

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Edmonton Diocesan Council**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest**  
**2010 WINNERS**

**Category: Grade 7-9 Essay**  
**Ralph San Juan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Jesus for Dummies**

My Priest is my "Jesus for Dummies", a manual to meet my God. He is like an announcer, spreading the good news of Christianity every day, and I am one of those listeners. Ever since I could remember, he has taught me a lot about the love and care of Jesus shares with us. He is a great storyteller, with his loud but gentle voice. Every Sunday, he gets me to think more and more about how I can always improve my connection with God. He really is like my "Father". My priest, Father Jim, is a great man. Father Jim helps me connect with God and Jesus through his words of wisdom told in his stories.

On Ash Wednesday, my school went to St. Theresa Parish for the mass. As Father Jim walked down to the altar, I could see many of our students, and the public showed great respect for him. The whole community admires him, and he really cares for us too. His presence is comforting and his smile is so welcoming. After we sang some songs, he placed the ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross because we have to think about our sins. He talked about how we should be kinder, and what we should give up for lent. It was funny how he said he would give up drinking Pepsi and Facebook. He can really connect with the youth in a way they can relate. At the end of the mass, Father Jim ran down and jumped onto the altar! He really is enthusiastic and very fun person.

I really admire Father Jim's kindness and care for everyone. He has a lot of energy when preaching, and tries to involve the people more during church. Father Jim is a great speaker and communicates very well with everyone. The stories that he tells, and the messages that come out of them, help me develop my bond with him and Jesus. They teach me how to live my life in a way where I am more caring and kinder towards others. Father Jim is like my guide, directing me to the path of God. I just have to listen to his stories and apply them to my life.