

# Redemptorist ministries

## Growing network is proof of conviction

The Redemptorists are a religious congregation of brothers, most of whom are priests. They live in community and are passionate about preaching the Gospel, especially to those who feel abandoned and live on the edges of Church and society. A growing network of co-workers and associates is evidence of their conviction about the importance of partnership in mission and of their commitment to enable all the baptised to take their rightful place in the life and ministry of the Church.

The Redemptorists were founded by St Alphonsus Liguori among the poor and abandoned in the mountains of Southern Italy in 1732 and they have been ministering in Ireland since 1851, when an international group of Redemptorists preached a mission in St John's Cathedral in Limerick.

There are more than 5,300 Redemptorists working in 78 countries, most of whom are Roman Catholics, but they also have members among the Greek Catholic Churches of Ukraine and Slovakia, the Syro-Malabar Church in India, the Chaldean Church of Iraq and their diasporas.

### Preaching the Gospel

Redemptorists are passionate about the Gospel and equally passionate about sharing the Gospel message of God's love for all people with all sectors of society, but especially with those who live on the edges of Church and society.

Preaching is a foundational Redemptorist ministry that has been cherished by Redemptorists since they first began ministering in Ireland in 1851. The ministry of preaching continues to be one of their priorities and they witness to this in their parish missions and novenas, in the regular rhythm of preaching in their various churches and in their Retreat House in Esker.

### Youth Ministry

Young people have always been important for the Redemptorists' mission. In 1987, however, the Redemptorists identified young people as a priority ministry believing that their experience, hopes, and challenges must be at the very heart of the Church. Since then, the Irish Redemptorists and co-workers have drawn on resources both nationally and internationally to become one of the biggest providers of youth ministry in Ireland. Each year, over 10,000 young people take part in Redemptorist ministries, workshops and events.

Taking Jesus as a model, the Redemptorists seek to meet young people where they are, journey with them into young adulthood, help them to discover their giftedness and offer opportunities for them to put their gifts at the service of others. Redemptorist Youth Ministry is not a single programme but a dynamic process that helps young people to articulate and integrate their faith and life commitments.

Redemptorist Youth Ministry takes place in three

## Mission in Mozambique

"Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."

Those are the words of Pope Francis, writing in his recently released Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. Those are also the words Irish Redemptorists are clearly responding to at present in their new mission outreach on the Mozambique/Malawi boarder.

Redemptorists have worked on overseas mission since the first Irish and British Redemptorists headed for Australia in 1882. Today you will find Irish Redemptorists ministering in the Philippines, India, Brazil, Siberia, Rome and Mozambique.

The mission in Mozambique is their newest venture and is a joint project of the Redemptorist Province of Dublin and the Vice-Province of Fortaleza in Brazil which was originally founded by Irish Redemptorists.

dedicated centres in Clonard (Belfast), Esker (Galway) and Scala (Cork), through school ministry in St Clement's College (Limerick), the Youth Ministry Studies Programme (YMSP), *Face-Up* magazine and in their parishes.

### Communications

The Redemptorists are perhaps best known for their preaching, but the written word is also an integral part of their mission. Their founder, St Alphonsus, believed that



Fr Michael Dempsey CSsR with children from the Mozambique mission.



Parishioners from Chimuto, Mozambique receive the Eucharist.

The mission based in Furancungo, District of Macanga, in the Diocese of Tete in Mozambique was formally inaugurated in 2012 in a concelebrated Mass led by the local bishop Dom Inácio Saure, the Provincial of the Dublin Province, Ireland and the Vice-Provincial of Fortaleza, Brazil.

Since then Cork-man Fr Brian Holmes and Kildare native Fr John Bermingham and Belfast born Fr Michael Dempsey have been responding to the pastoral needs of the natives, celebrating Mass and regularly visiting the local people.

Furancungo has been without pastoral leadership for over 30 years and the Redemptorist Conference for Africa and Madagascar are said to be delighted with this new missionary energy in an area of great economic and pastoral need.

It is now hoped to commence a second missionary community in Malawi this year. Redemptorists and friends all over the world are asked to support this new outreach into virgin mission territory for the congregation.

### Reconciliation

Clonard Monastery in Belfast has been at the heart of the peace process in Ireland and the community there continues to be committed to a ministry of reconciliation. Redemptorists also work in parishes and serve as chaplains in hospitals; minister to migrants and travellers; serve as counsellors and spiritual directors; teach theology and preach retreats to priests and religious, at home and abroad.

what he called 'the apostolate of the pen' was as essential to preach the Gospel as parish missions, novenas and retreats – the apostolate of the spoken word.

For the last 75 years the Irish Redemptorists have had an official apostolate of the pen - Redemptorist Communications - based in Dublin.

Redemptorist Communications publishes two magazines: *Reality* magazine, a long-established monthly with a reputation for quality,

which informs, inspires and challenges today's Catholics; and *Face-Up* magazine, which is for the teenage market and is the only magazine of its kind in the country.

In addition, Redemptorist Communications publishes a range of pastoral books and Mass leaflets, to aid priests, people and parishes in the difficult task of passing on the Faith and building up in the Church in Ireland today.

Please help us to continue our work above by contacting us on **01-4067275**,

emailing [provincial.secretary@redemptorists.ie](mailto:provincial.secretary@redemptorists.ie),

or sending a donation to

**Fr Michael Kelleher CSsR,  
75 Orwell Road,  
Rathgar,  
Dublin 6.**

If sending a cheque please make it payable to **Redemptorists**.

Let us know how you wish your donation to be applied by ticking the appropriate box on the other side:

Mozambique/Malawi Mission

Formation of Students

Youth Young Adult

*Reality* Magazine

*Face Up* Magazine

Redemptorist Ministries in general

*If you can contribute in a sustained way, please contact us to setup a regular standing order.*