

Dear Divine Infant Parishioners,

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the first Mass at Divine Infant, I write to you this weekend with a spirit of hope and enthusiasm. I have reflected on the countless moments where you, our parishioners, have responded with prayers and with great generosity in support of the needs of the parish and of those in our parish community. Once again, I appeal to you for your help, charity, compassion and generosity.

Divine Infant Parish has received diocesan approval and permission to proceed with the sponsorship of a Syrian refugee. In this case, the refugee, Bashar, is the brother of George Abo Saad, the father of the family the parish previously sponsored. Bashar is currently in Beirut, Lebanon.

Currently, we are forming a new Refugee Committee. It will be comprised of members of the Alhurira and Abo Saad families, Deacon Steve and myself, as well as two parishioners. This committee will be responsible for ensuring all aspects of the settlement process are handled appropriately and in accordance with the guidelines and expectations of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

It is important to note that the Abo Saad family will have a significant role in this entire process, assisting financially and with housing. While this is critical, your help is very much needed. I ask for your prayers and financial support once again. The parish has a financial goal of raising \$15,000. While the entire process can take anywhere from two to up to three years before Bashar enters Canada, there is a requirement to have all funds set aside by December 10th, 2026. Therefore, our fundraising efforts will begin next weekend, October 24th / 25th. Progress towards our financial goal will be tracked and shown on our thermometer, which will be in place in the foyer next weekend as well.

As the parish celebrates its 40th anniversary, our own jubilee year, and as we as a community approach Advent, this initiative presents to us an opportunity for us to participate in a tangible act of charity, and would support our diocesan mission to Go Out, Go Deep and Go Together.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generosity.

In Christ,



Fr. Waldemar Podlasz, SDS

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