

February 10, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The season went by quickly, and it's hard to believe the Catholic Forensic League of Erie's Diocesan Qualifying tournament is a month away, scheduled for Saturday, March 5 at the Gannon University Palumbo Center. Registration will occur using Tabroom.com.

At the tournament, the top **THREE** finishers in each category of competition will qualify to represent the Erie Diocese at the Grand National Tournament to be held this year in Sacramento, California over Memorial Day weekend. In addition, each of the top three winners in every category will be eligible for scholarships from Gannon. The University awards \$2,000 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. The alternates named in each category will earn scholarship money of \$750. (Please make sure you students' information is on file with Bob Hall or the scholarship cannot be recorded.) Please keep in mind that **each** student registered **must** have competed in at least **one** tournament in any event throughout the current school year in order to be eligible for this competition. Season Champions will also be recognized at the awards ceremony.

As you complete the registration materials, please make sure you also review the information regarding the Diocesan Tournament in the CFL of Erie Constitution. Please pay particular attention to the judging guidelines. You **MUST** meet judge quotas. If you cannot, you can only bring the number of students who can be covered by the number of judges you have. It is vitally important for the integrity of the tournament that only competent judges who have been trained in and have judged CFL rules be utilized. Our students deserve the best we can offer since they are giving us the best they can offer. With that in mind, we will not accept any judge who has not had at least one CFL of Erie training session and judged at one of our regular season tournaments. Also, please make sure your judges are aware of the commitment they are making to judge for your school. In addition to financial penalties, schools whose judges do not show up on the morning of the tournament cause needless delays with rescheduling of students and judges.

If a student drops after the deadline, you can replace the student with a new student by Friday, March 4 at 8 a.m. No category switching will be permitted. If a judge drops after the registration deadline, you **MUST** have a replacement regardless of whether your quota decreases.

**All judge quotas and school registration fees will be computed from your school at the close of registration on Tuesday, March 1 at 4 p.m. If you have student drops after the deadline, neither your judge quota nor your registration costs change. Additionally, I need to provide Gannon with the minimum lunch number on Tuesday, so include your numbers for students, coaches, and judges lunches with registration. If you need more lunch tickets the morning of the tournament, they will be available for purchase.**

As with previous years, coaches may submit questions for possible use in Extemporaneous. All questions should reach me **by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1**. Please send them by e-mail as a Word or PDF document attachment.

***\*\*\*All registration materials must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2015. This must include the number of lunches you will need. Fees can be sent by mail to be received by Saturday or paid the morning of tournament. \*\*\****

To facilitate the tournament process, please note the following:

1. The Tab Room will be closed, staffed by the Diocesan Director, current Board Members, and anyone else specifically asked by the Director.
2. The categories of competition will include: Team Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, Oratorical Declamation, and Student Congress.
3. Because of the importance of this tournament for the students, please select your judges carefully. Only ones who have been trained and who have judged using NCFL rules will be accepted. Remind your judges of the commitment they are making when they agree to help as judge drops and changes create rescheduling delays the morning of the tournament.
4. Student Congress Bills and Resolutions should be submitted to me via email by **Monday, February 22 at 4 p.m.** to give students time to prepare. Please make sure the legislation is in the proper format. All schools competing in Congress must submit legislation, preferably two pieces so we can fill the day.
5. Each school may register **up to five** contestants in each category for a total of no more than **28 total school entries**.
6. Judging quotas are as follows and must be filled or students **must** be dropped. Note, extra judges are always welcome:  
Speech and  
Student Congress:           1 judge for every 2 entries, or fraction thereof  
  
Lincoln-Douglas  
Public Forum and  
Team Debate:                1 judge for every entry
7. An entry fee of **\$25.00 or \$5.00 per student** (whichever is greater) will be charged to cover trophy costs. **In addition**, there is a **school entry fee charge of \$20.00** for the facilities rental. Please make registration checks payable to **CFL of Erie**. Fees must be paid by **the morning of the tournament** or sent with your registration materials.
8. An all-you-can-eat lunch will be served in the Gannon cafeteria. All contestants, judges and coaches **must** stay on campus to eat lunch. Lunch is **\$9/person** and the check needs to be made out to **CFL of Erie**. **Please submit your lunch numbers by Tuesday, March 1** as I need to give Gannon a minimum lunch count on that day. Additional lunch tickets will be available for purchase on Saturday morning.
9. Please remember again this year, Oral Interpretation will have only three rounds. A coin toss will occur Saturday morning at the opening assembly to determine Prose or Poetry first and then if it will alternate.

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### **Tournament Schedule:**

Registration will be from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. in the lobby of the Palumbo Building

The Opening Assembly will begin PROMPTLY at 8:30 a.m. with Debate and Extemp draw to be held as soon as possible thereafter.

Approximate time schedule:

<u>LD/PF Debate</u>	<u>Speech</u>
Round 1 9:00	Round 1 9:00
Round 2 10:15	Round 2 10:15
LUNCH	LUNCH
Round 3 12:30	Round 3 12:30

(Run-offs, if necessary)

Awards Assembly 3:00

**No changes will be accepted after the registration deadline, unless it is to do a name change to replace a student or judge that has dropped. All registration fees will be calculated based on the number of contestants registered by the deadline listed below.**

**\*\*\*All registration materials must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. This includes your number of lunches ordered. \*\*\***

If there are any questions, please contact me at 814-602-7417 or [scpeebles22@gmail.com](mailto:scpeebles22@gmail.com). On the morning of the tournament, I can be reached on my cell phone at 814-602-7417.

As with previous years, the CFL of Erie Coaches have supplied the drinks and snacks for the judges' lounge. Please decide on what your team would like to supply our judges with refreshments throughout the day. I will supply the coffee and breakfast items as well as plates, napkins, utensils, and cups.

Sincerely,

Susan Peebles  
Director

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