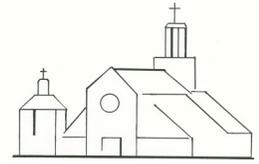


Divine Infant Parish

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June 19, 2022

Update on Refugee Family Sponsorship

Dear Parishioners of Divine Infant:

I am pleased to inform you that George and Rita Abo Saad and their young daughter Joumana have been approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for travel and immigration to Canada as permanent residents. We do not know yet when the parish can expect their arrival. Because of the pandemic and resulting interruptions and restrictions on international travel, we have had to wait patiently and prayerfully alongside our refugee family in Lebanon.

However, events are moving forward and I invite you to share in this wonderful journey of preparation and welcome. As you know, from viewing the "Thermometer" at the back of the church, the parish has raised \$32,000 (71%) of the total \$45,000 needed to finance our sponsored family's first full year in Canada.

Thank you for the generosity you have shown in these difficult and challenging times. However, we still have some distance to go. I would humbly ask you then to consider if you are in a position to offer a little more financial support so that we can reach our goal and honor the commitment made by our parish.

Our refugee committee and volunteers are now addressing the critical issue of "housing" for the Abo Saad family. It is the responsibility of Divine Infant Parish to obtain suitable and acceptable accommodation for the family's first full year. Ideally, our Sponsorship Committee would like to obtain a one-year lease for 2-bedroom apartment or housing unit within the parish area. Our challenge is to secure a safe, modest and reasonably comfortable rental within a fixed annual budget. We hope to finalize the living rearrangements in the near future; so that our refugee family can move in as soon as possible after their arrival.

If you have any questions or information to share please do not hesitate to contact **Guy Savard**, Chair of your Refugee Committee at **(613) 824-9715** or email him at gcsavard@sympatico.ca.

In due course, the Refugee Committee will seek the assistance of parishioners to help furnish our refugee family's new home in Canada.

With profound respect and gratitude for all your assistance, support and prayers,

Sincerely in Christ,



Father Waldemar Podlasz SDS
Pastor