



## **EPARCHY OF MISSISSAUGA**

For the Glory of God

### **CIRCULAR**

Prot. No.154/2022

October 27, 2022

## **World Youth Day -2022**

Dear Rev. Priests, Religious, Brothers and Sisters, and my dear young friends in Jesus Christ,

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2020, Pope Francis announced, starting in 2021, the World Youth Day, which was traditionally held on Palm Sunday, would now be held on the Solemnity of Christ the King Sunday. The theme of the Panama World Youth Day 2019 was, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). After that event, we are journeying towards a new destination – Lisbon 2023. In 2020, we meditated on Jesus's words: "Young man, I say to you, arise!" (Lk 7:14). Last year we were inspired by the figure of the Apostle Paul, to whom the Risen Lord said: "Arise! I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen" (cf. Acts 26:16). Along the route before arriving in Lisbon, we are meditating on Virgin of Nazareth who, immediately after the Annunciation, "arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39).

With a joyous heart and utmost gratitude, I share with you, how our youth has welcomed the message of Pope Francis in their heart. From June 17th to 22nd, fourteen youth from our Eparchy were blessed to partake in "Arise 2022" - the first Syro Malabar





youth leader's summit organized by Syro Malabar Combined Mission consisting of the Eparchies of Chicago, Melbourne, Mississauga, Great Britain, and Apostolic visitation to Rome. Our youth were blessed with the opportunity to have a private audience with Pope Francis and received a personal blessing from the Holy Father. In his address to the Syro Malabar youth on June 18, 2022, Pope Francis reminded: "Our lives find substance and meaning whenever we say, 'yes' to Jesus." Throughout the past year, it has become very apparent that the young people of our eparchy have taken our beloved Pope's words to heart and consistently said 'yes' to Jesus. Through the program Arise 2022, the fire of the Holy Spirit was undoubtedly alive within these fourteen youths who hailed from across our Eparchy. Upon returning home, they have shared their experiences with their local communities and resultingly, have ignited a new passion among all the youth of our Eparchy.

Since Arise2022 our SMYM has continued to say 'yes' to Jesus. They identified a new goal: to feel more connected with the fellow youth of our eparchy, and to partake in the combined mission and be more connected with youth beyond the borders of Canada. To this end, the program "Connect 2022" was designed. On October 14th to 16th, 160 youth delegates from the Eparchy of Mississauga and the Eparchy of Chicago met together in Niagara, for the first North American Syro Malabar Youth Summit. The event was very successful, and the power of a connected and unified youth movement centred on Syro Malabar identity was at its best display during this program.

Upon this event, our SMYM has decided that they want to continue on the journey to unify the youth of our eparchy through regional conferences. I urge all of you to encourage and support these Forane level programs to the best of your capacity. We must





ensure that not a single young person is excluded from experiencing the abundance of blessings offered through these leadership summits.

Throughout both the Arise and Connect programs, there has been a larger goal in the minds of all our youth: World Youth Day 2023. Our young people have been in preparing their hearts and minds for the upcoming World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. However, with the program fast approaching, they have now begun taking practical steps toward attending. This is the best platform for them to experience the universal Catholic Church and deepen their faith alongside fellow youth who are committed to Jesus and His Church. As a part of the Syro Malabar Combined Mission, I look forward to a significant presence from our Eparchy at World Youth Day 2023.

In the spirit of international World Youth Day, Pope Francis has reinstated the celebration of World Youth Day 2022 on November 20, 2022 in local Churches throughout the world on the Solemnity of Christ the King. I encourage all of you to celebrate World Youth Day 2022 in each parish and mission. The theme for World Youth Day 2022 is "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). In his message for World Youth Day 2022, Pope Francis says, "It is my dream that at World Youth Day you will be able to experience anew the joy of encountering God and our brothers and sisters." Sharing in His Holiness' dream, I pray that through our eparchial World Youth Day, all the youth of our Eparchy may come together to experience the love of God and find joy in sharing their faith with one another.

I urge all of you to encourage the youth of our parishes to participate in the online Eparchial World Youth Day on November 19, 2022 at 08.30 pm EST. It is our responsibility and need that the





youth of our Eparchy continues to grow in their faith and involvement within the church – let us please continue to prioritize them within our pastoral ministries.

To my dearest youth, you have demonstrated to us all your eagerness to say 'yes' to Jesus and to work for the glory of God. I encourage you to nurture this passion and let it take you to new heights in your efforts to share the Good News of Jesus. In keeping with the theme of World Youth Day, I echo his Holiness' message that you can all find a role model in Mother Mary as you continue in your ministries: "She arises and sets out, for she is certain that God's plan is the best plan for her life. Mary becomes a temple of God, an image of the pilgrim Church, a Church that goes forth for service, a Church that brings the good news to all!" Let us pray together for the youth of our eparchy who are God's "Today".

May God Bless us All!

Yours in Christ,



**Mar Jose Kalluvelil**

Bishop, Eparchy of Mississauga

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NB: *This circular is to be read in every parish and mission centers of the eparchy of Mississauga on November 13, 2022*