



ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH

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Support for the Redemptoris Mater Seminary

Dear Friend,

It is not yet ten years since the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary was established in Dundalk. The institution is an undertaking of the Archdiocese of Armagh to form priests for the New Evangelization, these priests being both missionary and diocesan. When the seminarians are ordained, they will be incardinated into the Archdiocese of Armagh to serve in the parishes of the Archdiocese. They will also be available, if required, to serve as missionaries, both in other parts of Ireland and internationally. At present eighteen young men whose vocations were nurtured by the Neocatechumenal Way, are being formed for the priesthood at the seminary. So far, three new priests and a deacon have been ordained and are now serving in the parishes of the Archdiocese.

The formation at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary prepares the candidates to have a missionary impulse in their pastoral work with particular attention for the “lost sheep”, the far away people, that is, those who are not attending the Church anymore. This need for priests for the New Evangelization, has been confirmed by Saint John Paul II in his Encyclical “Redemptoris Missio”. When he speaks about the “Diocesan Priests for the Universal Mission”, he says:

“All priests must have the mind and the heart of missionaries - open to the needs of the Church and the world, with concern for those farthest away, and especially for the non-Christian groups in their own area. Especially in those areas where Christians are a minority, priests must be filled with special missionary zeal and commitment. The Lord entrusts to them not only the pastoral care of the Christian community, but also and above all the evangelization of those of their fellow-citizens who do not belong to Christ's flock” (RM 67).

The formation of these vocations is truly a work of the Lord. The seminary relies on donations both to support the formation of seminarians and to pay for a much-needed extension of the actual building of the seminary due to the sustained growth of vocations.

I would be most grateful if you would consider helping the Redemptoris Mater Seminary either with a contribution towards the ongoing formation costs of seminarians, or by supporting the ongoing seminary extension project, preparation for which is now well advanced and construction due to commence in early 2022.

Fr Giuseppe Pollio, the Rector of Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, will be able to provide you with further information about the seminary, if required.

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Armagh and the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, I would like to thank all those who have supported the Seminary since its establishment. I pray that God will bless the ongoing work at the seminary and its benefactors.

With every blessing and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

+ Eamon Martin

Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh