



Merry Christmas

The staff of the Archdiocese of Toronto’s Office for Refugees would like to extend to you and your family our warmest wishes for a happy & holy Christmas.

May the Lord abundantly bless you!



Introducing Video Tutorials on “How to Complete Immigration Canada Forms”

In order to help cosponsors fill their Immigration Canada forms, the Office for Refugees at the Archdiocese of Toronto has developed a series of short tutorial videos. The videos will provide step-by-step instructions to cosponsors and CG members on how fill the Immigration Canada forms.

The videos can be found on ORAT’s website and through the following link:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/Pages/Tutorials.aspx>

A Success Story from the Holy Rosary Parish

In recent months Holy Rosary Parish in midtown Toronto has welcomed refugee families from the Krisan Refugee Camp in Ghana. Nora Mpwankolo arrived at Toronto Pearson Airport on July 11 and the Monlandjo family, consisting of father Claver, mother Colette, and teenage daughter Essi, arrived on October 3.

About Nora Mpwankolo: Nora was born and raised in Bangui, Central African Republic. She attended primary and secondary school there, as well as university. The Central

African Republic has experienced many years of civil and religious strife. Nora and her family fled after an extremist army faction attacked homes in her area in early 2014. Nora and her parents fled by different routes. After travelling through other countries, Nora found asylum in Ghana, where she had lived until coming to Canada. Sadly, Nora’s efforts to find her parents were unsuccessful. In Toronto, Nora continues to move forward with her life. She speaks French, which is the national language of the Central African Republic. She is studying to improve her English and is working full time. Over the past few months, Nora



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A Success Story from Holy Rosary Parish

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has also had the opportunity to enjoy Toronto, with visits to City Hall, the Eaton Centre, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

About the Monlandjo Family: Claver Monlandjo and his wife Colette were both born in Togo. They speak some French and some English. Their mother tongue is Ewe. They too fled because of civil strife in their homeland. Claver went to the Klikor Refugee Camp in Ghana in 1993 and then moved to the Krisan Refugee Camp in 1997. Colette was in the Krisan Camp at that time. Their daughter Essi was born in 2004.



Names from left to right: Ray Boyce, ChrisAnn Alvarez, Nora Mpwankolo, Anneliese Blackwell, Alisia Sabatini & Udo Kaul



Names from right to left: Colette, Essi, & Claver (Monlandjo)

Claver and Colette are both learning English four days a week. Essi is enrolled in high school in downtown Toronto. She enjoys her studies very much and wants to go to medical school. In the coming months, Holy Rosary Refugee Committee members will be supporting Claver and Colette in their search for long-term employment. The Monlandjos have also been able to enjoy some leisure time, with visits to City Hall and the Eaton Centre, as well as a wonderful day trip to Niagara Falls.

On October the Monlandjos had a unique experience while exploring Toronto's subway system. They were talking to each other in Ewe on a subway platform when a woman approached them and spoke to them in Ewe as well. She too had come to Toronto from Africa. They exchanged contact information.

The Monlandjos and Nora knew each other in the Krisan Camp, so they were delighted to be able to re-connect with each other in Toronto, as well as with other friends who were in the camp and are now living in Toronto.

Please keep Nora Mpwankolo and the Monlandjo Family in your prayers.

2019 Volunteer Appreciation Event

On Friday December 6, 2019, ORAT held its annual volunteer appreciation event. Each year we recognize the efforts of the volunteers who dedicate their time to assist the office in various areas. Volunteers have always been essential to our work; their impact is so profound that some projects would simply not have been completed without their generous support.

ORAT not only recognized the efforts of volunteers who helped within our office, but also some of the many Constituent Group (“CG”) members who helped resettle

refugees through their parishes. Helping newcomer refugees build a future here in Canada is not an easy feat. Their sacrifice of time, talent and treasure is a testament to their Christian faith, as they go about the important work of settling refugees to a new life in Canada.

A great thank you from our office to all the volunteers who continue to answer the Lord’s call to help refugees!
“I was a stranger and you welcomed Me” (Matt 25:35)



Interested in volunteering?

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, please contact the Educator at ORAT at: Halgebraeel@archtoronto.org



ORAT Makes Available On-Line Information Sessions

In response to the requests of many cosponsors and CG members to make ORAT's Information Sessions more accessible, we have launched a new initiative, whereby participants can now register and attend the Information Sessions online.

This service will allow people to remotely attend sessions and download handouts. This work is in keeping with ORAT's desire to help inform as many cosponsors and CG members as possible on the various aspects of refugee resettlement. Registration for the webinars will be available through Eventbrite at:

<http://orat.eventbrite.com>



ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials.

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

Upcoming Sessions

As part of our mission, ORAT provides information sessions to educate the general public, cosponsors, CGs, and newcomers about refugee resettlement. A number of different information sessions have been developed that are designed to inform attendees about various aspects of refugee resettlement.

Given the complexity of the resettlement process, ORAT's sessions vary in topics and materials based on the stage of the application. Information is delivered in a simplified, yet professional way and tailored to suit people from various backgrounds.

It is a requirement for all cosponsors and CG members to attend ORAT's information sessions if they wish to submit an application through this office.

Registration can be completed on Eventbrite through the following link:

<http://orat.eventbrite.com>

Your input is welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: orateducator@archtoronto.org

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