

## **LATE NEWS FROM BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SCOTLAND**

**THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2009:**

The Bishops' Conference has decided to concentrate the seminary education of priests for Scotland in the historic institution, the Pontifical Scots College Rome (1600) with the commencement of the 2009/10 academic year.

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Statement on seminary provision from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

“The Bishops' Conference has decided to concentrate the seminary education of priests for Scotland in the historic institution, the Pontifical Scots College Rome (1600) with the commencement of the 2009/10 academic year. By so doing the bishops take advantage of the spiritual, cultural and academic opportunities available in the Roman Pontifical Universities and other institutes of higher learning at the heart of the church.

This will result in the closure of Scotus College, Glasgow and the provision elsewhere of facilities for lay formation, which is also a concern for the bishops. Combining with the Scots College in Rome allows for the creation of a fully resourced National Seminary and reduces the demands currently made on priests in Scotland.

It is a matter of regret that the Catholic Church will no longer train priests in Scotland. The Bishops' Conference is grateful to all those who have contributed to Scotus College over the years including lay employees whose statutory rights will be upheld. Should the number of seminarians increase in future, the bishops would be delighted to reassess the situation.”

ENDS

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Note to Editors:

\* There are 9 students at Scotus College and 11 at the Scots College in Rome.