

**First Annual  
Dominican Friars' Youth Interfaith Video Contest (2022)  
Prize Distribution Ceremony**

***The Video Contest Theme: Cultivating Friendship & Solidarity***

The Office for Interreligious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Toronto has successfully concluded its first annual Dominican Friars' Youth Interfaith Video Contest along with its partners, the *Catholic Register*, Salt + Light Media, Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement (IYAM) and Toronto Catholic School District Board. Students were invited to submit videos between February 4 and May 2, 2022, that highlighted how diverse religious communities can work together to rebuild, renew and restore our communities after the pandemic.

Despite being a brand-new idea, students and teachers supported the contest and showed their great interest in this initiative, which encouraged high school students from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to engage with each other individually or in teams. This was one of the opportunities where they could cultivate friendship and solidarity by sharing their religious and cultural gifts. This would also lead them to a better understanding of their commonalities and differences.

**Selection of winning videos:**

This year's theme, Cultivating Friendship & Solidarity, was arrived at considering the United Nations International Day of Human Fraternity held on February 4<sup>th</sup> of each year.

A panel of media professionals selected the winners on overall merit, in consultation with the Office for Interreligious Dialogue, the *Catholic Register*, Salt + Light Media and Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement (IYAM).

**The winners of the contest 2022:**

**First Place: Leslie Fountain and Team** - Father Michael Goetz Secondary School (Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board).

**Second Place: Felicity Quadrini and Team** - St. Brother André Catholic High School (York Catholic District School Board).

**Third Place: Sabrina So and Team** - Bayview Secondary School (York Region District School Board).

**Guests at the Prize Distribution Ceremony:**

The Office for Interreligious Dialogue organized the prize distribution ceremony on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Mr. Fred van Velsen very professionally and pleasantly performed the role of Master of Ceremony and welcomed the students and the guests.

Mr. Mark Brosens, Interim Director of Public Relations and Communications for the Archdiocese of Toronto, was invited as a keynote speaker.

Fr. Raymond Latour O.P. along with other Dominican Friars represented the Dominican Community Toronto as they are the main sponsors of the Video Contest.

The winning teams joined the prize distribution ceremony along with their school Chaplains, School Principals, and parents.

**Opening prayer:**

Fr. Anthony Prakash Lohale, OP, Director of the Office for the Interreligious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Toronto, opened the ceremony with his prayers and he briefly elaborated on the idea behind the contest and its theme.

**Land acknowledgement:**

Mr. Daniel Niamat, Office Coordinator of the Office for Interreligious Dialogue, shared a land acknowledgement provided by the Toronto City Council.

**A Word from the Dominican Friar (Toronto):**

Fr. Raymond Latour, O.P, represented Dominican Community of Toronto and talked about the importance and value of Interreligious & Intercultural dialogue among today's youth and how their community is actively promoting this idea through various projects by engaging with the youth and young adults in Toronto and Canada. He also mentioned that the Dominican Friars are a collaborative community committed to the exploration and proclamation of the mystery of God's Word in history, in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious context, in keeping with the vision of St. Dominic.

**Screening of the winning videos and a word from the Keynote speaker:**

The three winning videos were played for the audiences, and they commended the effort of the students and the message conveyed in the videos.

Mr. Mark Brosens shared that he enjoyed watching the videos produced by the students. He specifically talked about the key technical areas and aspects covered by the students in their videos. He applauded the effort of the students and the professionalism they had shown in their videos. He mentioned that videography is one of the best ways to convey your message to your audiences. He shared that there are various free online tools available which can be used by the students, in fact, they can produce short videos and make some money or take videography as a profession.

**Prize Distribution:**

Fr. Raymond joined Mr. Mark and handed over the prizes to the winners.

**Thank you note and reception:**

Mr. Fred van Velsen, the Master of Ceremony thanked all the students and guests on behalf of the Office for Interreligious Dialogue and invited them to join for some light refreshments.

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