

Responding to a Humanitarian Need – The Khumpi’s Family

I have been approached to assist in the resettlement of the Khumpi’s family of four, originally from Myanmar (Burma), who are refugees trapped in Nepal since 2012. Presently, the father, mother, son and daughter are given shelter, mundane work and schooling with the assistance of the Catholic Cathedral in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their names are Mathias, Veronica, Nicholas and Elizabeth.

The family of Mathias Khumpi has been recognized as genuine refugees as accepted by UNHCR on 12 September 2012. Their refugee status has been renewed on 19 December 2016.

Canada is one of the few countries that allow private sponsorship for helping in the resettlement of refugees. Mosaic, a recognized Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) in Vancouver, has an agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Government of Canada for privately sponsor asylum seekers to resettle in our country as permanent residents. Our parish, St Monica will work with Mosaic to help with the eventual resettlement of the Khumpi’s family in the lower mainland.

Another Jesuit priest, Fr. Gregory Sharkey, SJ, director of the Boston College Nepal Program and professor at Kathmandu University, is assisting the Khumpis in completing the extensive refugee resettlement application paperwork. Fr. Greg has been contacting me with updates of the family’s situation. He is very happy that St Monica Parish, a Jesuit administrated parish, is willing to undertake this sponsorship.

On December 4, I went to the office of Mosaic and co-signed the application forms of IRCC for the Khumpis. This is the beginning of a process that may take one to two years. When our application gets an approval by our government, I will form a committee in the parish to keep you informed and to also do fundraising in preparation for the arrival of the Khumpi’s family. Meanwhile, I recommend our efforts to reach out to this refugee family in your prayers.

If you want more information about this undertaking, please do not hesitate to approach me. I will be happy to share with you what is pertinent to this resettlement.

Fr. Robert Wong, SJ, pastor



ST. MONICA PARISH

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PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENEDICTION

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

December 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

This is Rejoicing (*Gaudete*) Sunday for the Lord is near and we give thanks.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Zephaniah presents a vision of a great festival where God’s love and forgiveness will be celebrated and his mercy shared with all. St Paul reminds the Philippians and us to be happy and prayerful while we wait for Christ’s return. John the Baptist proclaims the good news of the kingdom in the gospel; he challenges his listeners to act with justice and generosity.

Today’s Readings:

1st: Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Psalms: Isaiah 12

2nd: Philippians 4.4-7

Gospel: Luke 3.10-18

REJOICE

PARISH UPDATES

Simbang Gabi Mass – On Thursday, Dec. 20, 7pm, our parish hosts one of the *Simbang Gabi* novena Masses. All are welcome. Please stay for the social in the parish hall after the celebration.

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KUDOS – We have acquired new altar server albs through your generous special offering last month. They were made by a clothing company based in Abbotsford. Made in Canada.

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Organist/Pianist and Musicians – Our parish needs your musical talents for the Saturday 5pm Mass. Please contact the Parish Office or see one of the Choir members. Thank you in advance.

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CHRISTMAS GIFT – “Generations,” a miniature of *the Holy Family, St. Ann and St Joachim* is available for your keeping or a gift to a beloved and family in time for Christmas. If you have placed your order and have not collected it, please see one of the volunteers. You may call the Parish Office to claim it. Thank you!

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KUDOS – Project Advance 2018. Thank you for your generous response to the mail out pledged cards of this year’s appeal. Every bit helps with the rebates in the installation of the public address system in the hall and the repairs of the church roof. Our parish total goal is \$75,000. May the Lord bless you.

You may also make your pledge online at www.projectadvance.ca anytime.

KUDOS – Our Catholic Women’s League thank you for supporting the great success in their **Christmas Bake Sale** last weekend. May God bless your generosity.

Christmas & New Year Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 22

9:30am & 5:00pm

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23

9:00am & 11:00am

Monday, Dec. 24, 9:00am Mass

Christmas Eve, 5:00pm Family Mass

11:00pm Night Mass

Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25

9:00am & 11:00am

Dec. 26, 27, 28, 9am Mass

Christmas Octave, Wednesday, Dec. 26

NO Evening Mass and

Mother of Perpetual Help and Benediction

Saturday, Dec. 29

9:30am & 5:00pm

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Sunday, Dec. 30

9:00am & 11:00am

Monday, Dec. 31, 9:00am Mass

New Year Eve,

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction:

8:30pm – 9:30pm

New Year Day, Tuesday, January 1 (Day of Obligation)

9:00am & 11:00am

Something to think and pray about this week...

For his near-despair, Paul found the answer in Jesus. Faith in Jesus rescued him from his inability to do what he wanted to do. He spills a lot of ink in the letters to the Romans and to the Galatians trying to convince readers that it is only by the grace of God in Christ Jesus and faith in that grace that they are saved, not by their own efforts. I have become convinced from personal experience and from the experience of many others that we still need to hear this Pauline message repeatedly. In spite of evidence to the contrary, it is very hard for us to admit that we are not in control, at least of ourselves.

The disciples of Jesus experienced this inability to do what they wanted to do and what they had been able to do in other instances.

- Excerpted from *An Invitation to Love* by William A. Barry, SJ



Stewardship Reflection

Today’s Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; whoever has food must do likewise.”

See Luke 3:11

Mass Intentions

Dec 16 - 22, 2018

- Mon, Dec 17— Alice Leung (RIP)
- Tue, Dec 18— Pedro Talusan (RIP)
- Wed, Dec 19— 9am, Ver & Tel Decena (TG)
7pm, Cesar Diangkinay (RIP)
- Thu, Dec 20— Joseph Laureta (RIP)
- Fri, Dec 21— Marcelino Revita (RIP)
- Sat, Dec 22— 9:30am, Abelardo Marnilo (RIP)
5pm, Magdalena Dengler (RIP)