

Vision

Edmund Rice Healing & Heritage Centre, Callan

The vision for the Healing Centre in Callan is rooted in the life and legacy of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, whose belief that *“the life of each of us has its influence on others”* continues to inspire new beginnings.



Edmund Rice, born in Callan in 1762, transformed personal tragedy into a mission of service. After the early death of his wife and the lifelong care of his daughter with special needs, he dedicated his life to educating the poor and marginalized. By founding the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers, he pioneered a revolutionary approach to education that combined academic learning, spiritual formation, practical skills, dignity, and personal care. His work began modestly in Mount Sion, Waterford, but grew into a global educational movement.

Today, as the Christian Brothers face declining numbers and the painful legacy of past abuse scandals, the Callan birthplace of Edmund Rice is entering a new phase. Through a moment of shared discernment, it became clear that the Heritage Centre should become a Healing Centre — a place not primarily of remembrance, but of restoration and renewal

This new direction reflects:

- **Transformation through suffering** – just as Edmund’s life was reshaped by tragedy, the Congregation now seeks resurrection beyond its own painful history.
- **Education of the heart** – while earlier generations needed literacy and vocational skills, today’s society urgently needs emotional literacy, integration of past wounds, and guidance in forming meaningful relationships.
- **Spiritual and psychological healing** – through seminars, gatherings, and reflective spaces, the Centre aims to offer tools for inner growth and renewal.
- **“Stations of the Heart”** – a major sculpture project featuring heart-shaped marble works symbolizing stages of the healing journey, especially addressing trauma and abuse. These will serve as visible signs of restoration, dignity, and hope.

The initiative has already drawn strong interest and a sense of spiritual rightness. What began as a small discernment gathering has quickly gathered momentum, seen as guided by providence.

Ultimately, the vision is simple yet profound:

Callan — the birthplace of Edmund Rice — will become a *place of new beginnings*, offering **healing**, **hope**, and **education of the heart** for a **wounded generation**.

