

Message for Redemptorist Youth Gathering in Limerick

It is with immense joy and profound hope that I extend my warmest welcome to all participants of the Redemptorist European Youth Congress 2025 in Limerick.

You are most welcome! The Redemptorist missionaries in Limerick welcome you with open arms and hearts burning with joy and hope. Welcome, everyone!

As we gather here, united Redemptorist family, we embrace this special opportunity to be formed as a community, to connect with one another, and to deepen our understanding of our shared call. This congress, taking place during the Jubilee Year 2025, invites us to reflect on being “Pilgrims of Hope”, a journey that resonates deeply with our very identity as missionary disciples.

As the philosopher Han recalls: “Hope opens up the horizon of meaning, which once again encourages and gives wings to life. It gives us a future” (Byung-Chul Han, *Contro la società dell’angoscia: speranza e rivoluzione*. Torino: Giulio Einaudi, 2025, p. 8). May this meeting open up the horizon of meaning in your lives. May it give you the wings of wisdom and freedom so that you can be messengers of the Gospel of the Redeemer. May it increase hope in the heart of each one of you.

Our theme for our overall congregation this year is **“Mission”**. And it calls each one of us who are connected and belong to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer to reflect on the Gospel passage of Mark 6:7-12, where Jesus “called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two” This powerful scripture reminds us of the fundamental importance of being “called and sent” – a core element of our Redemptorist charism.

Being a missionary is not merely about going far away, but about living with purpose, with joy, and with the courage to proclaim and to serve. It means making the Gospel visible through your own life in your family, your faith community, on social media, at school, in groups, and in friendships. Mission is being a sign of God wherever you are. It is being young like Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed (cf. Acts 10:38).

Dear young people, today the Lord calls you and sends you out two by two into this wounded world to be:

- Sowers of hope,
- Salt of the earth and light of the world (Mt 5:13–14),
- The way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6),
- Good Samaritans (Lk 10:33), who welcome others along with their wounds,

- Fishers of men (Matt 4:19), casting the nets of love where there is emptiness and loneliness,
- Peacemakers (Matt 5:9), building bridges in times of division,
- Light shining in the darkness (Jn 1:5), when all seems dark and hopeless,
- Witnesses of the Redeemer to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8), with the power of the Holy Spirit,
- Merciful, as the Father is merciful (Lk 6:36),
- Like yeast in the dough (Matt 13:33), transforming the world from within through small gestures,
- Young people evangelising young people,
- “Strong in faith, rejoicing in hope, burning with charity, on fire with zeal, humble of heart, and persevering in prayer” (Const. 20).

This congress is a vital moment for you, young people, to prepare yourselves to be sent out as courageous missionary disciples for the Most Holy Redeemer, bringing the Good News to a world in need.

May your time in Limerick be filled with inspiration, formation, and a renewed zeal for mission.

May Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, together with all the saints, blessed, and martyrs, inspire each one of you, so that you may be missionaries of hope in the footsteps of the Redeemer. Amen. Have a fruitful meeting, dear young people. God bless you!

Fr. Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R

Superior General

Limerick, 30 July 2025