The 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Join us on Sunday, January 15th 2017 when ORAT will be celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The event will be hosted by the Iraqi community at St. Luke’s Parish in Thornhill. The day will begin with Mass at 12:15 pm and will be followed by an interfaith reception in the parish hall at 1:30 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bishop Kirkpatrick will be celebrating Mass and will be present at the reception to follow.

An Excerpt from a Message from His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me” (Mk 9:37; cf. Mt 18:5; Lk 9:48; Jn 13:20). With these words, the Evangelists remind the Christian community of Jesus’ teaching, which both inspires and challenges. This phrase traces the sure path which leads to God; it begins with the smallest and, through the grace of our Saviour, it grows into the practice of welcoming others. To be welcoming is a necessary condition for making this journey a concrete reality: God made himself one of us. In Jesus God became a child, and the openness of faith to God, which nourishes hope, is expressed in loving proximity to the smallest and the weakest. Charity, faith and hope are all actively present in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, as we have rediscovered during the recent Extraordinary Jubilee.” To continue reading this passage by Pope Francis you may click on the link provided: http://www.pcmigrants.org

Awaiting 2017 allocations

As yet, ORAT has not received its allocations 2017 yet. However the Introduction to Resettlement Info Sessions have been scheduled for those who want to learn about initiating resettlement through ORAT. The instructions provided at the session will outline what you need to do in preparation for ORAT’s announcement,

If you would like to initiate resettlement through ORAT it is mandatory that as a cosponsor you attend the “Introduction to Resettlement Info Session”. Once ORAT has received allocations for the year of 2017, it will be announced on the ORAT Facebook page, ORAT’s website and in the newsletter.

Attention: Resettlement Groups

ORAT is developing a database list of resettlement group contacts to help deal with emergency case situations, when they arise.

Continued on page 2
Since Project Hope launched in September 2015, nearly $3.8 million was raised to resettle hundreds of refugees to Canada. 133 newcomers have arrived to Canada through Project Hope thus far. The funds allocated for the resettlement of refugees through Project Hope is over $2.3 million.

ORAT organized and facilitated a total of 94 sessions in 2016 for 2,455 participants.

Continued from page 1

**Attention: Resettlement Groups**

If your parish would be interested to take on a refugee case on short notice, please contact Luciano at: lmoro@archtoronto.org to add your group onto this list.

It is not a commitment to undertake a refugee sponsorship. The list simply would allow us to quickly approach any group, if an unexpected situation arises and it is deemed necessary to relocate the refugee family away to another group.

**Employment strategies to help integrate Syrian newcomers**

**A Workshop for Church and Community Sponsors** presented by ECULINKS Etobicoke and Islington United Church

Saturday, February 4, 2017
10:30am – 1:30pm
Lunch included

Our Lady of Sorrows Church - Downstairs Hall
3055 Bloor Street West, Toronto
Near Royal York Road Subway Station
Parking lot off Brentwood Road South

Learn how to create a strategy that should help your sponsored family find a road to appropriate employment.

**Sponsor Experiences**

Dennis Bradley, Islington United Church
Eddie Alkemade, Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church

**Employment Strategist**

Mahmoud Allouch

How to Create an Employment Strategy that Works
Small Group Discussion led by table co-ordinators

You can register through the link below:


For information contact:

Peter Lindsay – peterlindsay101@gmail.com
Get to know the staff

After graduating from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and International Development Studies, I have been volunteering with the Office for Refugees. As a result, my desire to support and learn from refugees has gained momentum. My path in becoming a volunteer was happenstance, as I had met Luciano a fellow parishioner through a mutual friend. We got to talking and I found out that he worked as an outreach worker for the Office for Refugees. I was ecstatic to hear they were in need of volunteers as the timing couldn’t have been better. I was eager to gain practical experience within the field, but more importantly it was the answer to a vocation.

The experience thus far has been more than I could have fathomed as it is truly inspiring to know that no matter your position you are a key stakeholder in transforming the lives of so many refugees. I am very grateful to have this opportunity to learn from the encouraging staff and the many newcomers to Canada.

Veronica Belcastro
ORAT Volunteer

Interested in Sponsoring a Refugee?

As we begin the new year, it is important for parish groups that are interested in sponsoring a refugee family to indicate their desire to do so. Simply copy the following link into your Internet browser: https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/Documents/Request%20for%20Refugee%20Profile%20at%20ORAT%201701.pdf and send Luciano a copy of the completed Request for Refugee Profile form. To avoid disappointment, it is urgent that interested groups provide this expression of interest as soon as possible since there will likely be a limited number of spots available this year. You may contact Luciano at: lmoro@archtoronto.org

Upcoming Sessions

Please note that you are required to register to book your seat for any session you wish to attend. You may register for the following sessions by clicking on the attached link:

http://www.officeforrefugees.eventbrite.com

Resettlement Group (RG) Seminar
Date: Tues, Jan 17th 2017
Time: 2:30pm
Location: 1220 Yonge Street suite 203, ORAT

Introduction to Resettlement
Date: Wed, Jan 18th 2017
Time: 11:00am
Location: 830 Bathurst Street, Paulist Centre

Project Hope
Date: Thurs, Jan 19th 2017
Time: 6:00pm
Location: 830 Bathurst Street, Paulist Centre

Settlement Training Workshop
Date: Thurs, Jan 26th 2017
Time: 6:30pm
Location: 830 Bathurst Street, Paulist Centre

IRCC Processing Time
Date: Mon, Jan 30th 2017
Time: 10:30am
Location: 830 Bathurst Street, Paulist Centre

Newcomer Meeting
Date: Tues, Jan 21st 2017
Time: 6:30pm
Location: 1220 Yonge Street suite 203, ORAT
Resources for dental services

Healthy Smiles Program
Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental services for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. To learn more and find a location near you click Here

Central Toronto Community Health Centre – 416.703.8481
Dental Services Dental service for youth and adults

Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto – 416.979.4927
Adult Clinic, Paedodontic (children) dentistry clinic and Orthodontic (straightening of teeth)

George Brown College, Wave Dental Clinic – 416.415.4547
Low cost cleaning, small fillings and dentures

Regent Park Community Centre 416.364.7019
All Toronto residents

Queen West Community Health Centre – 416.703.8481
All Toronto Residents, reduces prices

Volunteer Urban Dental Clinic – 416.289.4349
Services for youth and low-income adults. Emergency dental care for low income adults without any dental coverage.

Become a volunteer for ORAT
Refugee resettlement work is not possible without our many dedicated volunteers who assist with administration, event coordination, interpretation, translation, outreach work, and information sessions. Volunteers at the Office for Refugees develop useful skills while contributing to our world in meaningful ways. If you are interested in volunteering for the Office for Refugees, please contact Alexandra at: awhittle@archtoronto.org

ORAT Webpage
Please visit ORAT’s website to find details about our mandates, goals, and policies, as well as tools regarding immigration forms and info session materials.

https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/

Join us on Facebook
Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page and join the Canada Group on to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues.

ORAT Facebook page

Your contributions are welcomed
If you would like to contribute to ORAT’s monthly newsletter or have any feedback please email Alexandra at: awhittle@archtoronto.org

The Office for Refugees is Supported by