

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Edmonton Diocesan Council
15th Annual Essay Contest
2010 WINNERS

Category: Grade 7-9 Essay
Kristie Soanes, 1st Place

How does my priest inspire me to meet Jesus?

We all know Jesus as a man of miracle, love and forgiveness. We all want to get to know Jesus and become closer to him, and for that to happen, we need someone to act like him and teach us more about him. The person, who teaches me a about Jesus and helps me know him more, is my priest, Father Eduardo. He inspires me about Jesus by acting as a pastor, a forgiver, and he sacrifices for me and for others.

To act as a pastor means to care for everyone, but when one needs you most, you go to them. That is exactly what my priest does. When someone is very sick or needs help, he will pray for them all to be happy and never feel alone or scared. If I were to be in a hospital bed, in bad condition, I know that Father would be right beside me praying with me and comforting me. Him just being by my side in the scariest of moments in my life reminds me that Jesus is always by my side and he will always love me, no matter what type of "sheep" I am.

Like Jesus with his sheep, is a priest with his people. No matter how far they may stray away, he will always go searching for them and take them back. If I were to stray away, and commit many sins, or do many bad things, Father Eduardo will always forgive me, even when it may seem I don't deserve it. Someone can commit the most terrible crime or sin, and Jesus and my priest will still always forgive them. Being able to forgive someone who would do such a horrible thing, and to find the good in them, even when there seems there is no good, really inspires me to forgive. I realize now that if my priest can forgive someone for murder, then I can forgive someone for stealing my pencil. Being able to truly forgive anyone does take a lot of love and is very important.

Even though forgiveness is important, the most important thing that my priest does to inspire me more of Jesus, is how he sacrifices for me and all the other people. Jesus sacrificed his life for all of us. He put all of us before his own self. My priest does the same. On days that may be the most important to him, or that he will have plans for, he will still give up those plans to come help us when we need him. If he were to at a very important family reunion, and I needed to speak with him about my sins or problems, he would come to me. We are more important to my priest, than he is to himself, which is one of the most important reasons why he inspires me about Jesus and makes me want to meet Him even more.

So the reason I want to meet Jesus and make Him more a part of my life is because of my priest, Father Eduardo. When my father acts as pastor, forgives no matter what, and sacrifices his most important things in life just to help me, it shows me more of how to be a follower of Jesus and most importantly, inspires me to meet Jesus and become closer to Him.