

# Refugee Resettlement Update



Office for Refugees Archdiocese of Toronto

March 2016

## In This Issue

- ◆ Office for Refugees Expands 1
- ◆ Project Hope Campaign Tops \$4 million 1
- ◆ Upcoming Mission Trip to Lebanon 1
- ◆ 2016 World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2
- ◆ Interfaith Sponsorship 2
- ◆ Upcoming Sessions 3
- ◆ How to register for Office for Refugees sessions 3
- ◆ Free Resources for Newcomers 3
- ◆ HOME Portal 4
- ◆ Want to work at the Office for Refugees 4
- ◆ Want to become a volunteer at the Office for Refugees? 4
- ◆ Office for Refugees Website 4
- ◆ Join us on Facebook! 4

## Office for Refugees Expands

Many positive changes are taking place at the Office for Refugees to further enable our mission to serve the needs of refugees and resettlement groups.

Dr. Martin Mark will devote more time representing the archdiocese as it increases its engagement with the Canadian Government, the United Nations and others—advocating on behalf of the needs of refugees. He will also focus more on the overseas identification of refugee candidates and their matching with sponsors.

Fr. Ivan Camilleri, Moderator of the Curia, recently announced that the archdiocese will enhance the office's resources to strengthen its ability to best serve the needs of sponsors and refugees.

John Ecker has been appointed interim Operations Director by Cardinal Collins to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Office for Refugees. John will also continue his work in support of the Family of Faith campaign.

John has advised that in April our office will relocate to 1220 Yonge Street, across the street from the Pastoral Centre and the Summerhill subway station. An expanded staff team, new information technology and other enhancements will also be implemented in the coming months. John can be reached at (416) 934-3400 x805 or [jecker@archtoronto.org](mailto:jecker@archtoronto.org).

## Project Hope Campaign Tops \$4 million

It is with a heart filled with gratitude and faith that we share the news that the Archdiocese of Toronto “**Project Hope**” exceeded \$4 million recently. Due to the additional funds available, more families can be sponsored. If your parish or community is interested in supporting another family through resettlement, please contact [oratoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:oratoutreach@gmail.com).



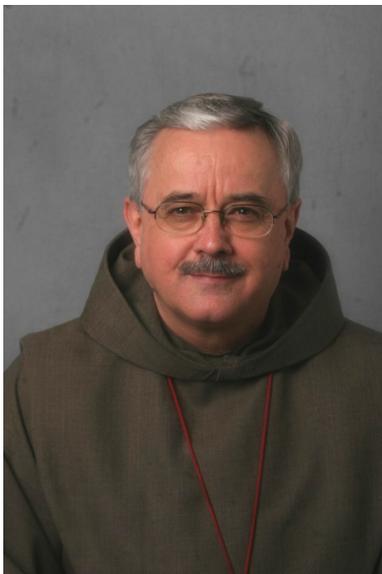
## Upcoming Mission Trip to Lebanon

Dr. Martin Mark will be conducting a mission trip to Lebanon with Catholiques Sans Frontières to identify additional families for Project Hope sponsorship. If you are interested in participating in the mission trip, please contact Dr. Martin Mark at [oratoffice@gmail.com](mailto:oratoffice@gmail.com)

## 2016 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

On Sunday January 17th, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins and clergy of Goan, East Indian, Mangalorean, and Anglo Indian descent presided over a Special Eucharistic Celebration at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Mississauga. The Eucharistic Offering was made by a recently arrived family of 5 from Liberia. Following the inspirational service, a wonderful reception was held by the Goan Society and included speeches as well as traditional Goan food, music and entertainment. Representatives from all levels of government including both the municipalities of Toronto and Mississauga, the province, and the federal government provided support for the efforts of refugee sponsorship by the Archdiocese and resettlement groups. We thank the Goan Society and St. Joseph's Parish for supporting this uplifting event.

For more information see the article in the Catholic Register <http://www.catholicregister.org/item/21635-celebrating-toronto-s-migrant-tradition>



### Interfaith Sponsorship: Sponsoring a Non-Christian Refugee Family

Rev. Damian MacPherson, Director Office of Ecumenical & Interfaith Affairs spoke at the Resettlement Group seminar in January about our mission as Catholics and Christians to support non-Christian refugees. Biblical teachings in the Old Testament provide many examples of voluntary and forced migrations. Even Mary and Joseph with Jesus were refugees as they fled the persecution of King Herod (Matthew 2.13-14). Peter reminds us that the presence of refugees

reminds us of our situation in the world, where we are aliens and exiles (1 Peter 2.11). "Most importantly, we must recall that Christ came to save all humanity, and that in Him God, who excludes no one, breaks down the ethnic, social, and cultural barriers that separate and that build walls and lead to violence" ("I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" Pastoral Letter on Welcoming Refugees). As Catholics, Project Hope called for us to sponsor 100 families. Our mission is to put all refugees, including Muslims, in a positive light, and to be ambassadors for them in Canada.

To assist Muslim newcomers integrate into Canadian society, it is recommended to first learn more about the practices of Islam. Seek out a local mosque and the support of the Iman, and that community, to support the family in their faith. Taking an interest in understanding their faith can help encourage trust, however you should be careful to not assume similar words in the faith have the same meaning. Also understand their faith is very personal so be sure to respect that and do not appear to be trying to convert them.

For more information, please refer to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs department of the Archdiocese of Toronto; <https://www.archtoronto.org/ecumenical-interfaith-affairs>.

*Dorothy T., volunteer*

## Upcoming Sessions

### Resettlement Group Seminar:

Date: Thur. March 10  
Location: Office for Refugees, 371 Old Kingston Rd, Unit 7

### Newcomer Meeting

Date: Fri. March 11  
Location: Office for Refugees, 371 Old Kingston Rd, Unit 7

### Info Session 3: IRCC Processing Time

Date: Tues. March 15  
Location: Office for Refugees, 371 Old Kingston Rd, Unit 7

### Info Session 2: Settlement Training Workshop

Date: Sat. March 19  
Location: Office for Refugees, 371 Old Kingston Rd, Unit 7

### Info Session 1: Orientation (Civic Resettlement Program)

Date: Tues. March 22  
Location: Office for Refugees, 371 Old

## **Please follow these instructions to register for a session:**

1. Go to [www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca)
2. In the search bar type in "Eventbrite Office for Refugees"
3. Click on the link and you will find a list of Office for Refugees' sessions on Eventbrite, with all of the details of the session you are looking for.
  1. Click on the session you want to attend
  2. Click the green button that says register and fill out the questions asked
  3. You will receive a confirmation email from Eventbrite of your registration



## **FREE Newcomer Information/Support Available** *By Senthoo G*

In our last newsletter, we had provided a link to a large list of centres that offered free services for newcomers living in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). This time around, we will showcase a resource available to all newcomers, including refugees.

The YMCA is a community organization that provides assistance to people that find trouble navigating Canadian life. The YMCA currently offers a program designed to assist newcomers with their new life in Canada. This service includes important information related to finding housing, obtaining/completing essential government documents and benefits, gaining employment, health services, personal finance and income tax, improving your English skills, and much more. All of this information can be provided in a one-on-one setting with staff who are able to speak multiple languages.

There are three locations that provide **full services** within the GTA, and one in Barrie:

- Toronto Central Grosvenor Street YMCA Centre (Downtown Toronto - 20 Grosvenor Street, (416) 975-9622)
- North York Dufferin Street YMCA Centre (North York - 4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 200, (416) 630-0330 ext. 185)
- Scarborough Milner Business Court YMCA Centre (Scarborough - 10 Milner Business Court, Suite 600, (416) 609-0218 ext. 30042)
- YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (Barrie—320 Bayfield St., Unit 63A, (705)-797-2020 ext 21)

There are four other location that provide **basic services** related to newcomer information programs, which include:

- Toronto (Etobicoke) Albion Road YMCA Centre (1530 Albion Road (Suite 83), Etobicoke)
- Toronto Consumers Road YMCA Centre (251 Consumers Road (Suite 110), Toronto)
- Toronto Reference Library (789 Yonge Street, Toronto)
- Centennial Library (578 Finch Avenue West, North York)

**HOME Portal**

WoodGreen Community Services, under contract from the City of Toronto, and with the services donated by Deloitte, developed an internet portal called HOME (Housing, Opportunities, & Marketplace Exchange). The portal allows donors, both individuals and businesses, to post available housing, goods and services to help Syrian refugees arriving in Toronto. Newcomers and resettlement groups can sign up to find donors with housing, goods or services they require. To access HOME, go to [woodgreen.org](http://woodgreen.org) and follow the links.

**Want to work at the Office for Refugees?**

The Office for Refugees, has two job postings: Resettlement Assistant and Outreach Assistant. The postings are can be found on the Archdiocese of Toronto's website:  
<https://www.archtoronto.org/contact-us/employment-opportunities>

The deadline for applications is Monday, March 7, 2016.

**Want to become a volunteer at the Office for Refugees?**

**WE**   
**VOLUNTEERS**

Refugee resettlement work is not possible without our many dedicated volunteers who assist with administration, reception, event coordination, interpretation, translation, information sessions and case management. Volunteers at the Office for Refugees develop useful skills while contributing to our world in meaningful ways. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alexandra at: [Orateducator@gmail.com](mailto:Orateducator@gmail.com)



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

**Office for Refugees  
Website**

Please visit Office for Refugees' website to find details about our mandates, goals, and policies, as well as tools regarding Info Sessions 1 and 3.

[www.bit.ly/refugeess](http://www.bit.ly/refugeess)

**JOIN US ON  
FACEBOOK!**

Become a member of the Office for Refugees Volunteers Group and Canada Group on Facebook to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues.  
[facebook.com](http://facebook.com)

**TALK TO US!**

Join us on ORAT Forum to discuss new ideas, events, news, topics, resettlement issues and more! We look forward to your opinions and future input and discussions. Create an account:  
[ORAT.forumchitchat.com/](http://ORAT.forumchitchat.com/)

