

FATHER TED COLLETON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2026-2027

Please include all this personal information as to name address, telephone number, school attended, name of principal etc. as part of your initial email when submitting attachments (like letters of reference, self-profile and essay). This will avoid problem of scanning this application form.

Student's Name (last): _____
(first): _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Prov: _____
Postal Code: _____
Phone #: _____
E-mail: _____
School Attended (name): _____
Grade: _____
School Address: _____
City: _____
Prov: _____
Postal Code: _____
School Phone #: _____
School E-mail: _____
Name of School Principal: _____
Name of reference writer: _____
Email of reference writer: _____
Date: _____



Helpful hints for the essay writing component are posted on theinterim.com/scholarship-program/. One can also find samples of previous winning essays on a variety of topics.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2025-2026



1ST PRIZE

SARAH MARIE SCALE
Arthur Voaden
Secondary School,
St. Thomas,
Ontario



2ND PRIZE

EMILY LANE
Catholic
Central High
School,
Lethbridge,
Alberta

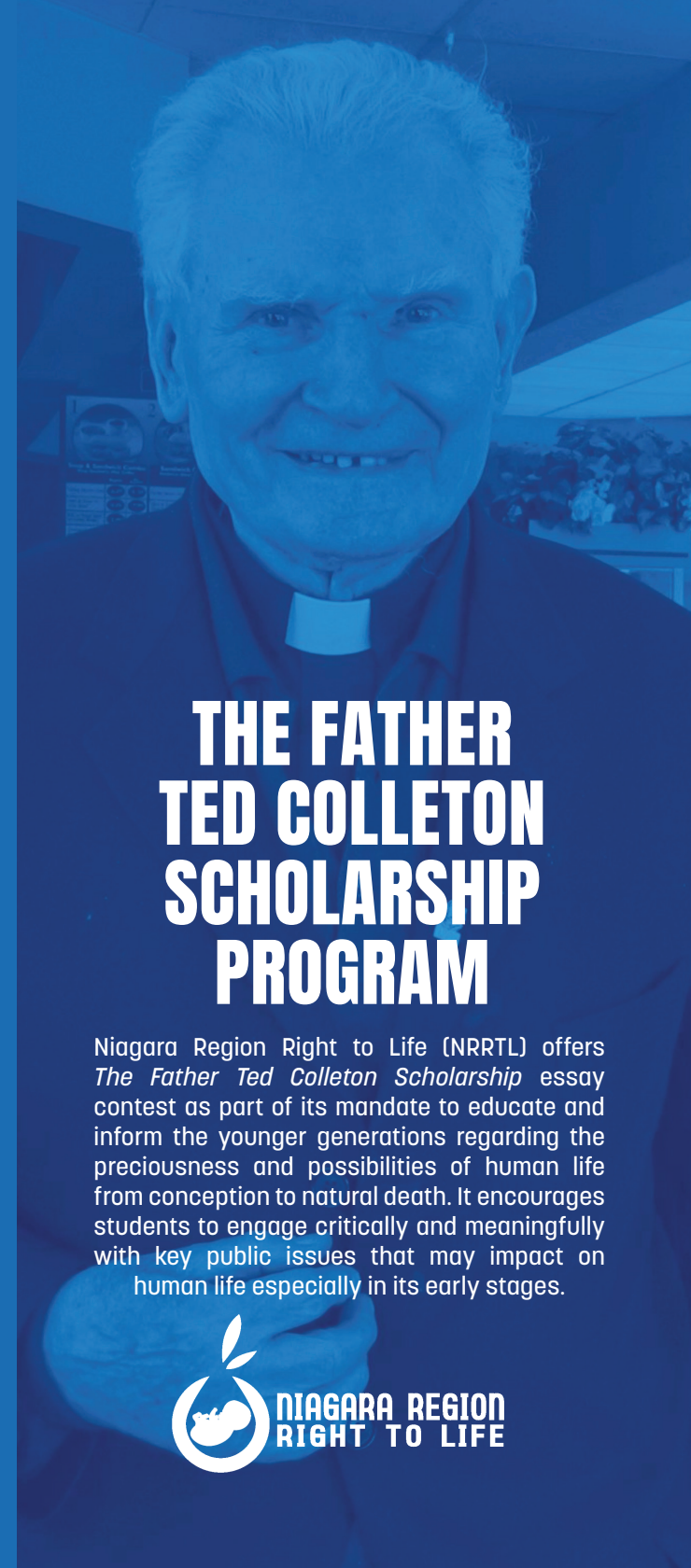


3RD PRIZE

LOGAN POLINSKY-PALMER
St. Anne Catholic
High School,
Belle River,
Ontario

For 24 years, Niagara Region Right to Life has been sponsoring the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship program. The prizes are awarded following an evaluation process conducted by a committee that assesses the essay-writing component. Other considerations include letter of reference, one's personal resumé, and some knowledge of pro-life principles and values.

Father Ted had some favourite quotations and one of them was from Edmund Burke: *All evil needs to flourish is that good men do nothing.* Father Ted believed that young people could make a difference. He challenged them to think, pray and act, do something positive to respect human life and uphold human dignity.



THE FATHER TED COLLETON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Niagara Region Right to Life (NRRTL) offers *The Father Ted Colleton Scholarship* essay contest as part of its mandate to educate and inform the younger generations regarding the preciousness and possibilities of human life from conception to natural death. It encourages students to engage critically and meaningfully with key public issues that may impact on human life especially in its early stages.



FATHER TED COLLETON: AN INTRODUCTION

(for a fuller biographical summary go to theinterim.ca and search for articles written by him and about him.)

Father Edward (Ted) Colleton (b. 1913- d. 2011) was born in Dublin, Ireland. He entered the Spiritan Order in 1932, was ordained a priest in 1940 and was assigned to serve in Kenya. Forced to leave that mission field in 1971, he was reassigned to Canada and stationed in Toronto where he was shaken by the social changes impacting the



institutions of marriage and family. He joined the pro-life movement and devoted many years to educating the public about the nature and consequences of abortion and other family related issues.

For decades Father Ted was a compelling writer and speaker, gentle teacher, committed activist, and raconteur par excellence, communicating moral principles and values to hundreds of thousands of people. This scholarship program is intended to honour his remarkable life work spanning almost seven decades. Niagara Region Right to Life has been sponsoring the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship program for 25 years. The prizes are awarded following an evaluation process conducted by a committee that assesses the essay-writing component (75%). Other considerations include letters of reference, one's personal resumé/pro-file (including knowledge of pro-life values and/or involvement in pro-life activities. (25%)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

As many as three prizes are offered: \$2000 first prize, \$1500 second prize and \$1000 third prize. A writing contest organized by Niagara Region Right to Life is a determining factor in the awarding of the scholarship prizes.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES MUST:

- be high school students entering grade 11 or 12 at a Canadian high school (or be homeschooled in Canada)
- obtain a teacher's confirmation that their student essay is free of plagiarism or AI generated material
- provide a substantial (one page) personal resumé outlining their participation in school life (clubs, sports, leadership roles, academic achievements, etc.) and community activities, including any past or present interest/involvement in the pro-life cause. **Please note: lack of such involvement does not disqualify the candidates from the scholarships.**
- submit all attachments (except for reference letters) in word format. Reference letters should be pdf .
- not be related to employees or directors of Niagara Region Right to Life. Previous prize winners in this scholarship program are also ineligible.

Essay Component

The student must submit a typed original essay, approximately 1,500 words in length. **To be considered and properly evaluated, the candidate's essay must be submitted by email, only in Word document format, to dirocco401@yahoo.ca, no later than midnight of Friday, October 16, 2026.** The theme of the essay reads as follows:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has entered the daily lexicon of ordinary people. A cautionary reminder applies, because something is possible does not mean that it should be attempted. With respect to AI, all kinds of questions pop up and some are fundamental: (a) Is AI a force for good, freeing mankind from drudgery, suffering, and poverty, or is it a dangerous technological tool that undermines the innate dignity of human beings?(b) Is AI a means for redefining what is a human being as well as how human beings are reproduced and how they die (IVF, surrogacy, gene editing, embryo screening, designer babies, commercialization of fertility, extension or termination of human life)? Address these fundamental questions, with the emphasis definitely on question (b), and discuss the moral aspects of AI development and its many potential applications.

To help you get started in your research you are encouraged to consult a few articles and links to You Tube videos that touch on some aspects of the essay theme. The articles and video links area posted for your use at niagararegionrighttolife.ca/projects/father-ted-colleton-scholarship-program and also at theinterim.com.

PROGRAM: RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A committee selected by Niagara Region Right to Life supervises the program.
- Copyrights to any essay submitted for the purpose of the contest will be retained by Niagara Region Right to Life. Any publication or other use of the work would be acknowledged by naming its author.
- Prize winners will be asked to provide a photo of themselves so it may accompany the publication of their essay.
- Submit a minimum of one letter of reference from a school staff member or community representative (pastor, employer, coach, etc. but not from any family relations or parents).
- The candidate's teacher reference writer must review the essay prior to its submission by the student and confirm that the essay is an original student-written essay, free of plagiarism or AI generated material.
- The essay component is marked according to a set rubric. The mark sheet rubric may be found online at either of these two web sites niagararegionrighttolife.ca/projects/father-ted-colleton-scholarship-program or theinterim.com. Such a rubric gives the candidates ample information on how their essays are evaluated.
- Note in particular that there must be concrete evidence or back up (i.e. footnotes/proper citations) even when offering an opinion. Footnotes should be placed at the end of the essay rather than at bottom of individual pages.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING ENTRY

The prize winners will be declared by **Friday, December 11, 2026** via an announcement by Niagara Region RTL.

For further information leave message for Dan Di Rocco at (905) 294-4219, email dirocco401@yahoo.ca or visit our website niagararegionrighttolife.ca or theinterim.com.