



Wishing all Christians a blessed and fruitful Lent. May it be a prayerful season of preparing for the great feast of the Church, the Resurrection of the Lord.

Let it also be a special time of prayer, as we intercede for the Church and the World during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lent is the 40-day season of preparation for Easter that ends on Holy Thursday, three days before Easter Sunday. During Lent, Catholics recall their baptism and do penance – fasting, prayer, and alms-giving as they commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ.

ORAT Action Plan for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the evolving coronavirus situation and out of an abundance of caution, ORAT has taken the following steps to minimize the transmission of the virus:

Information Sessions: Until further notice, we will be discontinuing in-person Information Sessions. In the interim, we will be offering live on-line Information Sessions, which we encourage cosponsors and Constituent Group (CG) members to register for. To register, please click on the following link to find out about upcoming sessions: [Eventbrite](#) We have also provided a number of on-line tutorials, which are available on our website;

General Enquiries: In recognition that many enquiries are adequately addressed by phone or by email, we kindly ask that enquiries related to refugee sponsorship or case updates be made either by phone (416-934-3400, x804) or by email (oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org);

Cheque Drop-Off: For those who are dropping off cheques to our office, we ask that you send your cheques by mail or by courier. Our mailing address is:

*Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT)
1220 Yonge St., Suite 203
Toronto ON M4T 1W1*

Newcomer Disbursements: All quarterly cheque disbursements to newcomers will be mailed out. As such, we remind cosponsors and CG members to email their cheque request to oratoutreach@archtoronto.org at least 30 days in advance of when the monies will be required. The cheque request is accessible by clicking on the following links:

- For Cosponsor Cases: [Cheque Request Form - Cosponsor](#)
- For Project Hope Cases: [Cheque Request Form - Project-Hope](#)

Should the cheque request not be received by our office in a timely fashion, resulting in insufficient time for ORAT to process and mail the cheque, we will require that you arrange for a courier pick-up at your own expense. To arrange a courier pick-up, please contact any of the couriers listed below:

DHL: Call 1-855-345-7447, then press 1 for pickup;

FedEx: Call 1-800-463-3339, then follow the voice prompts; or

UPS: Call 1-800-742-5877, then press 1 for pickup.

While challenging days lay ahead, it is our hope and prayer that the steps taken will contribute in some small way to mitigating the spread of this virus.

ORAT and CRSC's Advocacy Efforts

Deacon Rudy Ovcjak from the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Refugees (ORAT), along with Brian Dwyer and Rabea Allos of the Catholic Refugees Sponsorship Council (CRSC) recently met with the Honourable Peter Kent, Member of Parliament for Thornhill and the Conservative Immigration Critic.

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ORAT and CRSC's Advocacy Efforts

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During the meeting, the strengths of the Private sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program were highlighted, as well as some of the concerns that many Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) have with specific rules and programs that were introduced in the 2018 SAH Agreement.

ORAT along with the CSRC continue the important advocacy work necessary to strengthen the PSR Program. This meeting builds upon a long history of advocacy work with various political parties and with key Immigration Canada staff.



From left to right: Rabea Allos, the Honourable Peter Kent MP, Deacon Rudy Ovcjak and Brian Dwyer

David, Sabina, Chris, Austine and Catherine's Story

On September 19, 2019, this South Sudanese family arrived in Canada. They arrived from Bidibidi Refugee camp in Northern Uganda where they had been living for the past 3 years. They fled their home country of South Sudan because of fear and safety for their lives.

With the help of St. Leo the Great Parish in Brooklin and a very dedicated refugee committee, we welcomed this family to Canada, to our parish community, and into our hearts.

David is 30 years old and is now working full time at White Feather Farms in Raglan.

It is a large farm and his job is a very important one as an egg collector. Sabina is 29 years old and spends most of her time caring for her family and home. She also manages to work some hours at the White Feather Farm's store.

Two of their children, Chris and Austin are attending Catholic School in Port Perry. They are doing well,



From left to right: Austin, Catherine, and Chris



From left to right: Sabina, Catherine, Chris, Austin, and David

and are quickly learning English. Little Catherine is attending a Community Play School two mornings a week. She is also speaking new English words every day. The family is adjusting well to life in Canada despite the many cultural, climate, social and food differences. The most obvious nuance is the winter temperatures. We have taught them the necessity and many benefits of layered clothing! There is a large number of appliances and routines that they are unfamiliar with; including the stove, washing machine, dryer, toilets, vacuum, cleaning tools and supplies. They have learned much and will continue to learn daily.

I cannot imagine moving to a new country that is so foreign to them,

leaving family, friends and all things familiar behind. However, they are doing very well and persevering in their pursuit to make Canada their life long home.

David's Thankfulness

Our family is grateful to the parish community and the volunteers who have welcomed us warmly into their community. We really recognize their sacrifice to save my family from the war in South Sudan and they'll forever be like family to us. We are happy to have been sponsored by the Catholic community of St. Leo the Great Parish and are working hard to rebuild our lives with the support of the volunteers. We pray for other refugees that their situation will find willing hearts to help them find peace and safety. God Bless the community and the volunteers. I always dreamed of a life outside of Africa and now my dream has come true.

Questions and answers (Q&A)

(Reprinted from RSTP's February 14, 2020 Bulletin)

Question: Is the Social Insurance Number (SIN) and the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) certificate issued to newcomers on arrival at the Port of Entry (POE)?

Answer: SIN registration is currently only available at Toronto Pearson International Airport, where there is a Service Canada kiosk. If the newcomers arrive when the kiosk is closed, do not have enough time to register for a SIN between their connecting flights or arrive at another POE, the sponsors must assist the newcomers with applying for their SIN at their nearest Service Canada Office. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer will issue all newcomers that are eligible for the IFHP, an IFHP certificate at the POE, even if they already received a certificate overseas.

Changes to the Cheque Request Form for Cosponsors

ORAT has updated its cheque requisition form for Cosponsored cases. We ask that you use the revised form, which can be downloaded from our website or can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Cheque Request Form Cosponsor](#)

You will notice that the cheque request form now includes some additional funding information. This change was necessary to ensure that disbursements to newcomers are in-line with Immigration Canada's requirements. The information needed to complete the form can be obtained by using the Budget Workbook, which is available on our website or by clicking on the following link: [Budget Workbook](#).

You will also notice that there are two additional questions on the form related to employment and self-sufficiency. These have been included for informational purposes only, to provide us with a measure of how well newcomers are being integrated to life in Canada.

Financial Liability: Cost Table & Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP):

Upon arrival, and for the duration of the 12 month sponsorship period or until the newcomer becomes self-sufficient, newcomers are to be provided with financial support to cover their basic needs. The support must meet IRCC's guidelines/current liabilities at the time of arrival.

Please read the following as the rules have changed. The level of financial support is determined by a variety of the factors, including:

- 1) **Family Size:** Financial liability increases with family size. These requirements are outlined in the table provided below;
- 2) **Family Composition:**
 - a) **Adult Dependents:** A detailed explanation of this requirement is presented in the table below;
 - b) **Seniors:** If you are sponsoring seniors (age 60 or older) you will be requested to deposit additional funds. After your case is assessed, ORAT staff will calculate the liability required and communicate this amount to cosponsors;
 - c) **Non-Accompanying Family Members:** Non-accompanying family members are family members listed on the initial undertaking who are unable to travel to Canada at the same time as the Principal Applicant (PA)

Within one year of the PA's arrival in Canada, the PA/Cosponsor may submit the necessary forms to reunite the family members abroad who were previously unable to travel with the PA. Although non-accompanying family members will not accompany the PA, ORAT requires full funds be deposited for them. This is to prevent a shortfall of funds should the cosponsor or PA choose to process the non-accompanying member through a One-Year Window (OYW) application. It is important to note that the PA/Cosponsor must submit the OYW application within the first 12 months of the PA's arrival to Canada.

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Financial Liability: Cost Table & Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP):

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The following is an example of how to calculate the financial liability for a family where there is a non-accompanying family member. The finances required for a family of 3, in which the father (the PA) is arriving to Canada first, followed by his spouse and their 12-year old child who are non-accompanying, is to be calculated as a family of 1+2 (\$18,300 + \$27,500 = \$45,800) and not as a family of 3 (\$29,600). As this example illustrates, it is much more cost effective to avoid the use of Non-Accompanying Family Members.

There have been a limited number of cases where cosponsors failed to disclose all members of the family in an effort to lessen the cost of sponsorship, with the intention of submitting a OYW application for family members that were not included on the original application to Immigration Canada. It is important to note that Immigration Canada has rejected all OYW applications for family members that were not included on the original family member's application for permanent residence or that were not added to it before the original family member's departure to Canada.

Eligible family members for a OYW application include the following: spouse or common-law partner; dependent children of the resettled refugee or his/her spouse or common-law partner; and dependent children of dependent children.

Family Size	Estimated Liability for Cases Submitted in 2020 (Expected 2022 Arrival)	
1	\$18,300	Dependent Adults: Immigration Canada ("IRCC") defines dependent adults as unmarried children between the ages of 16 and 22. For the purposes of IRCC forms, dependent adults are considered as part of the family unit, and are to be included in the one set of forms for the family. However, IRCC treats dependent adults differently from a financial perspective, requiring additional monies for every dependent adult in the family. For example: The finances required for a family of 4 (father, mother, one child age 12, and one child age 17) are to be calculated as a family of 3 + 1 (\$29,600+\$18,300=\$47,900) and not as a family of 4 (\$31,800). Please take this into consideration when calculating the total cost of sponsorship.
2	\$27,500	
3	\$29,600	
4	\$31,800	
5	\$34,000	
6	\$35,500	
7 or more, for each additional member, add	\$1,500	

Please note that, by the time of arrival, if the financial liabilities are higher than the amount that was deposited, it is the responsibility of cosponsor to provide additional funds.

Please be aware that it is illegal to cover the financial liability with funds from the refugees.

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 upcoming sessions by clicking on the attached link:

<http://orat.eventbrite.com>



The Office for Refugees is Supported by



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