# Sisters of Mercy Social Justice Video Contest Rules 2027

**Please review these rules before entering the contest.**
**Your entry submission constitutes agreement to these rules.**

## Contest Description

Responding to Pope Francis' invitation to give and receive God's mercy, the Sisters of Mercy have been sharing the many ways Mercy sisters, associates, companions, coworkers, ministries and students live and understand justice. Through this video contest sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Justice Team, Mercy students are invited to show through video how they and others understand justice in light of the **Critical Concerns**.

Video entries must focus on the contest theme: **Imagine a Better World for Immigrants**. Your video does not need to reference the Sisters of Mercy, or the Mercy Critical Concerns, but it should reflect the spirit of the Mercy Community.

In a world where immigrants are often scapegoated and portrayed as dangerous outsiders, your video should reflect the Mercy Critical Concern for Immigration and the Gospel call to love our neighbor. Your video will be short, so consider choosing one topic to focus on rather than trying to cover every issue.

## Who Can Enter

This contest is open to students, high school or college age, who attend Mercy high schools, colleges/universities or who are involved in a Mercy affiliated ministry.

Entrants who are under the age of 18 must obtain the consent of your parent or legal guardian before entering this contest.

Videos can be submitted as part of a class assignment, project for a club or school organization, graduation project or independently.

## Keep Up to Date

Anyone considering participating in this contest is invited to complete **this interest form** in order to receive contest information, updates and reminders.

## Prior to Entry

High Schools must designate a faculty or staff member to be the contest contact person. This individual accepts responsibility for reviewing the contest rules with student participants. The school contact must complete this **acknowledgement form** and reply to a confirmation email. Schools may have more than one contact person.
College students must complete this **acknowledgement form** and reply to a confirmation email.

## How to Enter

Once the video is ready for submission, **this registration form** must be submitted for each entry. After the registration form is completed the student will receive instructions for uploading the video.

## Contest Deadline

All final entries must be received by the end of the day on April 1, 2027.

**Format Requirements:**
Read the complete rules
Length: 30 to 90 seconds
Language: English or Spanish

**Other Requirements:**
1. Title. Each video must have a title. The title must be indicated on the submission form. The title does not need to be included in the video itself.
2. Credits. Credits must include the name of those involved in the creation of the video. The credits must also include citations for any images, audio, or text used in the video that is not original. Citation of a source does not allow the filmmaker to ignore copyright protocols. See the Rules section below for more details. The credits do not need to be included in the video itself but must be included in the submission form.
The Sisters of Mercy may delete title and credit screens before posting videos on social media.

## Rules

By submitting an entry, the entrant thereby grants to the Sisters of Mercy an irrevocable, perpetual and royalty-free right to use, reproduce, edit, display, transmit, prepare derivative works of, modify, publish and otherwise make use of the submitted work.

Each entrant agrees not to submit any entry that infringes upon any third-party proprietary rights, intellectual property rights, personal or moral rights or any other rights, including copyright or trademark, or otherwise violates applicable U.S. law. Images (photographs or video) used must meet ONE of the following criteria ONLY, and the submission must be accompanied by documentation:

1. Original photographs or video, by the student or other photographer/videographer who has provided written permission. Must attest to originality by signing the agreement and therefore assuming responsibility
2. Available in the public domain* and must include reference to where it was found in public domain
3. Available for use through a copyright free license (such as Creative Commons) - must share reference to license
4. A license was purchased to use the music for this purpose by the student or school. License documentation must be presented.

Music used in a video must meet ONE of the following criteria ONLY, and the submission must be accompanied by documentation:

1. An original composition and performance - must attest to originality by signing the agreement and therefore assuming responsibility
2. Available in the public domain* and must include reference to where it was found in the public domain
3. Available for use through a copyright free license (such as Creative Commons) - must share reference to license
4. A license was purchased to use the music for this purpose by the student or school. License documentation must be presented.

* Definition of public domain: "A work of authorship is in the “public domain” if it is no longer under copyright protection or if it failed to meet the requirements for copyright protection. Works in the public domain may be used freely without the permission of the former copyright owner." (https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq-definitions.html)

## Winner Selection

A panel of judges chosen by the Sisters of Mercy will select the winning video(s) based on **these criteria**. The grand prize winner will receive one cash prize of $500.

## Additional Information

For an overview of all contest information, go to **https://sistersofmercy.org/2027-social-justice-video-contest/.**

Contact: Mike Poulin, Justice Resource Manager, **mpoulin@sistersofmercy.org.**