



EPARCHY OF MISSISSAUGA

For the Glory of God
CIRCULAR

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Annual Bishop's Appeal (ABA)- 2022

"We are God's co-workers" (1Cor 3:9)

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, and beloved Lay Faithful in Jesus Christ,

Prayerful greetings and warm wishes from the Eparchy of Mississauga! As we are preparing to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Eparchy of Mississauga, I write this Circular with deepest sense of gratitude to God Almighty and all of you. Our Heavenly Father who planned this Eparchy seven years ago has been amazingly providing and protecting, guiding, and assisting us throughout the last years. In fact, your dedicated hearts and generous hands were the effective channels of God's abundant blessings on the Eparchy. Yes, "we are God's co-workers" (1Cor 3:9). I honestly thank each member of the Eparchy of Mississauga for your love, prayer, and support. Let's continue ourselves to be more active channels of divine blessings. Now trusting on your goodwill, I am approaching you with Annual Bishop's Appeal (ABA)-2022.

Why ABA-2022?

Ever since the erection of our Exarchate in 2015, we have been focusing on reaching out the scattered Syro-Malabar faithful across Canada and providing them essential pastoral care. We were able to 'Form' 66 Parishes/Missions in all the ten Provinces



and one Territory, Yukon. I fondly remember the unwavering support through Shepherds of Faith (SOF) and Annual Bishop's Appeal (ABA), even during the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic. As we are preparing to celebrate the seventh anniversary, our focus is to 'Fortify' the gathered faithful in our Parishes/Missions, with special focus on our children and youth- 'the Heart of our Church.'

Among the 38.01 million population in Canada, the number of the registered Syro- Malabar Catholics is 25,118 only. However, promisingly around 3500 children are regularly undergoing faith formation through Sunday Catechesis. Besides, there are around 5000 young people, including born and raised Canadian youth and international students, which makes almost one third of the total population of the Eparchy. By the grace of God, I am happy to inform that among them there are a good number of vibrant young people who are showing interest in serving the people of God by embracing priesthood. They may be prospective seminarians, provided they are timely nurtured and appropriately moulded.

Shortage of Priests and the Pastoral Problems

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labours are few" (Mt 9:37). Currently the Eparchy of Mississauga has only 18 priests, (2incardinated and 16 appointed from various Eparchies and religious congregations). With mass immigration to Canada, we have great pastoral needs than ever before. Today the shortage of priests is the major stumbling block for the effective realization of God's dream regarding this young Eparchy.

We need many holy and committed priests, nuns and lay leaders who are trained in the Canadian context for the effective



ministries in this country. The cost of Seminary education in Canada is exorbitant. The Annual Bishop Appeal 2022 is dedicated to creating this spiritual infrastructure for our young generation. There is nothing more motivating for a young child to see a priest/nun from his/her own environment.

Let's Focus on Our Youth

For our youth the erection of the Syro-Malabar Exarchate and its elevation to the status of an Eparchy are truly life changing events in their future growth and development. Canada offers tremendous opportunities for our youth; and at the same time, in this pluralistic and secular society they face much more devastating challenges. Often, they are challenged to reconcile their faith with the secular mindset.

They need motherly accompaniment from the Church to uphold Catholic values. Our youth is our focus, because they are our future, we cannot afford to lose this young generation to the secular forces at the cost of faith, tradition, and beliefs. We need to mould them, forge them, and fortify them with Christian values so that they will grow up and raise their own faith-based families, become successful and responsible citizens of this country; and with the grace of God, the deserving ones would choose priesthood or consecrated life to serve the people of God.

Therefore, let us dream for a Multipurpose Formation Center which can be used for the various training programs like, Pious Associations for Children, Catechism Students, SMYM, Marriage Preparation Courses, Family Enrichment Programs, Nurses' Ministries, Bible Courses, Professional Courses, Social Services Training programs, Retreats for various groups and so on. It will also be a place of study, prayer, and discernment for



our prospective Seminarians. We all know it is not an achievable project within one year. However, without starting today no one can achieve tomorrow. Let's start today in a small way. Hence ABA-2022 envisions to plant dreams, allow hope to flourish, and create a bright future for our next generation.

Therefore, I encourage you to become 'co-workers with God' in this dream and be beneficiaries of his promise: "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." (1Thim 6:19). May God bless all your endeavours!

Yours cordially in Christ,



+ Mar Jose Kalluvilil

Bishop, Eparchy of Mississauga

NB. Please read this Circular in all our parishes and missions during the Holy Qurbana on September 04, 2022; and make sure it reaches all our people where there is no regular Holy Qurbana.

