

Redemptorist Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is a priority of the Irish Redemptorists and is happening at many different levels, reports Henrietta O'Meara, coordinator of Redemptorist Youth Ministry in Ireland



Most Redemptorist youth ministry work in Ireland is carried out by lay people. There are three full-time Redemptorist Youth Ministry teams: Clonard in Belfast, Esker in Co. Galway and Scala in Cork. For young people, a retreat is a unique opportunity to step back from the everyday routine and reflect on what is important in life. In the current school year over 10,500 young people will have experienced a Redemptorist school retreat. Youth ministry teams also engage in youth leadership training, parish missions and novenas, peer ministry training, cross community programmes, outreach projects and pilgrimages.

St Clement's College, Limerick is a Redemptorist secondary school, which, like the GAA, was established in 1884. Last September, the 450-plus students and staff moved into a new state-of-the-art building on the grounds of the Redemptorist monastery.



FACE UP is a Redemptorist magazine for young people 'who want something deeper.' It is widely distributed to secondary schools and used to enhance the religious education programme.



SERVE is a development organisation that enables young Irish adults to work over the summer months in solidarity with marginalised communities in the developing world. SERVE volunteers work on projects in Ireland, South Africa, Mozambique, Brazil, Thailand, India and the Philippines. This year more than 80 young people will take part in a SERVE project.

Youth ministry and involvement happens in many different ways in the three Redemptorist parishes: St Joseph's in Dundalk, St Gerard's in Belfast, and Cherry Orchard in Dublin.

As well as engaging directly with young people, the Redemptorists support and coordinate the Certificate Programme in Youth Ministry Studies (www.ymsp.ie). This is a comprehensive training programme for adults who wish to engage in youth ministry. Currently, groups from the dioceses of Limerick, Clogher, Dromore and Paisley in Scotland are taking part in the programme.

On a wider scale, every three years a European Youth Congress is organised, bringing together young people with Redemptorist connections from throughout Europe and beyond. Limerick hosted the Congress in 2007. The next one will take place in the Ukraine in 2010 and a delegation of young people will travel from Ireland for the event.

This summer an Irish Redemptorist Youth Congress (for those aged 17-24) will be held in Esker in Galway from August 20th-23rd. Young people will gather to enjoy the great outdoors and share friendship, faith and fun in a welcoming environment.

Redemptorist Youth Ministry is flourishing, thanks to the hard work and dedication of those involved, and the commitment and support it receives from young people, parents, teachers, parishes and dioceses all over the country.

For more information: email youth.delegate@gmail.com

Or check out the following websites:

www.ymsp.ie

www.scala.ie

www.eskercommunity.net

www.serve.ie

www.stclementscollege.ie

www.clonard.com

www.faceup.ie