

Armenian church bursting at seams

Toronto
"Holy Cross"

TORONTO (CP) — They belong to one of the oldest cornerstones of Christianity but 800 members here of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Eastern Rite cannot find a place to worship.

Orthodox Armenians in Metropolitan Toronto are looking for a place to put the overflow.

Most of the 800 worshippers led by Bishop Aris Shirvanian will form the nucleus of a congregation to be known as the Holy Cross once a building is found. Now they crowd into Holy Trinity, Toronto's only

other Armenian Apostolic church.

"But we are too many for that church," Shirvanian said.

"There are constant newcomers to this country from the Middle East, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, and this is their church. In my four years in Canada, I have seen crowding at the church door."

Shirvanian's flock borrows time at other churches to hold Sunday masses and a day school, which offers Armenian language and culture as well as more traditional Canadian subjects.