Overview & Fast Facts

This year's theme is **TRANSFORMING APATHY INTO EMPATHY**.

Empathy and **apathy** represent opposite ends of an emotional spectrum. **Empathy** is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person, while **apathy** is a lack of feeling or concern.

Think about a situation you have experienced or a person (a historic figure, someone you know or a literary figure) for whom apathy has been turned into empathy. What actions did you/this person take that turned apathy into empathy? How did your/their actions affect the lives of others? What lesson can we learn from this? How does this situation relate to Sister Rose's legacy?

WHAT KIND OF ENTRY CAN I SUBMIT?
The competition has *three* separate categories: **Literary Arts** (poetry or essay), **Digital Arts** (a Public Service Announcement video) and **Visual Arts** (painting, drawing or sculpture).

WHAT PRIZE CAN I WIN?
Winners will receive gift cards of $100 for First Place and $75 for Honorable Mention. The work will be judged by a group of prominent educators.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT MY ENTRY?
All submissions are due **Friday, February 6, 2026**. A signed **Entry Form** must accompany each submission.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW WHO WON?
Winners will be announced on **March 13, 2026,** and will be recognized at the *Celebration of Education* at Seton Hall University on **Sunday, April 19, 2026.** The families and teachers of winners are strongly encouraged to attend.

Who was Sister Rose Thering?

Sister Rose Thering was a Dominican Nun who facilitated recognition that the Jews were not responsible for the death of Jesus. She was a wonderful force of nature for what is right and just. Sister Rose worked to achieve the Holocaust Teaching Mandate and also establish the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education. Her educational and activist work has affected thousands of young people and greatly improved relations among Jews and Christians.