Syrians in Edmonton
St. Joseph’s College Sponsorship Group 3

Website: www.houseofwelcomesj3.com
Contact Us: house.of.welcome.sj3@gmail.com

Help welcome Syrian refugees to Edmonton

House of Welcome is a group of people from all over Edmonton, from various backgrounds, who have come together for the common purpose of directly sponsoring and supporting a Syrian refugee family.

Over the last few months, we have all read about the plight of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and seen images that offend our sense of human dignity. People across Canada feel a deep desire to help alleviate the situation and are eager for an avenue to make a direct, impactful contribution. You may feel, as many do, a desire to extend a welcome and to assist strangers in need. As Canadians, we expect our government to meet its moral obligation to respond to this crisis, and the new Liberal government is moving to undertake government sponsorship of more refugees. However, private citizen groups have a role to play in privately sponsoring refugees, as they are uniquely suited to addressing directly the practical needs of families as they settle in Canada.

St. Joseph’s College at the University of Alberta, via the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, has the necessary government sponsorship agreement already in place, allowing us to act immediately.

House of Welcome has members on the ground with an array of skills. We will be positioned to directly support our family in such practical needs as finding accommodations, schooling, healthcare, language training, employment, and integrating into the community once they arrive.

How can you help?

1. Join our group. If you would like to become part of our group so that you can be directly involved in helping our family upon arrival, please contact us at: house.of.welcome.sj3@gmail.com

2. Donate.
   - ONLINE: Go to our website: www.houseofwelcomesj3.com and click on the DONATE tab. This will take you to our CanadaHelps website.
   - BY MAIL: Cheques can be made out to St. Joseph’s College (in the memo, please put: Refugee Fund—Group SJ3) and mailed to: 11325 89 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2J5
   - IN PERSON: At St. Joseph’s College reception office to the right/west of the front door entrance. Hours are 8:30am-4:30pm. St. Joe’s is located in the heart of the University of Alberta Campus.

If you have already donated, or if someone has donated on your behalf, we thank you!!

Visit our website for updates on our family and for more information.

And, please ... tell others!!

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St. Joseph’s College Chapel Bulletin

Administered by the Basilian Fathers. The Roman Catholic Chaplaincy at the U of A.

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Nov 22nd, 2015 Sunday, 2015 – Christ the King

Sunday Bulletin Reflection on John 18:33-37
(Christ the King) by Prof. Paul Flaman

Jesus is not an earthly ruler but is much greater: He is God incarnate, the king of the universe, who humbled himself to be born and raised in a poor family rather than a palace. Jesus came to serve not to lord it over others. As the King of Love, in his new commandment he asks us to love one another as he loves us, laying down his lives for each other. Jesus demonstrated this by suffering grievously, dying for us, rising from the dead and ascending into glory. He will return as King to administer the Last Judgment (see Mt 25:31-45), at which we will be asked if we have responded to the needs of others. We can receive the King of the Universe in the Eucharist and visit him any time in the Blessed Sacrament. How many of us would go out of our way to see a famous living person? In the Eucharist there is someone much more important, Jesus not only “testifies to the truth” which sets us free. He is the Truth incarnate (see Jn 8:31-32 and 14:6), not something merely abstract but a Person with whom we can relate. In our culture of relativism (compare Pilate who in Jn 18:38 asks, “What is truth?”), Jesus is our beacon. We enter into his Kingdom by believing in Jesus, inviting him to be our King, and entrusting ourselves and our lives completely to his reign of love and truth. If we meet in his name, loving one another as He loves us, He will be in our midst (see Mt 18:20)—in our families, homes, churches, places of work and recreation … with the splendor of his Love and Truth, as our King.

Pray for our Refugee Families

Please keep our two refugee families in your prayers:

SJ1) parents, Iwan and Zamzam; and their young daughters, Karina and Ayat.

SJ2) parents, Sami and Amal Rizk; and their young children: daughters, Asmaa and Chahed; and sons, Yazan and Mohammad Sami.

Liturgy Schedule

Weekend Mass (Located in Main Chapel)
Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am, 11:00 am & 7pm

Weekday Mass (Located in Women’s Residence)
Mon & Wed 12:10 pm
Tues & Thurs 12:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Located in Main Chapel)
Tues 11:30 -12:20
**Book Club Meeting (Note: new day of the week)**
The Book Club will meet on **Monday** December 7, 7pm in SJC 1-01 to discuss *A Manual for Cleaning Women* by Lucia Berlin. (Available in hard cover or kindle versions). Lucia Berlin was an award-winning (American Book Award 1991) writer of semi-autobiographical short stories, who died in 2004. This collection of Lucia Berlin stories was released in 2015. Most of the stories are quite short, and most can also be found in earlier anthologies if you want to check something out from a public library instead of buying the book. Suggestions for stories to read for next month's meeting: (1) *A Manual for Cleaning Ladies;* (2) *Stars and Saints;* (3) Silence; plus (4) whatever else sounds intriguing to you ... And, as always, if anybody doesn't have time to read the whole book, no problem ... just read as much of it as you want. Contact Denise Young (deyoung@ualberta.ca) for more information. All are welcome!

**Life and Death, Love and Mercy**

I was sick and you took care of me… (Matthew 31.36)

Is assisted suicide really a matter of individual choice? Isn't it just for terminally ill people anyway? In this presentation from our November 4th session with Archbishop Smith in Edmonton, Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition paints some disturbing pieces of what has happened in jurisdictions that have legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Children, young adults with no physical illness, blind people, dementia patients who couldn't possibly consent -- all have had their lives ended at the hands of another, legally. Could it happen here in Canada? If you missed Alex's talk, watch the video at https://vimeo.com/145351525. (49 minutes)

Last February, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that the laws that prohibit physicians from assisting in a suicide are unconstitutional, and gave Parliament 12 months to come up with legislation that would legalize the practice. As the deadline approaches, there is little sign of new legislation, and provincial governments (including Alberta's) are already working on ways to regulate the practice in hospitals. But without clear and definitive laws, where are the safeguards against abuse? Where is the protection for doctors who have devoted their careers to saving lives and may now be forced to participate in ending lives? How do we show real love and real mercy to those who need it most? Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute asks and answers these questions and more in her presentation. See the video at https://vimeo.com/145358563 (62 minutes)

**Breaking the Encyclical**

Here is the latest in a series of reflections on Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home, provided by the Office of Catechesis.

**The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis**

Chapter 3 analyzes the present situation by looking at both its symptoms and its root causes (15). First, Chapter 3 looks at the two-sided coin that is technology: the great contributions technology has made to human flourishing (104-5), and the harm that an unbridled use of technology can visit upon human lives and our planet itself. The “big lie” being urged on human persons has not changed from the days in the first garden. The “serpents” still whisper that we humans—created in God’s image and likeness—should focus only on ourselves and our own desires. Scientific knowledge needs to be balanced with other areas of knowledge such as philosophy and human ethics (110). Advances in technology and power must be harnessed by advances in human responsibility, values, and concern for the common good. “When human beings place themselves at the centre, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative” (122).

Often it is challenging to see how caring for the earth and the poor fit into a technologically centered world. Technology must serve humanity as a whole, not just small portions of it. Our role as God’s co-creators is to tend and keep the world we have been given and the peoples in it (117). “Christian thought sees human beings as possessing a particular dignity above others creatures; it this inculcates esteem for each person and respect for others. …Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God” (119).

**Jubilee Year of Mercy**

Last March 13, on the second anniversary of his election as the Successor of Peter, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Holy Year that will begin on Tuesday, December 8. This is the first Holy Year to celebrate not an anniversary of some kind, but the attribute of God the Father which is most exalted in both the Old and the New Testaments: His Mercy. In the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, Misericordiae Vultus, the Pope states:

“The Church makes herself a servant of this love [of Christ] and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.” (MV 12).

In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, the Jubilee of Mercy will be formally opened by Archbishop Smith on Sunday, December 13, the Third Sunday of Advent, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Basilica. All are invited to join His Grace and the Basilica parish community for this Mass, which will include the blessing and opening of a “Holy Door.”

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

On Sunday, November 8, Archbishop Smith joined Msgr. Joseph Salame and the parishioners of Our Lady of Good Help Maronite Catholic Parish for Mass. Among the worshippers were members of two refugee families who had recently arrived from Syria.

"When I met the families, what I saw on their faces was a deep sense of relief and a deep sense of hope having been fulfilled, all their hopes for a new life starting to come to fruition," the Archbishop said later. “What that experience reminded me of is the fact that the fulfillment of the hope, while always having its source in God, happens very often through human agency, because those Syrian families were surrounded by parishioners, by other people who had worked very hard, had sacrificed themselves, to bring them to this country and to fulfill those hopes.”

We are grateful to all our parishes, religious sisters, and educational institutions that have stepped forward to sponsor refugee families.