

## Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe

### Do you think Canada is doing enough to help tsunami victims in Asia?

— Asked at A&P Tuesday morning

Jennifer ROSE



Canada has been great in terms of the amount of money we are sending and the fact officials are working together to figure out how to distribute aid effectively.

Donna DICOSTANZO



The government is doing the best it can. However, the response of individual Canadians has been amazing. They have already donated more than \$65 million.

Ivy TONG

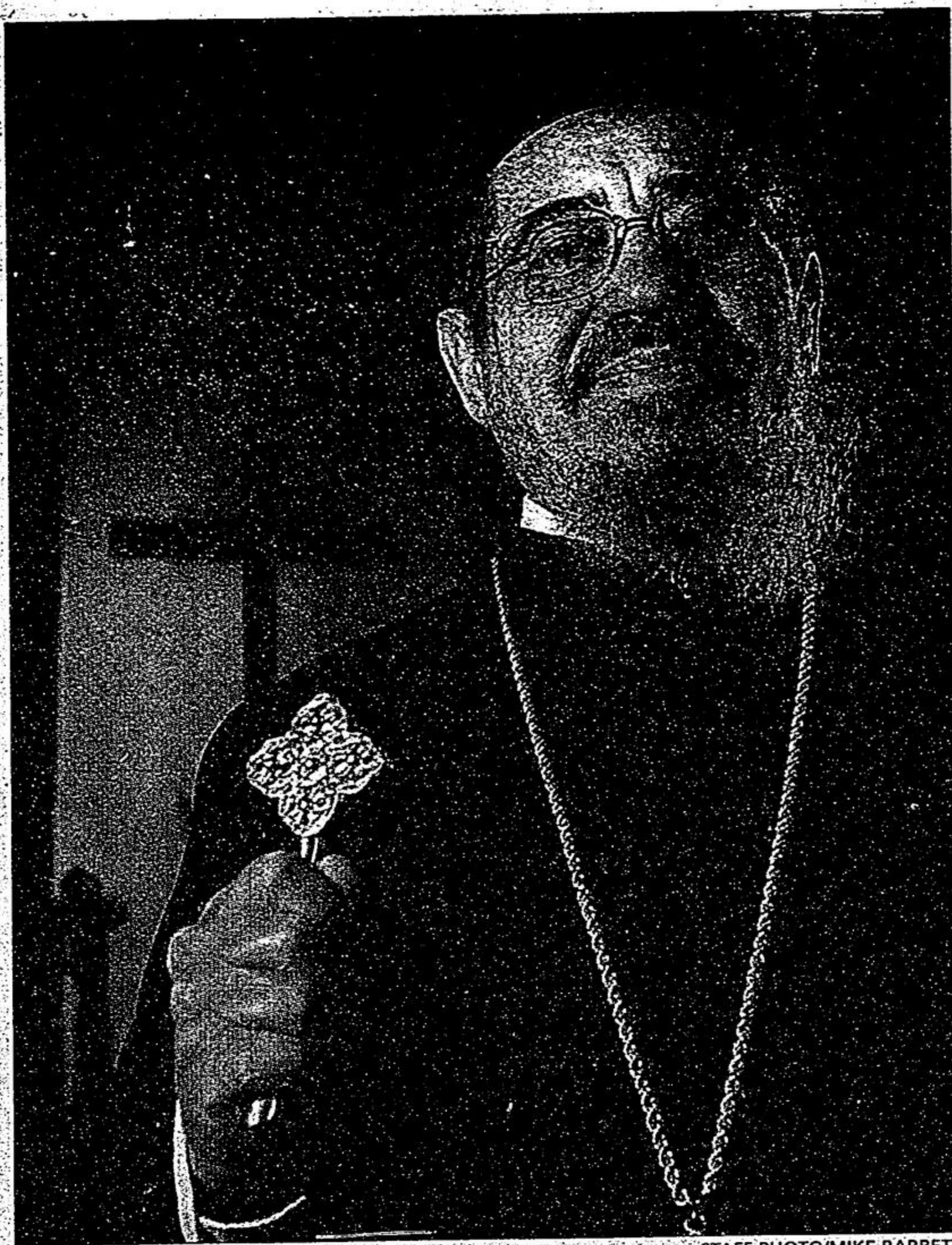


It seems like Canadians are putting a lot of effort into helping the tsunami victims. They are concerned; there is media coverage every day.

Norman DRUDGE



Canadians have responded well for the size of our country. It will take a long time for south Asia to recover.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Father Tadros is the spiritual leader for St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, which has found a home in Stouffville in the old Stouffville Missionary Church building on Main Street. The church celebrates masses with holy communion in English, Arabic and Coptic. Several deacons sing during the service, which has no musical accompaniment.

## New residents come for church

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

After seven years without a church to call its own, the congregation of St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church finally found a home in Stouffville.

Now many of the 200 church members travel here for Sunday mass beginning at 8:30 p.m. and several programs during the week.

Finding this facility, formerly the home of Stouffville Missionary Church on Main Street "is a miracle," the church's priest, Father Tadros said. "It is a gift from St. Bishoy."

Father Tadros came from Cairo, Egypt, more than a decade ago. The Coptic church originated in Egypt.

As he formed his congregation of Middle Eastern families, he led the search from Richmond Hill for a church based in York Region.

During that time, the church rented space in a Roman Catholic church.

Over the years, church members visited sites from Woodbridge to Markham and

scoured the Internet until the former missionary church building popped up.

Several of the congregation checked out the structure and the excitement level rose as people realized this could be their new home.

*Finding this facility, formerly the home of Stouffville Missionary Church on Main Street 'is a miracle,' the church's priest, Father Tadros said.*

*'It is a gift from St. Bishoy.'*

Over the past year, while the new missionary church (now called EastRidge Evangelical Church) was being completed, both congregations shared the old building at 6500 Main St.

It took some juggling, but they made it happen.

Stouffville's population has

already become richer since several Egyptian orthodox families moved here to be closer to the church.

More are coming in the summer, once school is out, Father Tadros said.

EastRidge Evangelical, on 10th Line near the Stouffville Country Market, had its grand opening in October.

The St. Bishoy congregation's grand opening happened around the same time, on Thanksgiving weekend.

The church celebrates masses with holy communion in English, Arabic and Coptic. Several deacons sing during the mass, which has no musical accompaniment.

After mass, children can go to French lessons to help them with school work, Father Tadros' wife, Yvonne, explained.

The church also holds special events during which the church's adult choir sings.

Other Coptic churches join in basketball games and other events.

As the new year progresses, St. Bishoy is planning events open to the Stouffville community.

## Briefly

### Trade unwanted items on recycling website

The Whitchurch-Stouffville recycling group has launched an initiative to help keep items out of landfill sites.

Its electronic exchange is a way for people to list things they want to give away, group president Jim Priebe said.

Anyone with an unneeded item can post it on the group's website.

"We're asking that people be frank about the condition of the goods being offered," Mr. Priebe added.

All items must be free, except for delivery charges. The aim of the electronic exchange is to take items that can't be sold on eBay or are too large or inappropriate for the Care and Share Thrift Shop.

Residents on the hunt for something can post their name on the electronic exchange's website.

For more information on how to post an item on the website, log on to [www.worknotes.com/on/Stouffville/recycle](http://www.worknotes.com/on/Stouffville/recycle), e-mail [recycling.group@sympatico.ca](mailto:recycling.group@sympatico.ca) or phone 905-640-8294.

### Fundraisers aid victims of tsunami

The Earl of Whitchurch in Stouffville is raising funds for victims of the tsunami in south Asia at its weekly Sunday afternoon jam session.

The disaster hit close to home since the pub's cook, "Chef Sammy" Shamaghtangh, lost 27 family members in the catastrophe.

Local musician Pierre Bordeleau, a regular at the jam sessions, and Earl of Whitchurch owner, Steve Fitzpatrick, decided to ask for donations to support World Vision Canada's relief program.

The open acoustic jam begins at 2:30 p.m. in the pub, at 6204 Main St. in Stouffville. Call 905-640-8300 for more information.

Meanwhile, proceeds from all Saturday and Sunday sales at Charlinda Belgian Chocolates, 14811 Ninth Line, will go to tsunami victims.

## Quoteworthy

### 'He was almost born in the car.'

Anna Maria Scrofano, Mother of the first baby of 2005 born at Markham Stouffville Hospital. See story on page 1.

## Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please:

- phone us at 905-640-2612
- e-mail us at [jmason@yrng.com](mailto:jmason@yrng.com)
- visit us at 34 Civic Ave., Stouffville.

## Ontario's new free vaccines will protect kids

The government of Ontario is helping kids stay safe from chicken pox, meningococcal meningitis and pneumococcal disease. Here's how it works:

- Vaccine for pneumococcal disease is now available free for children born on or after January 1, 2004.
- Vaccines for chicken pox and meningococcal meningitis are now available free for one-year-old children born on or after September 1, 2003.
- Five-year-olds and high-risk people of any age who haven't had chicken pox can also get the free vaccine.
- Twelve-year-olds, 15- to 19-year-olds and high-risk people of any age can get the free meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

For more information, talk to your doctor or local public health unit. Call 1-877-234-4343. TTY 1-800-387-5559. Or visit [HealthyOntario.com](http://HealthyOntario.com).

Protecting your health. Ontario