

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.

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

- Quick Look at Categories Page 4
- General Excellence Page 8
- Design Advertising Page 9
- Editorial Page 12
- Photography Page 22
- Submission Instructions Page 25
- Entry Fee/ Payment Process Page 27

Quick Look

The Quick Look chart is designed to let you find entry categories by type instead of number. Use the category number (N335) to find the detailed description and to submit your entry in the award software.

Type	Number	Title	Page	Status
Editorial	N352	Eucharistic Revival	11	NEW 2024
Photography	N854	Best Photograph: Eucharistic Revival	25	
		General Excellence		
General Excellence	GN111a	Best Newspaper Digital or Print UPDATED 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Newspaper - Weekly • Best Newspaper - Non-Weekly • Best Newspaper - National Newspapers 		
General Excellence	GN111b			
General Excellence	GN111c			
		Design Advertising		
Design Advertising	N321a	Best Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Annual Report - (Arch) Diocesan Finances • Best Annual Report - Catholic Nonprofit Organization 		
Design Advertising	N321b			
Design Advertising	N322	Design Advertising		
Design Advertising	N323	Best Ad Copywriting		
Design Advertising	N325	Best Promotional House Ad		
Design Advertising	N331	Best Media Kit 2023		
Design Advertising	N335a	Best Single Ad Originating with the Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Single Ad Originating with the Publication - Black-and-White • Best Single Ad Originating with the Publication - Color • Best Single Ad Originating with the Publication - Online Ad 		
Design Advertising	N335b			
Design Advertising	N335c			
Design Advertising	N341	Best Example of Effective Advertising Promotion Originating with the Publication or Publications Web Site		
Design Advertising	N343	Best Ad Campaign Originating with the Publication for Advertiser		
Design Advertising	N345	Most Effective Use of Small Space		
Design Advertising	N347	Best Special Supplement or Special Issue with Advertising Emphasis		
		Design Publication		
Design Publication	N361	Best Front Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Front Page - Diocesan newspaper • Best Front Page - National newspaper 		

Design Publication Design Publication Design Publication	N365a N365b N365c	Best Use of Graphics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Use of Graphics – Art or Graphics ● Best Use of Graphics – Best Chart or Information Graphic ● Best Use of Graphics – Best Original Illustration
Design Publication Design Publication	N371a N371b	Best Layout of Article or Column <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Layout of Article or Column – Diocesan newspaper ● Best Layout of Article or Column – National newspaper
Editorial	N511	Best Regular Column by Bishop or Archbishop
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial	N513a N513b N513c N513d N513e N513f N513g N513h	Best Regular Column <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Regular Column – Culture, the Arts and Leisure ● Best Regular Column – Family Life ● Best Regular Column – General Commentary ● Best Regular Column – Scripture ● Best Regular Column – Spiritual Life ● Best Regular Column – Political Issues ● Best Regular Column – Pro Life Issues ● Best Regular Column – Racial Inequities
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial	N521a N521b N521c N521d N521e N521f N521g N521h N521i N521j	Best Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Coverage – Immigration ● Best Coverage – Local Politics ● Best Coverage – Papal Trips ● Best Coverage – Religious Liberty Issues ● Best Coverage – Disaster or Crisis ● Best Coverage – Political Issues ● Best Coverage – Pro life Issues ● Best Coverage – Racial Inequities ● Best Coverage of Ecumenical and Interfaith Issues ● Best Coverage on Catholic Education
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N531a N531b N531c	Best Editorial on a Local Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Editorial on a Local Issue – Weekly ● Best Editorial on a Local Issue – Non-Weekly ● Best Editorial on a Local Issue – National Newspaper
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N532a N532b N532c	Best Editorial on a National or International Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – Weekly ● Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – Non-Weekly ● Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N537a N537b N537c	Best Feature Writing - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Feature Writing – Weekly ● Best Feature Writing – Non-Weekly ● Best Feature Writing – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial	N541	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Headline
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N561a N561b N561c	Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – Weekly ● Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – Non-Weekly ● Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial Editorial	N563a N563b	Best Investigative News Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Investigative News Writing – Weekly ● Best Investigative News Writing – Non-Weekly

Editorial	N563c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Investigative News Writing – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial	N564a	Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award – Weekly Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award – Non-Weekly Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award – National Newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial	N564b	
Editorial	N564c	
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N565a N565b N565c	Best News Writing on a Local Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best News Writing on a Local Event – Weekly Best News Writing on a Local Event – Non-Weekly Best News Writing on a Local Event – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N566a N566b N566c	Best News Writing on a Regional Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best News Writing on a Regional Event – Weekly Best News Writing on a Regional Event – Non-Weekly Best News Writing on a Regional Event – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial Editorial	N567a N567b	Best News Writing on National Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best News Writing on National Event – One Shot Best News Writing on National Event – Series
Editorial Editorial	N568a N568b	Best News Writing on an International Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best News Writing on International Event – One Shot Best News Writing on International Event – Series
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N571a N571b N571c	Best Personality Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Personality Profile – Weekly Best Personality Profile – Non-Weekly Best Personality Profile – National newspaper or Wire Service
Editorial Editorial Editorial	N575a N575b N575c	Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group – Senior Citizens Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group – Young Adults (18-40) Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group – Children & Teens Younger than 18
Editorial	N579	Best Reporting on the Celebration of a Sacrament
Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial Editorial	N581a N581b N581c N581d N581e N581f N581g	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
		Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate

Editorial	N584a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate – One-Shot
Editorial	N584b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate – Series
Editorial	N587	Best Seasonal Issue
Editorial	N596a	Best Special Supplement
Editorial	N596b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Special Supplement – On a Bishop's Transition
Editorial	N596c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Special Supplement – One-Time Special Issue Best Special Supplement – Regular Special Supplement
		Photography Pages
Photography	N811a	Best Multiple Picture Package
Photography	N811b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Multiple Picture Package – Feature
Photography	N811c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Multiple Picture Package – News Best Multiple Picture Package – Sports
Photography	N821a	Best Photo Story
Photography	N821b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Photo Story – Feature
Photography	N821c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Photo Story – News Best Photo Story – Sports
Photography	N831a	Best Story and Photo Package
Photography	N831b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N831a: By an individual N831b: By two individuals or more
Photography	N840	Best Photograph – Feature Photo
Photography	N841	Best Photograph – Spot News
Photography	N842	Best Photograph – General News Photo
Photography	N843	Best Photograph – Photo-illustration
Photography	N844	Best Photograph – Portrait
Photography	N845	Best Photograph – Scenic, Still-life or Weather Photo
Photography	N846	Best Photograph – Sports Photo
Photography	N847	Best Photograph – Sacramental
Photography	N848	Best Photograph – Priesthood, religious life, or Diaconate UPDATED
Photography	N849	Best Photograph – Holy Days/Liturgical Seasons
Photography	N851	Best Photograph – Catholic Education
Photography	N852	Best Photograph – Immigration/Migration
Photography	N853	Best Photograph – National/ International Event

Categories & Descriptions

General Excellence

GN111: Best Newspaper

In this category, formerly known as "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 graphic design. Contributions for this category can be from part time staff or freelancers.

Upload **one pdf** of the work to the submission form. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

- **GN111a:** Best Newspaper – Weekly
- **GN111b:** Best Newspaper – Non-Weekly
- **GN111c:** Best Newspaper – National/ Wire Service

N321: Best Annual Report/Appeal

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.

- **N321a:** Best Annual Report – (Arch) Diocesan Finances
- **N321b:** Best Annual Report – Catholic Non-Profit Organization

N322: Best Print Circulation Promotion Campaign

This category is for campaigns that contain more than one element and occur over a period of time. The campaign must originate with the publication and be conducted during 2023. An entry may include mailers, videos, promotion pieces, and any other materials used as part of the campaign to increase circulation.

Please upload a PDF copy of the entire promotion or campaign plus one cover photo/page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

Design Advertising

N323: Best Advertising Copywriting

This category is for the 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.

N325: Best Promotional House Advertisement

This category is for ads 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.

N331: Best Media Kit 2023

Media kits will be judged based on 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.

Please upload one PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

N335a: Best Single Advertisement Originating with the Publication – Black-and-White

This category is for best original ad 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 N325.

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

N335b: Best Single Advertisement Originating with the Publication – Color

This category is for best original ad 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 N325.

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

N335c: Best Single Advertisement Originating with the Publication – Online Advertisement

This category is for the best online ad (static or dynamic) designed by the publication. Judges will review content, graphics, call to action, site placement and overall effectiveness to develop reader response.

Entry consists of a URL where this ad can be found or a PDF file showing the placement of the ad on the webpage.

N341: Best Example of Effective Advertising Promotion Originating with the Publication or Publication Website

Entry may include presentations, house ads, mailings, exchange reciprocals, and other material used to promote advertising sales in 2023. 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.

Entrants are required to submit evidence of increase in advertising volume and to provide figures showing the cost to acquire such advertising.

Please upload a **PDF** of the work to the submission form and a PDF copy of one page/image for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

N343: Best Advertisement Campaign Originating with the Publication for Advertiser

A campaign includes three related ads for a single advertiser operating in the publication's distribution area. Must be created and produced by the publication's staff. Judging will consider quality of copy, graphics and overall presentation.

House advertisements may not be entered in this category but may be entered in category N325.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing full pages on which three related ads were printed.

N345: Most Effective Use of Small Space

This category is for an ad or ads designed by the newspaper that demonstrates a creative use of small space.

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

N347: Best Special Supplement or Special Issue with Advertising Emphasis

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 N596 category. Please enter seasonal issues in N587.

Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Press Awards Banquet.

N352: 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. you can learn more at this [link](#).

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.

N361: Best Front Page

Judging will be based on typography, headline weight, compelling use of graphics and the degree to which the layout draws the eye over the entire page. For tabloids that quarter-fold, the combination of a folded cover and the actual page one will be considered.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the front pages only from any three consecutive issues. Only one entry per publication is permitted. This category is for digital and print publications.

- **N361a:** Best Front Page – Diocesan
- **N361b:** Best Front Page – National Newspaper

N365: Best Use of Graphics

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

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.

- **N365a: Art or Graphics**
 - Graphics developed by the newspaper's staff or commissioned from a freelance artist specifically for the newspaper to help explain a news or analysis story.
- **N365b: Best Chart or Information Graphic**
 - A chart, graph or other infographic developed by the newspaper's staff or commissioned from a freelance artist specifically for the newspaper to help explain a story.
- **N365c: Best Use of Graphics – Best Original Illustration**
 - Artwork developed by the publication's staff or commissioned from a freelance artist specifically for the newspaper to illustrate a story or theme.

N371: Best Layout of Article or Column

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

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.

- **N371a:** Best Layout of Article or Column – Diocesan
- **N371b:** Best Layout of Article or Column – National Newspaper

N381: Best Redesign

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

Please upload a **PDF** of the work to the submission form. Please submit two to four samples of the redesigned publication and one sample of the "before" version of the newspaper. Include labels to indicate the "before" and "after" designs. Each entrant must submit a PDF file for possible use during the Catholic Media Association Awards Banquet. A letter may be submitted to explain the redesign process and the staff work necessary to complete it.

- **N381a:** Best Redesign – Print to Print
- **N381b:** Best Redesign – Print to Digital

Editorial

N511: Best Regular Column by Bishop or Archbishop

Judges will consider three columns written by the same bishop or archbishop.

An entry consists of **one** PDF file of the page(s) on which three different columns were published.

N513: Best Regular Column

An entry consists of **three** 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. Judges will focus on the overall effectiveness of the columns submitted. This category is for digital and print publications. If entry is created by a Bishop or Archbishop, please enter category N511.

A column may be entered in one subcategory only. An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which three columns were published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Entry must be the sole work of the staff of, or contributing as freelancers to, a CMA member publication.

- **N513a:** Culture, the Arts and Leisure
- **N513b:** Family Life
- **N513c:** General Commentary
- **N513d:** Scripture
- **N513e:** Spiritual Life
- **N513f:** Political Issues
- **N513g:** Pro life Issues
- **N513h:** Racial Inequities

N521a: Best Coverage – Immigration

This category awards in-depth coverage via articles, columns, special sections, or editorials. If a publication does not have three 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 on which **three** items (article, column, and/or editorial) were published concerning immigration. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. This category is for digital and print publications.

N521b: Best Coverage – Political Issues

This category awards in-depth coverage of 2023 political issues. If a publication does not have three items to submit in this category, it may enter that item in another category (for example, best editorial, news writing, column, 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** items (article, column, and/or editorial) concerning local politics were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. This category is for digital and print publications.

N521c: Best Coverage – Papal Trips

This category is for original content about Pope Francis' trips originating with the publication. 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 and videos that accompany the articles.

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

N521d: Best Coverage – Religious Liberty Issues

This category awards in-depth coverage of religious-liberty issues via articles, columns, special sections, or editorials. If a publication does not have three items to submit in this category, it may enter that 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** 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.

N521e: Best Coverage – Disaster or Crisis

This category is for in-depth coverage of disasters or crises in our communities. 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) concerning a disaster or crisis were published. You may also submit a list of URLs if your content is available online. Entry must be the sole work on the staff of, or contributing as freelancers to, a CMA member publication.

N521g: 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** 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 digital and print publications.

N521h: 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.

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

N521i: Best Coverage of Ecumenical and Interfaith Issues

This category is for original content about ecumenical and/or interfaith issues (mix and match as needed). 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. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

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

N521j: Best Coverage of Catholic Education

This category is for original content 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.

N531: Best Editorial on a Local Issue

An editorial is an article giving the viewpoint of the publication, editor, or staff on a subject about which different opinions can be held. The editorial may be signed or unsigned but must be written by a member of the newspaper's staff on an issue originating primarily in the geographical area where the newspaper is published. Emphasis will be on the persuasive quality of the editorial, rather than simple commentary. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the editorial was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N531a:** Best Editorial on a Local Issue – Weekly
- **N531b:** Best Editorial on a Local Issue – Non-Weekly
- **N531c:** Best Editorial on a Local Issue – National Newspaper or Wire Service

N532: Best Editorial on a National or International Issue

An editorial is an article giving the viewpoint of the publication, editor, or staff on a subject about which different opinions can be held. The editorial may be signed or unsigned but must be written by a member of the newspaper’s staff on an issue originating outside the geographical area where the newspaper is published. Emphasis will be on the persuasive quality of the editorial, rather than simple commentary. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the editorial was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N532a:** Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – Weekly
- **N532b:** Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – Non-Weekly
- **N532c:** Best Editorial on a National or International Issue – National newspaper or Wire Service

N537: Best Feature Writing

These entries are stories 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. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

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. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N537a:** Best Feature Writing – Weekly
- **N537b:** Best Feature Writing – Non-Weekly
- **N537c:** Best Feature Writing – National Newspaper or Wire Service

N541: Best Headline

Headline writing is both a skill and an art. A good headline sells the story, provoking the reader to stop and read it. Each word is important; there is no padding. Verbs are snappy, the full headline clear and precise.

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

N561: Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting

In-depth news and special reporting focus on the initiative of the newspaper to present facts of an event or situation of importance that may be otherwise unknown to the reader. The category recognizes reporting, through one's own initiative and work, which will be judged on news value, evidence of research, and quality of reporting, writing and local focus. Entire story must have been published in one issue. Related stories, graphics, sidebars photos or videos published in the same article will be considered with the entry. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N561a:** Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – Weekly
- **N561b:** Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – Non-Weekly
- **N561c:** Best In-Depth News/Special Reporting – National Newspaper or Wire Service

N563: Best Investigative News Writing

Investigative writing focuses on the initiative of the newspaper to uncover the facts of an event or situation that are otherwise unknown. 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. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article or series was published. You may also submit a URL if your content is available online. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N563a:** Best Investigative News Writing – Weekly
- **N563b:** Best Investigative News Writing – Non-Weekly
- **N563c:** Best Investigative News Writing – National newspaper or Wire Service

N564: Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing: The Gerard E. Sherry Award

Analysis writing focuses on how well the paper informs 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. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the **article or series** was published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N564a:** Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award -- Weekly
- **N564b:** Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award -- Non-Weekly
- **N564c:** Best Analysis/Background/Round-Up News Writing – The Gerard E. Sherry Award -- National Newspaper or Wire Service

N565: Best News Writing on a Local Event

Entries are from news writing on a subject or topic originating primarily in the geographical area where the newspaper is published. N565a can include sidebars. If you are entering N565b, entry may include sidebars but must include three to five articles. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts or illustrations.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the articles were published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N565a:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – Weekly
- **N565b:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – Non-Weekly
- **N565c:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – National newspaper or Wire Service.

N566: Best News Writing on Regional Event

Entries are from news writing on a subject or topic originating primarily in the geographical area where the newspaper is published. N566a can include sidebars. If you are entering N566b, entry may include sidebars but must include three to five articles. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts or illustrations.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the articles were published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N566a:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – Weekly
- **N566b:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – Non-Weekly
- **N566c:** Best News Writing on a Local or Regional Event – National newspaper or Wire Service.

N567: Best News Writing on a National 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. One-shot subcategories are for single stories only. **Series subcategories must include 3 to 5 clips, 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 or series** was published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N567a:** Best News Writing on a National Event- One-Shot
- **N567b:** Best News Writing on a National Event-Series

N568: Best News Writing on an 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. One-shot subcategories are for single stories only. **Series subcategories must include 3 to 5 clips, 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 or series** was published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N568a:** Best News Writing on an International Event-One-Shot
- **N568b:** Best News Writing on an International Event- Series

N571: 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. Judges will consider the quality of writing and ability to convey through words a sense of the whole person. Work from freelance or part-time staff is allowed.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the article was published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N571a:** Best Personality Profile – Weekly
- **N571b:** Best Personality Profile – Non-Weekly
- **N571c:** Best Personality Profile – National newspaper or Wire Service

N575: Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group

Coverage should be of what members of the age group are doing, not simply of events. It may be a single article, a series (maximum three clips, please), pictures, or even a special section.

Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) on which the **article or series** was published. **If you are entering a series, there is a minimum of three and maximum of five articles required.** Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N575a:** Senior Citizens
- **N575b:** Young Adults (18-40)
- **N575c:** Children and Teens Younger than 18

N579: Best Reporting on the Celebration of a Sacrament

This category is an article about 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.

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.

N581: Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues

This category is for an article or column about one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching (based on the USCCB article linked [here](#)).

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. Entry must be the sole work on the staff of, or contributing as freelancers to, a CMA member publication. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N581a:** Call to Family, Community and Participation
- **N581b:** Care for God's Creation
- **N581c:** Dignity and Rights of the Workers
- **N581d:** Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- **N581e:** Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- **N581f:** Rights and Responsibilities
- **N581g:** Solidarity

N584: Best Reporting on Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate UPDATED

This award is for a one-shot section or series. One-shot entry may include sidebars. A series must be three to five clips. Personality profiles of a religious man or woman, deacon, priest, bishop, or cardinal are accepted. Judges will consider the writer's creativity and ability to tell a compelling story.

- For special sections, please enter N596.

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

- **N584a:** One-Shot
- **N584b:** Series

N587: Best Seasonal Issue – Print Only

Entries can be made for any 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.

Please upload **one PDF** of the work to the submission form. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

N588: Best Seasonal Issue - Digital Only

Entries can be made for any 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.

Entry consists of two PDF files of the page(s) containing the published issue. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet.

N591: Best Sports Journalism

Feature article focusing on sports or athletes. Photos should be submitted in category N846 and will not be considered here.

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

- **N591a:** Sports Feature or Column
- **N591b:** Sports News

N596: Best Print Special Supplement

Supplement that focuses exclusively on a bishop's transition, including new local ordinary, new auxiliary, or bishop's retirement. Judges will consider front page design, interior page layouts, and the extent to which editorial content creatively and thoroughly addresses the theme(s) of the supplement. May or may not include advertising content. Please enter print seasonal issues into N587a.

Please upload **one PDF** of the work to the submission form. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N596a: On a Bishop's Transition**
 - This supplement focuses exclusively on a bishop's transition, including new local ordinary, new auxiliary, or bishop's retirement.
- **N596b: One-Time Special Issue**
 - A one-time special supplement is for an event that will not occur again or will not occur again for a long time (i.e., the election of Pope Francis or Pope Francis' visit to the U.S.).
- **N596c: Regular Special Supplement**
 - A regular special supplement is planned by the newspaper (e.g., a "back to school" supplement that's run annually).

N597: Best Digital Special Supplement

Supplement that focuses exclusively on a bishop's transition, including new local ordinary, new auxiliary, or bishop's retirement. Judges will consider front page design, interior page layouts, and the extent to which editorial content creatively and thoroughly addresses the theme(s) of the supplement. May or may not include advertising content. Please enter digital seasonal issues into N587b.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file of the page(s) where the supplement is published. Each entrant must submit a PDF copy of one page for possible use during the Catholic Media Awards Banquet. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N597a: On a Bishop's Transition**
 - This supplement focuses exclusively on a bishop's transition, including new local ordinary, new auxiliary, or bishop's retirement.
- **N597b: One-Time Special Issue**
 - A one-time special supplement is for an event that will not occur again or will not occur again for a long time (i.e., the election of Pope Francis or Pope Francis' visit to the U.S.).
- **N597c: Regular Special Supplement**
 - A regular special supplement is planned by the newspaper (e.g., a "back to school" supplement that's run annually).

Photography

N811: Best Multiple Picture Package

A multiple picture package is two or more photographs covering the same event or topic 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 photos were published.

- **N811a:** Feature
- **N811b:** News
- **N811c:** Sport

N821: 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.

An entry consists of **one PDF** file containing the pages on which the photos were published. Please choose the subcategory that best suits your work.

- **N821a:** Feature
- **N821b:** News
- **N821c:** Sports

N831: 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.

- **N831a:** By an Individual
- **N831b:** By Two Individuals or more

N840: 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.

N841: 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.

N842: 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.

N843: 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.

N844: 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.

N845: 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.

N846: 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.

N847: 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.

N848: Best Photograph – Priesthood, Religious Life, or Diaconate

UPDATED

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.

N849: 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.

N851: 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.

N852: 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.

N853: 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.

N854: 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