

## Press Release

# New Home for Scala

## Redemptorists Expand Services for Young People in Cork

The **Redemptorists** announce a new expansion of services to meet the growing **needs of youth and young adults in Cork**. They have secured **Castlemahon House, Blackrock** as the location for their youth ministry and training campus, **Scala**.

**Scala** is a dedicated centre for **Redemptorist Youth Ministry**. As a team of Redemptorists and lay people, they have been **working with young people in Cork since 1988**. Since 1997, **Scala** has been renting facilities at Bessboro in Blackrock, where young people have been helped to explore major life issues through their retreat and leadership programmes.

**Fr. Noel Kehoe, Coordinator of Scala** stated *"Every year we work with thousands of **young people**, who are given opportunities to safely explore and deal with issues like peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, bullying and relationships. Through our leadership programmes such as "Meitheal" the young people acquire important life skills and values of service, justice and working on behalf of others in their communities."*

*"This is a time of recession" Fr. Kehoe added. "But the needs of young people remain and indeed increase during such times. Investment in our young people is the key to the future of our country, its economy and its stability."*

With over 3,500 young people availing of its existing retreat and leadership programmes, **Scala** has had to look for a new location in order to meet future needs.

*"This is a huge financial risk on our behalf" said Fr. Kehoe. "But we believe passionately that the needs of young people cannot be put on hold because of a recession. Since our present facilities are no longer adequate to meet these needs, we have had to look for a new facility."*

With the consolidation of its existing services, **Scala** will incorporate the work of its partner organization **SERVE**, a development and volunteering organisation committed to working with the poorest

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people in the world.

**Castlemahon House, the new location for Scala** dates back to 1798 and in more recent times was used as a private nursing home.

Extensive renovations are required to convert the former nursing home into a suitable facility for young people. The new facilities will include conferencing and meeting facilities, providing Cork's youth, young adults and other community groups with training opportunities in **leadership skills, active citizenship, spirituality**, and through its **justice and development education desk**, volunteering opportunities at a local, national and international level.

To help finance the redevelopment, a **major fundraising campaign** will be launched in the coming weeks. All enquires are welcome by contacting: -

**Fr. Noel Kehoe C.Ss.R.**  
**Scala**  
**Bessboro**  
**Blackrock**  
**Cork.**  
**Tel: (021) 435 8800/(086) 304 8557**

**Email: [coordinator@scala.ie](mailto:coordinator@scala.ie).**

**END**

## **Press Release**

### **Notes to Editor**

#### **Redemptorist Commitment to Youth and Young Adults**

- A priority ministry for Redemptorists who were founded on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1732
- Since mid 80's the Redemptorists have become the biggest provider of youth ministry in Ireland
- Currently the Redemptorists work with young people in Belfast, Galway, Limerick and Cork.
- The purchase of Castlemahon House is a response to the needs of young people in Cork especially in the current economic climate.

#### **Scala's History in Cork**

- The Redemptorists set up Scala in 1987 as a collaborative project between lay people and Redemptorists, with a specific focus on youth.
- Scala takes its name from the village in the Amalfi coast where the Redemptorists were founded.
- The project was housed initially at the Good Shepherd Convent, Sundays Well, then in South Parish, Dunbar Street. Since 1998, we have been renting facilities at Bessboro.
- Last year alone, over 3,500 young people from Cork came to Scala to take part in our leadership and retreat programmes.
- Scala have worked with young people of every social, religious and cultural background.

#### **Need for a dedicated Centre in Cork**

- After 10 years of renting temporary accommodation and facilities and with over 3500 young people availing of our services we need to expand and locate to an appropriate facility that will meet the needs of young people in Cork today.
- Irish economic landscape has changed. Speaking to a group of 120 leaving cert students recently, not one expressed confidence for their future. Compare this with two years ago. Anxiety is becoming a common feature in young people's lives.
- The new conferencing and meeting facilities will provide Cork's youth, young adults and other community groups with training opportunities in leadership skills, active citizenship, spirituality, and through its justice and development education desk, offer volunteering opportunities at a local, national and international level.
- One of the consequences of the changes Ireland has gone through in the past two decades has been the erosion of community and a sense of a commitment to public life. Through Scala's leadership programmes, young people are empowered and given the opportunity to facilitate change among their peers and in the community.
- It will bring together Scala's existing projects as well as those of our partner organisation SERVE, a development and volunteering organisation committed to working with the poorest people in the world.