitally manipulated images are not eligible.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

Submission Instructions

Getting Started

Submit all entries digitally through the CMA awards website beginning Nov. 1, 2023.

- Please use [the link here](#) to submit your applications.
- The website allows you to view categories, make submissions, and pay in the same place.

Please read category descriptions to determine submission requirements for each category. If you have questions about eligibility, submissions, or payment, please [visit our website](#) then click on the awards tab. If you need further assistance, please email the awards team at Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org.

Create a Profile First

For simplicity's sake, we recommend creating **one PROFILE account** for your publication.

- **Returning Entrants:** You can use the same login information you used last year. If you do not remember your password you may go to the login page and click "Forgot My Password" to reset and make a new one.
- **New Entrants:** Click "Enter the Catholic Media Awards" on the homepage and follow prompts to create a username and password for your account.
- **New Format:** You will now select your membership type at the beginning of the submission form. After you select a membership type, you will see a box labeled "Publisher Name," this box is where you will select your publication or Communications Department name from a list. The address will auto-populate.
- **Video/PDF:** instructions may be viewed by clicking this [link](#) or a PDF file by clicking this [link](#).

Creating a New Submission

1. Once logged in to your Profile account, click "Make Another Application" then "Enter Catholic Press Awards." You will be prompted to review your past submissions or to begin a new submission.
2. If you have any unfinished submissions from prior years, we suggest deleting them because they will not upload in the current contest.
3. Select, "Click Here to Begin a New Submission." Fill out the form as prompted and click "Save And Next" to continue. You can return to the previous form at any time.
 - a. All entries are marked "Incomplete" until paid.
4. Options after making submissions:

- a. **Save your work:** Click “Save” to save your work and leave the form. You can return and edit it at any time, until you pay for it, by clicking on “My Applications” and clicking “Edit”.
 - b. **Prepare to Pay:** Click “Add To Cart” to move your saved submission to your cart.
 - i. You can return and edit by clicking “Make Changes” prior to paying.
 - ii. You can also remove it from your cart.
 - iii. Click “Checkout” to pay.
5. **Paid entries are marked “Complete” and cannot be edited.** We suggest you proof all submissions for duplicates, accuracy and attachments prior to paying.
- a. To fix mistakes after completion, contact Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org on or before Feb. 9, 2024.
6. To save time, you may duplicate your submission form. Once the entry is duplicated it copies all information. Then you only need to select a new category AND make sure all files needed are appropriately updated.

Entry Fee and Payment Process

- One free entry per CMA Publisher or Freelance Member when submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.
- Free entry may be your only entry.
- Free entry automatically added to your cart during the regular submission period. Please note, there is only one free entry per organization. If someone else has already used the free entry PRIOR to you using it, you will be billed for the difference once the program is reconciled.

Additional Entries

- \$38 for all entries submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.
- \$48 for all entries between Feb. 1 and Feb. 7, 2024 at 11:59 a.m. CST.

Payment Instructions

Ready for Checkout

1. When items are in your cart, a direct link to your cart will appear under “My Applications.” Click the link to edit submissions or pay for your entries.
2. When ready, click the “Checkout” button to select your method of payment, then click “Process.”
3. The next screen allows you to print your invoice and submission forms.

Payment Options

- A. Online Credit Card: Enter the information and complete the transaction
- B. Pay by Check: Please include a copy of your invoice with your payment

Mail Payment To:

CMA Awards Program
Catholic Media Association
10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 875
Chicago, IL 60606

Good luck and thank you for participating.

Entry Deadline

Open Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Jan. 31, 2024
Extension Submission Deadline: 11:59 a.m. CST, Feb. 7, 2024