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## 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.

### 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.
- 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.

### General Information

#### Key Dates

- Open Submission Period: Nov. 1, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. CT
- Extension Period: Feb. 1-7, 2024 at 11:59 am CT
- Payment deadline: Feb. 9, 2024

#### Entry Fees

- Open Submission Period: \$38 per entry
- Extension Period: \$48 per entry

#### Additional Info

- All entries are for work published in 2023.
- All members must be in good standing as of March 31, 2024.
- Unless otherwise specified, entries must be the work of someone on the staff of, or a freelance contributor to, a CMA member organization.
- 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.

### Free Entry

- Each CMA Member Organization or Freelance Member is eligible for one free entry per year, when submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.
- Free entry may be your only entry.
- If your organization also has a publication / communication office that also is a CMA member, please determine which one will redeem the free entry.
- Free entry is automatically added to your cart during the regular submission period. Please note, there is only one free entry per organization.
- If someone else on your staff has already used the free entry prior to you using it, you will be invoiced for the difference once the program closes in February.

### 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.

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## Eligibility Requirements

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

1. Entries must be from a Member Organization or Freelance Member in good standing. Member dues must be paid by March 31, 2024 to be eligible for an award. No refunds offered after judging.
2. Entries must be the original work of a Member Organization or Freelance Member. Include bylines/credits on all submissions. Plagiarized or incorrectly credited entries are grounds for disqualification.
3. Member Organizations 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 enter all categories. Your work must appear in the print edition of, on the website of, or in promotion of a Member Organization.
5. To avoid duplicate entries, we ask Freelance Members to consult with the Member Organization that printed the material before submitting it. Please confirm that the Member Organization is not submitting the same work in the same category as you.
6. Only entries published in calendar year 2023 are accepted.

## Reasons for Elimination or Disqualification

- 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.

## Section Overview

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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 i.e. (M323) to find the detailed description and to submit your entry in the award software.

Type	Number	Title	Page	Status
Editorial	M352	Hot Topic - Eucharistic Revival	11	NEW 2024
Photography	M854	Photo - Eucharistic Revival	21	
		<b>General Excellence</b>		
General Excellence	GM111a	<b>Best Magazine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Magazine - National General Interest</li> <li>• Best Magazine - Diocesan</li> <li>• Best Magazine - Mission (Overseas and Home)</li> <li>• Best Magazine - Religious Order</li> <li>• Best Magazine - Professional and Special Interest Including Clergy, Religious, Prayer and Spiritual Magazines</li> </ul>		
General Excellence	GM111b			
General Excellence	GM111c			
General Excellence	GM111d			
General Excellence	GM111e			
		<b>Design Advertising</b>		
Design Advertising	M321a	<b>Best Annual Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Annual Report - Archdiocesan Finances</li> <li>• Best Annual Report - Catholic Non-profit Organization</li> </ul>		
Design Advertising	M321b			
Design Advertising	M323	Best Advertising Copywriting		
Design Advertising	M325	Best Promotional House Advertisement		
Design Advertising	M331	Best Media Kit 2023		
Design Advertising	M335	Best Single Advertisement Campaign with Publication		
Design Advertising	M341	Best Example of Effective Advertising Promotion Originating with the Publication or Publication Website		
Design Advertising	M347	Best Special Supplement or Special Issue with Advertising Emphasis		
		<b>Design Publication Pages</b>		
Design Publication	M351a	<b>Best Layout of an Article or Column</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Layout of an Article or Column - Diocesan Magazine</li> <li>• Best Layout of an Article or Column - Mission Magazine (Overseas and Home)</li> <li>• Best Layout of an Article or Column - National General Interest Magazine</li> <li>• Best Layout of an Article or Column - Professional and Special Interest Magazines, Including Clergy and Religious</li> <li>• Best Layout of an Article or Column - Scholarly Magazine, Prayer and Spirituality Magazines and Print Newsletters</li> </ul>		
Design Publication	M351b			
Design Publication	M351c			
Design Publication	M351d			
Design Publication	M351e			
<b>Hot Topic</b>	M352	<b>Hot Topic - Eucharistic Revival</b>		<b>NEW</b>
		<b>Best Cover</b>		
Design Publication	M361a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Cover Color - Small (up to 6 x 9 ½")</li> <li>• Best Cover Color - Large (over 6 x 9 ½")</li> <li>• Best Cover Black-and-White - Any Size</li> </ul>		
Design Publication	M361b			
Design Publication	M361c			

Design Publication	M371	Best Use of Typography
Design Publication	M382	Best Redesign
		<b>Editorial Pages</b>
Editorial	M511	Best Guest Column/Commentary
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial	M513a M513b M513c M513d M513e M513f M513g M513h	Best Regular Column <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Regular Column – Arts, Leisure, Culture, and Food</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Bishop's Column in a Diocesan Magazine</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Family Life</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – General Commentary</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Religious Life</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Spiritual Life</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Political Issues</li> <li>● Best Regular Column – Racial Inequities</li> </ul>
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial	M521a M521b M521c M521e M521f M521g	Best Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Coverage – Ecumenical/Interfaith Issues</li> <li>● Best Coverage – Immigration</li> <li>● Best Coverage – Religious Liberty Issues</li> <li>● Best Coverage – Disaster or Crisis</li> <li>● Best Coverage – Political Issues</li> <li>● Best Coverage – Racial Inequities</li> </ul>
Editorial	M531	Best Editorial
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial  Editorial Editorial Editorial	M533a M533b M533c M533d  M533e M533f M533g	Best Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Essay – Diocesan Magazines</li> <li>● Best Essay – Mission Magazines (Overseas and Home)</li> <li>● Best Essay – National General Interest Magazines</li> <li>● Best Essay – Prayer and Spirituality Magazines</li> <li>● Best Essay – Professional &amp; Special-Interest Magazines, Including Clergy and Religious</li> <li>● Best Essay – Religious Order Magazines</li> <li>● Best Essay – Scholarly Magazines</li> </ul>
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial  Editorial Editorial	M537a M537b M537c M537d M537e M537f  M537g M537h	Best Feature Article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Feature Article – Diocesan Magazines</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Mission Magazines (Overseas and Home)</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – National General Interest Magazines</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Print Newsletters</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Prayer and Spirituality Magazines</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Professional and Special-Interest, Including Clergy and Religious</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Religious Order Magazines</li> <li>● Best Feature Article – Scholarly Magazines</li> </ul>
Editorial	M541	Best Title and Lead-In
Editorial	M545	Best Interview
Editorial	M551	Best Explanation of Marriage
Editorial Editorial Editorial	M571a M571b M571c	Personality Profiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personality Profiles – Government Leader</li> <li>● Personality Profiles – Laity</li> <li>● Personality Profiles – Religious Leader</li> </ul>
Editorial	M574	Best Original Poetry

Editorial	M575	Best Reporting on a Special Age Group
Editorial	M576	Best Reporting on Catholic Education
Editorial	M577	Best Reporting of the Celebration of a Sacrament
Editorial	M579a	<b>Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Call to Family, Community, and Participation</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Care for God's Creation</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Dignity and Rights of the Workers</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Life and Dignity of the Human Person</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>● Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues – Solidarity</li> </ul>
Editorial	M579b	
Editorial	M579c	
Editorial	M579d	
Editorial	M579e	
Editorial	M579f	
Editorial	M579g	
Editorial	M581	Best Sports Reporting
Editorial	M584	Best Reporting on Vocations of Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate
Editorial	M587	Best Book Review Section
Editorial	M588	Best Review
Editorial	M591	Best Seasonal Issue or Section
Editorial	M593	Best Short Story
Editorial	M596	Best Special Issue
Editorial	M597	Best Special Section
Editorial	M598a	<b>Best Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Writing – Analysis</li> <li>● Best Writing – In-Depth</li> </ul>
Editorial	M598b	
		<b>Photography</b>
Photography	M811a	<b>Best Multiple Picture Package</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Multiple Picture Package – Feature</li> <li>● Best Multiple Picture Package – News</li> </ul>
Photography	M811b	
Photography	M821a	<b>Best Photo Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Photo Story – Feature</li> <li>● Best Photo Story – News</li> </ul>
Photography	M821b	
Photography	M831a	<b>Best Story and Photo Package</b> Best Story and Photo Package – By an Individual Best Story and Photo Package – By Two Individuals or more
	M831b	
Photography	M840	Best Photograph – Feature Photo
Photography	M841	Best Photograph – Spot News
Photography	M842	Best Photograph – General News Photo
Photography	M843	Best Photograph – Photo-illustration
Photography	M844	Best Photograph – Portrait
Photography	M845	Best Photograph – Scenic, Still-life or Weather Photo
Photography	M846	Best Photograph – Sports Photo
Photography	M847	Best Photograph – Sacramental

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Photography	M848	Best Photograph - Vocations to the Priesthood, religious life or Diaconate
Photography	M849	Best Photograph - Holy Days/Liturgical Seasons
Photography	M851	Best Photograph - Catholic Education
Photography	M852	Best Photograph - Immigration/Migration
Photography	M853	Best Photograph - National/International Event

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## CATEGORIES & DESCRIPTIONS

Print Newsletters may be submitted in this division. Upload your PDF version on the submission form. No hard copies submissions are required.

### General Excellence

#### GM111: Magazine of the Year

In this category, formerly called "General Excellence," judges 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 design.

An entry consists of **three to five** 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 through the awards website. Please choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine.

**GM111a:** National General Interest Magazines

**GM111b:** Diocesan Magazines

**GM111c:** Mission Magazines (Overseas and Home)

**GM111d:** Religious Order Magazine and Print Newsletters

**GM111e:** Professional and Special-Interest Magazines, including Clergy Religious, Prayer and Spiritual Magazines

#### M321: Best Annual Report/Appeal

**UPDATED**

Entry may be an all-print report or a print/PowerPoint combination. The report published in 2023 demonstrates accomplishments in the previous year (calendar year or fiscal year), showing accountability for proper use of resources and services offered to the larger community. Fundraisers and/or special campaign efforts may be entered. Reports must have been published in the publication or online. Internal reports are not eligible.

An entry consists of a single digital file for an all-print report or two digital files for a print/PowerPoint report (one file for print portion and the other for the PowerPoint presentation). You may submit URLs if your content is available online. Entrants may choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine.

**M321a:** (Arch)Diocesan Finances

**M321b:** Catholic Nonprofit Organization

#### M323: Best Advertising Copywriting

Best use of headlines and text in attracting the reader's attention and inviting action.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page on which the advertisement was published.



**M325: Best Promotional House Advertisement**

This

category is for advertisements produced by the publication to increase advertising, circulation, readership, image and/or the prestige of the publication. Entries can be a single ad or a continuing campaign. Judging will focus on originality and overall quality of presentation. Entrants are **not** required to demonstrate results of the campaign.

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

**M331: Best Media Kit 2023**

Media kits will be judged on the basis of a clear, uncluttered presentation of information, including, but not limited to, pertinent information of editorial profile, advertiser testimonials, reader profile, and the professional use of graphics. Entry should be new or substantially revised during 2023.

An entry consists of **one PDF** submitted with your application. Please submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

**M335: Best Single Advertisement Campaign with Publication**

Best original print or digital advertisement prepared by the publication's staff for an advertising client. House ads may not be entered in this category but may be entered in category M325.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page on which the advertisement was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online.

**M341: Best Example of Effective Advertising Promotion Originating with the Publication or Publications Website**

Entry may include presentations, house advertisements, mailings, exchange reciprocals, and other material used to promote advertising sales for a publication. In the event it is not feasible to submit some materials, a complete and full description must be attached to a cover letter; photocopies may be enclosed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** submitted with your submission form. Please submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet.

**M347: Best Special Supplement or Special Issue with Advertising Emphasis  
UPDATED**

Criteria for this award stress originality of layout and the extent to which advertising content relates to the editorial content. Supplements entered in this category may not be entered in any M596 category. Please enter seasonal issues in M587.

An entry consists of **one PDF** submitted with your submission form. Please submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet.

### M351: Best Layout of an Article or Column

This category recognizes the best use of graphics, text and/or photography in a single article or column. Entrants may choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine. **Print Newsletters** may be entered in M351e.

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. Please select the category that best describes your work.

**M351a:** Diocesan Magazine

**M351b:** Mission Magazine (Overseas and Home)

**M351c:** National General Interest Magazine

**M351d:** Professional and Special Interest Magazines, Including Clergy and Religious

**M351e:** Scholarly Magazine, Prayer and Spirituality Magazines and **Print Newsletters**

Print newsletters can be uploaded to the submission form. Please upload **one** PDF file with your submission form.

### M352: Hot Topic – Eucharistic Revival

**NEW**

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. Use [this link](#) to learn more.

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. This category is for print and digital publications.

### M361: Best Cover

Judges will consider graphic elements, typeface, and the extent to which the layout is creative and compelling. Please choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine.

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

**M361a:** Best Cover Color – Small (up to 6 x 9 ½")

**M361b:** Best Cover Color – Large (over 6 x 9 ½")

**M361c:** Best Cover Black and White – Any Size

### M371: Best Use of Typography

This category recognizes the best use of typography in a layout. Judges will focus on how the typographical treatment adds meaning to the writing and illustration, photography, or graphics on the page, catches and encourages the reader's eye.

An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing one article layout.

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## Best Publication Pages

### M382: Best Redesign

This category recognizes the redesign of a magazine. Judging will focus on front page design, interior page layouts, graphic elements, readability, and organization of content.

An entry consists of **one PDF** of the supplement or issue uploaded to the submission form. Please submit two to four samples of the redesigned publication and one sample of the "before" version of the magazine. Include labels to indicate the "before" and "after" designs.

Each entrant must submit a PDF file for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet. A letter may be submitted to explain the redesign process and the staff work necessary to complete it.

### M511: Best Guest Column/Commentary

An entry consists of **one** column written by a guest contributor. Judges will focus on the overall effectiveness of the column submitted.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which **one** column is published. Entry must be the sole work on the staff of, or contributing as freelancers to, a CMA member publication.

### M513: Best Regular Column

Select the subcategory that best fits your work. 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 category only. An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **three to five** columns were published.

**M513a:** Arts, Leisure, Culture and Food

**M513b:** Bishop's Column in a Diocesan Magazine

**M513c:** Family Life

**M513d:** General Commentary

**M513e:** Religious Life

**M513f:** Spiritual Life

**M513g:** Political Issues

**M513h:** Pro Life Issues

**M513i:** Racial Inequities

### M521a: Best Coverage – Ecumenical/Interfaith Issues

This category is for original content about ecumenical and/or interfaith issues. If a publication does not have **three to five** items 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. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the items.

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

### M521b: Best Coverage – Immigration

This category awards in-depth coverage of any immigration topics via articles, columns, special sections, or editorials. If a publication does not have **three to five** items to submit in this category, it may enter an item in another category (for example, best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Judges will consider the writer’s creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the items.

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

### M521c: Best Coverage – Religious Liberty Issues

This category is for in-depth coverage of religious-liberty issues via articles, columns, special sections, or editorials. If a publication does not have **three to five** items to submit in this category, you may enter an item in another category (for example, best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Judges will consider the writer’s creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the items.

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

### M521e: Best Coverage – Disaster or Crisis

This category is for in-depth coverage of escalating disasters or crises in our communities. If a publication does not have **three to five** 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 to five** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

### M521f: Best Coverage – Political Issues

This category is for in-depth coverage of 2023 political issues. If a publication does not have **three to five** 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 to five** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online.

### **M521g: Best Coverage of Pro-Life Issues**

This category is for in-depth coverage of pro-life issues. This category is open to diocesan newspapers, national newspapers, or wire services. If a publication does not have three items 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 items.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **three to five** items (article, column and/or editorial) concerning pro-life issues were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. This category is for print and digital publications.

### **M521h: Best Coverage – Racial Inequities**

This category is for in-depth coverage racial inequities in our communities. If a publication does not have **three to five** articles to submit in this category, it may enter an item in another category (i.e., best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Examples include: peaceful riots, racial injustice, racial inequality, corruption or cultural exclusion, and racial relations. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. They will also consider podcasts, photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the articles.

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

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## Editorial Pages

### M531: 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 containing the page(s) on which the editorial is published.

### M533: Best Essay

Judges will consider depth of reflection, persuasiveness and use of examples. Please choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine.

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

**M533a:** Diocesan Magazines

**M533b:** Mission Magazines (Overseas and Home)

**M533c:** National General Interest Magazines

**M533d:** Prayer and Spirituality Magazines

**M533e:** Professional and Special-Interest Magazines, Including Clergy and Religious

**M533f:** Religious Order Magazines

**M533g:** Scholarly Magazine

### M537: Best Feature Article

Feature articles tell stories covering a group, trend or event of general interest. Articles on or profiles of one person will not be judged in this category and should be entered in category M545 or M571a, b, or c. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts or illustrations. Entrants may choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine. **Print Newsletters** may be submitted into M537d.

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

**M537a:** Diocesan Magazines

**M537b:** Mission Magazines (Overseas and Home)

**M537c:** National General Interest Magazines

**M537d:** Print Newsletters

**M537e:** Prayer and Spirituality Magazines

**M537f:** Professional and Special-Interest, Including Clergy and Religious

**M537g:** Religious Order Magazines

**M537h:** Scholarly Magazine

**M541: Best Title and Lead-In**

Writing a title is both a skill and an art. A good title and lead-in tells the story, provoking the reader to stop and read it. Each word is important; there is no padding. Verbs are snappy, the full title clear and precise.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the page(s) on which the title, lead-in and complete story were published. You may also post a URL if the content is available online. Blog titles are not eligible for this category.

**M545: 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.

**M551: Best Explanation of Marriage**

This category awards reporting on the Catholic Church's teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage via articles, columns, special sections, or editorials. If a publication does not have **one to three** items to submit in this category, you may enter an item in another category (for example, best editorial, interview, column, profile, etc.). Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story. Judges will also consider photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the items.

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

**M571: Personality Profiles**

A personality profile conveys the uniqueness of a living or deceased person. Profiles usually include comments by others about this person. Please select the subcategory that best describes the subject.

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

**M571a:** Government Leader

**M571b:** Laity

**M571c:** Religious Leader

**M574: Best Original Poetry**

Entries may be a single poem or group of poems under one heading by the same author.

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

### **M575: 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.

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

### **M576: 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, as well as photographs, artwork, or videos that accompany the article.

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.

### **M577: Best Reporting on the Celebration of a Sacrament**

This category is for **one** article or column 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, as well as photographs, artwork, or video that accompany the writing.

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.

### **M579: Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues**

This category is for **one** article or column about one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching (based on the USCCB article linked [here](#)). Entrants may fit their articles or columns in a subcategory that most closely fits their work.

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.

- **M579a:** Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- **M579b:** Care for God's Creation
- **M579c:** Dignity/Rights of Workers
- **M579d:** Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- **M579e:** Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- **M579f:** Rights and Responsibilities
- **M579g:** Solidarity



**M581: 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.

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.

**M584: Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate**

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.

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.

**M587: Best Book Review Section**

An entry is a section combining multiple reviews of books.

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

**M588: Best Review**

This category is for reviews of television shows, film, or other media, originating with the publication.

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

**M591: Best Seasonal Issue or Section**

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.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which **one to three** items (article, column, and or editorial) were published. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet.

**M593: Best Short Story**

Must be original fiction, not a reprint or taken from a book of stories. Judges will consider writing style, originality and/or creativity of theme or story line, and the extent to which the theme or story line is appropriately developed.

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

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### **M596: Best Special Issue**

Entries should represent an outstanding effort by the publication's various departments to produce a special issue with a strong editorial theme and content. Seasonal issues should be submitted in M591.

An entry consists of **one PDF** of the supplement or issue uploaded to the submission form. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet through the awards website.

### **M597: Best Special Section**

Entries should represent an outstanding effort by the publication's various departments to produce a special section with a strong editorial theme and content. Seasonal issues should be submitted in M591.

An entry consists of **one PDF** of the supplement or issue uploaded to the submission form. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet through the awards website.

### **M598a: 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.

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.

### **M598b: 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, 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.

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.

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## Photography

### M811: Best Multiple Picture Package

This category is for Best Feature Multiple Picture Package. A multiple picture package includes two or more photographs covering the same event or topic. It is different from a photo story in that the images do not make up a comprehensive story.

An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page(s) on which the photos were published.

- **M811a:** Feature
- **M811b:** News

### M821: Best Photo Story

A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a 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. Entrants may choose the subcategory that most closely fits their magazine.

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

- **M821a:** Feature
- **M821b:** News

### M831: Best Story and Photo Package

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.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

- M831a:** By an individual
- M831b:** By two individuals or more

### M840: Best Photograph – Feature Photo

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.

**M841: 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.). Digitally manipulated images are not eligible. News value and aesthetic will be judged.

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.

**M842: Best Photograph – General News Photo**

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.

**M843: Best Photograph – Photo-Illustration**

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.

**M844: Best Photograph – Portrait**

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.

**M845: Best Photograph – Scenic, Still-life, or Weather Photo**

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.

**M846: Best Photograph – Sports Photo**

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.

**M847: Best Photograph – Sacramental**

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.

**M848: Best Photograph – Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate**

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.

#### **M849: Best Photograph – Holy Days/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.

#### **M851: Best Photograph – Catholic Education**

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.

#### **M852: Best Photograph – Immigration/Migration**

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.

#### **M853: Best Photograph – National/International Event**

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.

#### **M854: 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.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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