



St. John Fisher Catholic Women's League Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest

The Toronto Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada promotes the *Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Contest* to support and encourage an awareness and positive attitude toward a broad range of pro-life issues. These address all facets and stages of life development from conception, through childhood, adolescence, adulthood and senior years, to the new life stage after death.

St. John Fisher CWL invites students in our parish to participate in this contest. Due to the pandemic, all entries must be submitted online and there will be no advancement to Peel Region or Toronto Diocesan Levels. Small prizes will be awarded by our Council.

We hope to increase our students' awareness of the value and dignity of all human life and to reinforce the Catholic Church's teachings and standards concerning the sanctity of human life at every stage.

You may choose any topic that promotes a culture of life by affirming this gift from God. You may also choose from any of the Objects of the League.

The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women in Canada:

1. To achieve individual and collective spiritual development.
2. To promote the teachings of the Catholic Church.
3. To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family.
4. To protect the sanctity of human life.
5. To enhance the role of women in Church and society.
6. To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere.
7. To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world.
8. To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

This essay or poem should be a celebration of life and affirm the culture of life.

Rules:

1. The contest is intended to be promoted in the Family Life and Religious Education Program and supported at the Parish level by CWL councils.

2. Intermediate grades (7,8,9) Essay requirements: minimum 250 words, maximum 500 words

Intermediate grades (7,8,9) Poetry requirements: minimum 16 lines, maximum 32 lines

Senior grades (10,11,12) Essay requirements: minimum 500 words, maximum 800 words

Senior grades (10,11,12) Poetry requirements: minimum 16 lines, maximum 32 lines

3. All entries must reflect the teachings of the Catholic Church concerning the sanctity of life and the value of all human life from conception to new life stages (death). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is one excellent source.

4. The following criteria will be used as a guideline in judging entries:

- Insight - 25%
- Moral Decisiveness - 25%
- The teaching of the Catholic Church concerning the sanctity and value of all human life - 25%
- Content Research - 10%
- Composition/Theme Development - 10%
- Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar - 5%

5. The Education and Health Sub-Committee will review all entries and choose the winners in each category. If, in the opinion of the judges, no suitable entry is received in a category, no prize will be awarded.



**St. John Fisher Catholic Women's League
Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest
Consent to Publish Personal Information**

Please read and sign the following release form which will allow us to publish your name in our weekly bulletin and on the church website.

I, _____, give the Catholic Women's League of Canada, St. John Fisher Council, permission to print my name, photograph, and poetry or essay in the weekly church bulletin and on the church website indicating that I was awarded a winner for the Mary Dobell Pro-Life Poetry and Essay Contest for 2021.

I understand that my typed work may be edited slightly if there are spelling or grammar errors that the editor deems necessary to correct.

Signature of Contestant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian