



agenzia fides

AGENZIA DELLE PONTIFICIE OPERE MISSIONARIE

29th of December, 2018

FIDES SPECIAL

MISSIONARIES KILLED IN THE YEAR 2018

**“How many brothers today suffer persecution for
the name of Jesus!”**

Pope Francis, 25th of January, 2018

MISSIONARIES KILLED IN THE YEAR 2018

Vatican City (Fides Agency) – In the course of the year 2018, 40 Missionaries were killed throughout the world, almost double the 23 of the previous year, and they were priests for the most part: 35. After eight consecutive years in which the highest number of Missionaries killed was recorded in America, in 2018 it is Africa to take the first place in this tragic category.

According to the data collected by the Fides Agency, in 2018, 40 Missionaries were killed: 35 priests, 1 seminarian, and 4 laymen. In Africa, 19 priests, 1 seminarian, and 1 laymen were killed (21); in America, 12 priests and 3 laymen were killed (15); in Asia, 3 priests were killed (3); in Europe, 1 priest was killed (1).

We are using the term “missionary” for all the baptized, aware that “in virtue of the Baptism received, every member of the People of God has become a missionary disciple. Each baptized person, whatever his function in the Church and level of instruction in the faith, is an active agent of evangelization” (EG 120). For the rest, the annual list of Fides, now for some time, does not look only to Missionaries *ad gentes* in the strict sense, but tries to record all the baptized engaged in the life of the Church dying in a violent way, not only “in hatred of the faith”. For this reason, we prefer not to use the term “martyrs”, if not in its etymological meaning of “witness”, in order not to enter into the question of the judgment that the Church might eventually deliver upon some of them.

Even this year many Missionaries have lost their lives during attempted hold-ups and robberies, ferociously committed, in impoverished, degraded social contexts, where violence is the rule of life, the authority of the state was lacking or weakened by corruption and compromises, or where religion is used for other ends. Everywhere priests, religious, and laymen share the same daily life as the common people, bringing them the evangelical witness of love and service for all, as a sign of hope and peace, trying to alleviate the suffering of the weak and raising their voices in defense of their trampled rights, denouncing evil and injustice. Even in danger of their own safety, at the request of civil authorities or their own superiors, the Missionaries remained at their posts, aware of the risks which they were running, in order to remain true to the duties they bore.

The recognition of the Church

Emblematic is the affair of the 19 **martyrs of Algeria**, a Bishop, monks, religious, killed between 1994 and 1996 in different circumstances, who were beatified the 8th of December in Oran. “They were living in this country carrying out various missions and were strong and persevering in their service to the Gospel and to the population, notwithstanding the threatening environment of violence and oppression which encircled them”, Card. Angelo Becciu reminded us in the homily at the mass of beatification. “Reading their biographies, one is struck by how all, although aware of the risk which was besieging them, they decided courageously to remain in their place until the end; in them a strong martyr spirituality developed, rooted in the aim of sacrificing themselves and offering their own lives for a reconciled society and peace.”

The 26th of May, **Sister Leonella Sgorbati**, Missionary of the Consolata, was beatified, having been killed the 17th of September, 2006, in Mogadishu (Somalia), beaten to death by some thugs while at the hospital where she served. With her, Mohamed Mahamud was also killed, the muslim guard who tried to save her.

The Italian Franciscan Missionary, **Tullio Maruzzo**, and the indigenous catechist **Luis Obdulio Arroyo Navarro**, a Franciscan layperson, the first native martyr of Guatemala, were beatified in Morales, Guatemala the 27th of October. Threatened many times for his work in defense of the peasants, Fr. Tullio wanted to remain among his people, aided in his mission by Luis Obdulio. The 1st of July, 1981, at the end of a day of pastoral work, while they were returning to the parish, they were beaten to death.

Lucien Botovasoa, the father of a family, a busy layperson, elementary school teacher, catechist, was killed the 17th of April, 1947, in Madagascar, and was beatified the 15th of April, in the little village of Vohipeno, in the province of Fianarantsoa, where he was born. His day was marked by

prayer, his work of catechesis and for his family, in the context of a life lived in Franciscan poverty. In the climate of the violence for independence, the churches were put to the flames and the hunt for Christians began, and Lucien was condemned to death “because he was a follower of Christ”.

The 31st of January, in the village of Meruri, in the Mato Grosso (Brazil), the Diocesan inquest was begun on the life and martyrdom of **Rev. Rodolfo Lunkebein, a Salesian, and of the indigenous Simao Bororo**, killed the 15th of July, 1976, in the courtyard of the Salesian mission of Meruri, where they were engaged in evangelization and accompanying the natives in the defense of their rights.

However, the Diocesan phase of the cause for the beatification of **Mons. Christophe Munzehirwa Mwene Ngabo**, Archbishop of Bukavu, assassinated in 1996, has been concluded. The announcement was made the 29th of October in his episcopal seat, the capital of South Kivu, in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Archbishop was known for his frankness, courage, and strength in denouncing evil, injustice, and the illegal occupation of Congolese territory by groups of armed foreigners, who committed crimes and violence against the population.

The Holy Father Francis authorized the publication of the decree which recognizes the martyrdom in hatred of the faith, suffered by the Bishop of La Rioja, **Enrique Angelelli**, by **Father Carlos Murias**, Conventual Franciscan, by **Rev. Gabriel Longueville**, a French *donum fidei*, and by the layperson **Wenceslao Pedernera**, organizer of the Catholic Rural Movement, killed in various circumstances in Argentina, between July and August of 1976. They will be beatified in La Rioja, the 27th of April, 2019.

The plague of seizures and violence

The Missionaries who attain the recognition of their martyrdom on the part of the Church constitute something like the tip of the iceberg of this modern calvary: it is almost impossible to compile a complete list of the bishops, priests, nuns, pastoral workers, simple catholics, humanitarian workers, or members of international organizations, who are attacked, beaten, robbed, and threatened. Just as it is impossible to make a census of the catholic organizations at the service of the entire population, without distinction of faith or ethnicity, like schools, hospitals, hospitality centers, which have been attacked, vandalized, or sacked. Then, the churches profaned or burnt down, the sacred statues or images destroyed, the faithful attacked while gathered in prayer, provoke especial pain. To the provisory lists drawn up every year by the Fides Agency, the long list of the many, of whom perhaps one will never perhaps have news or of whom one will never know even the name, who in every corner of the planet suffer or pay with their lives for their faith in Jesus Christ.

The seizures of priests and nuns are now unfortunately common on various continents: some of which end tragically, as one sees also from the list of Missionaries killed. Others end with the liberation of the hostages, others again in silence. In Nigeria, especially in the southern states, the abductions of priests and religious for the sake of extortion have increased, the majority being released within a few days, in some cases, however, with devastating consequences for their physical and psychological health.

Analogous phenomena are frequent also in Latin America.

On the fate of the Italian Jesuit, **Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio**, abducted the 29th of July, 2013, in Raqqa, Syria, many rumors have been spread, without any confirmation. No one has ever claimed responsibility for his abduction.

For some time, there has been no news of **Fr. Gabriel Oyaka**, a Nigerian religious (Congregation of the Holy Spirit), abducted the 7th of September, 2015, in the state of Kogi. Also of the Colombian missionary **Sister Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoty**, abducted the 8th of February, 2017, in the village of Karangasso, in Mali, by the group Al Qaeda of Mali, for some time there has been no certain news. **Father Pierluigi Maccalli**, of the Society of African Missions (SAM), who on the night between the 17th and 18th of September was abducted in Niger, from the mission of Bamoanga, is even now in the hands of his abductors.

In the journey of the Church towards the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, desired by Pope Francis “to the end of a greater reawakening of the awareness of the mission *ad gentes* and

of taking up again with new liveliness the missionary transformation of life and the pastoral”, the blood poured out and the suffering undergone by so many brothers and sisters in all the regions of the planet for the name of Jesus Christ, are an example and an inspiration: looking to them, every Christian becomes aware of being “baptized and sent”, together with the whole Church, to announce the Gospel of Christ to the man of today, who lives “in a world ever more rich in means but poor in love” (*Pope Francis, 25th of January, 2018*) (S.L.) (Fides Agency 12/29/2018)

PANORAMA OF THE CONTINENTS

AFRICA

In Africa, 19 priests, 1 seminarian, and 1 layperson were killed (21).

In **Nigeria (6)**: Rev. Joseph Gor and Rev. Felix Tyolaha were killed during an attack of shepherds/jihadies in the village of Mbalom, in the parish of Saint Ignatius Ukor-Mbalom, at dawn on the 24th of April, 2018, during the morning Mass, Rev. Michael Akawu was killed on the 18th of August, 2018, in the course of a robbery, Rev. Stephen Ekakabor died on the 23rd of August, 2018, following grave cerebral lesions suffered a year prior, the 12th of February, 2017, during a robbery. Rev. Jude Egbom was killed, being shot during a robbery on the 10th of September, 2018, in Umuwala, in the state of Imo. Rev. Louis Odudu died in a hospital in Warri, in the state of Delta, the 19th of September, 2018, four days after he fled from the hands of his abductors.

In the **Centralafrican Republic (5)**: Rev. Joseph Désiré Angbabata, of the diocese of Bambari, was injured the morning of the 22nd of March, 2018, during an attack at his parish on the part of an armed group, and he died shortly afterward. Rev. Albert Toungoumale-Baba was killed in the parish of Notre Dame de Fatima, the 1st of May, 2018, during a massacre perpetrated by an armed group which attacked his parish, Rev. Firmin Gbagoua, Vicar General of the diocese of Bambari, was killed the evening of the 29th of June, 2018, by a group of commando assassins breaking into the episcopal residence. The Vicar General of the diocese of Alindao, Rev. Balise Mada, and Rev. Celestine Ngoumbango, pastor of Mingala, were killed during an attack on the episcopal residence of Alindao, where they sought refuge together with others, the 15th of November, 2018.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (3)**: the young Thérèse Deshade Kapangala was killed the 21st of January, 2018, in Kintambo, north of Kinshasa, during the military’s violent repression. The body of Fr. Florent Mbulanthie Tulantshiedi, of the Congregation of the Joséphis, was found the 2nd of March, 2018, on the banks of the Kasai River. Rev. Etienne Nsengiyumva was assassinated by a criminal in Kichanga, in the diocese of Goma, the 8th of April, 2018.

In **Cameroon (3)**: Rev. Alexandre Sob Nougi, of the diocese of Buea, was killed the 20th of July, struck by a bullet during a clash between the military and separatists. The young seminarian Gérard Anjiangwe was killed by a group of soldiers the 4th of October, 2018. Fr. Cosmas Omboto Ondari was killed the 21st of November, 2018, in Kembong, a few kilometers from Memfe, struck twice by a military vehicle.

In **Ivory Coast (1)**: Rev. Bernardin Brou Aka Daniel, of the diocese of Abengourou, was killed during a robbery in the street, the 23rd of April, 2018.

In **Southern Sudan (1)**: Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo was mortally wounded on the night of the 14th of November, 2018, by a group of armed men who attacked the Jesuit community of Cueibet, in the state of Gok.

In **Kenya (1)**: Rev. John Njoroge Muhia was killed the 10th of December, 2018, when he had entered a bank to deposit the offerings of the faithful.

In **Malawi (1)**: Rev. Tony Mukomba, of the Archdiocese of Blantyre, died the evening of the 17th of January, 2018, after being gravely wounded by a group of bandits the week before.

AMERICA

In America 12 priests and 3 laymen were killed (15)

In **Mexico (7)**: Rev. Ivan Jaimes, of the archdiocese of Acapulco, pastor of Las Vigas, and Rev. Germain Muniz Garcia, pastor of Mezcala, died in an ambush on the street in the state of Guerrero, the 5th of February, 2018. Rev. Rubén Alcántara Díaz, judicial vicar of the diocese of Izcalli, was assassinated the 18th of April, 2018, just before the Mass. Rev. Juan Miguel Contreras García was killed the 20th of April, 2018, at the end of the holy Mass which he had celebrated in the parish of Tlajomulco, in the state of Jalisco. The lifeless body of Rev. Moisés Fabila Reyes, an aged priest who was abducted the 3rd of April, was found the 25th of April, 2018, in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos. The body of Fr. Miguel Gerardo Flores Hernandez, who disappeared the 18th of August, was found the 25th of August, 2018, on an abandoned piece of land in the little city of Nueva Italia, in the state of Michoacán. Rev. Ícmar Arturo Orta, who disappeared the 11th of October, was found the afternoon of the 13th of October, on Santa María Street, in the Ley del Servicio Civil neighborhood (Tijuana), with his hands and feet bound and with signs of violence.

In **Colombia (2)**: Rev. Dagoberto Noguera Avendano, an ex-priest, was killed the 10th of March, 2018, in his house, in Santa Marta, probably during an attempted robbery. The 25th of July, 2018, Rev. John Fredy Garcia Jaramillo, was found dead with knife wounds in his home, in the Betlemme Los Almendros neighborhood, in the south-west corner of Medellin.

In **Nicaragua (2)**: José Maltez, who was part of the Salesian Oratory, died from a blow to the chest, the 5th of June, 2018, in Granada, during conflicts between bands and the city's defense groups. Sandor Dolmus, a young minister of the Leon Cathedral, was shot while he was walking in the street, together with other youths.

In **Venezuela (1)**: Rev. Iraluis José Garcia Escobar, pastor of the Our Lady of Fatima parish, in the archdiocese of Barquisimeto, was killed the 9th of July, 2018, by bandits during an attempted robbery.

In **Ecuador (1)**: Rev. Arturo Rene Pozo Sampaz, pastor of San Juan, Quito, was found the 9th of October, 2018, next to his bed, with his hands and feet bound.

In **El Salvador (1)**: Rev. Walter Osmin Vásquez, of the diocese of Santiago de Maria, was killed by gunfire the 29th of March, 2018, while he found himself in the parish of Lolotique.

In **Perù (1)**: Father Carlos Riudavets Montes (SJ) was found the 10th of August, 2018, bound and with signs of violence, in the indigenous peruvian amazonian community of Yamakentsa.

ASIA

In Asia 3 priests were killed.

In the **Philippines (2)**: Rev. Mark Yuaga Ventura, the head of the missionary station of San Isidro Labrador, was killed the 29th of April, 2018, by gunfire. Rev. Richmond Nilo was killed the 10th of June, 2018, by two armed thugs, while he was preparing to celebrate evening Mass in the village of Mayamot, in the diocese of Cabanatuan.

In **India (1)**: Rev. Xavier Thelakkat, a priest of Kerala, was stabbed to death the 1st of March, 2018, by the ex-sacristan of the parish church of Malayattoor, who had been fired three months earlier.

IN EUROPE

In Europe 1 priest was killed.

In **Germany**: Rev. Alain-Florent Gandoulou, a congolese priest, chaplain of the French-speaking, Catholic community in Berlin, was killed the 22nd of February, 2018, after a violent argument in his office.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH

The Fides Agency is thankful to all those who are willing to point out updates or corrections to this list and to those of previous years.

Rev. Tony Mukomba, of the Archdiocese of Blantyre (Malawi), died the evening of the 17th of January, 2018, at the hospital of Mwaiwathu after being seriously wounded by a group of bandits the week before. According to the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) Rev. Mukomba was attacked near the Catholic University, when his automobile broke down and he had to proceed on foot. He was attacked by some criminals who savagely beat him, most likely in order to extort money from him. The funeral was celebrated the 20th of January in the Cathedral of Limbe by the Archbishop of Blantyre.

(Fides Agency 1/19/2018)

Thérèse Deshade Kapangala, of the Democratic Republic of Congo, 24 years of age, who committed herself to beginning her journey as a postulant among the sisters of the Holy Family, was killed Sunday, the 21st of January, 2018, through the violent repression of the soldiers who squashed the protests against the decisions of President Kabila promoted by the lay Catholics of the whole country. Thérèse, who sang in the parish choir and was active in the Legion of Mary, had participated in the Mass at Kintambo, north of Kinshasa. Immediately afterward, together with other laymen, she tried to organize a march of protest. The army was drawn up outside the church and opened fire against the protesters, who tried to find refuge by returning into the church. Thérèse was shot while she attempted to shield a baby girl with her body. On that Sunday, there were at least 5 dead, 57 wounded, and another 100 arrested.

(Fides Agency 1/22/2018)

Rev. Ivan Jaimes, 37 years old, of the archdiocese of Acapulco, pastor of Las Vigas, and **Rev. Germain Muniz Garcia**, 39 years old, pastor of Mezcala, of the diocese of Chilpancingo-Chilapa, both Mexicans, were killed in an ambush along the Taxco-Iguala Road, in the Mexican state of Guerrero, in the early hours of Monday, the 5th of February, 2018. The two priests were traveling in an automobile, together with four other persons, returning from Juliantla, where they had participated in the feast of the Virgin of Candelora, when a vehicle blocked their way. Armed men opened fire killing the two priests who were in front and wounding three persons who were traveling with them, while the final person remained unhurt.

(Fides Agency 02/06/2018)

Rev. Alain-Florent Gandoulou, a Congolese priest who was the chaplain of the of the French-speaking, Catholic community in Berlin, was killed on Thursday evening, the 22nd of February, 2018. According to the information diffused by the authorities, it seems that there was a violent argument in his office, someone called the police who arrived, finding, however, only the cadaver of the priest. Rev. Alain-Florent belonged to the archdiocese of Brazzaville (Congo), where he was ordained in 1991. He was sent to Germany in 1997, where he remained some years before being transferred to France. For some years, he had returned to Germany as chaplain of the French-speaking community. The “French-speaking parish of Berlin” has existed since 1945, first as a military parish, then in 1994, it became a civilian parish, and welcomes all the francophone Catholics of Berlin and the region around it.

(Fides Agency 02/24/2018)

Fr. Xavier Thelakkat, 52 years old, a priest of Kerala, India, was stabbed to death the on the 1st of March, 2018, while he found himself in the Pilgrimage Center of Kurisumudi in Malayattoor, in the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Ankamaly, of which he was the rector. Immediately transported to the

Little Flower Hospital in Angamally, he passed away from the grave wounds he received. The aggressor was the ex-sacristan of the parish church of Malayattoor, Johnny by name, who was relieved from service three months before. Fr. Thelakkat had undertaken a disciplinary action against Johnny for some issues regarding the running of the Pilgrimage Center. After an argument, Johnny stabbed the priest in the leg. Fr. Thelakkat had been ordained a priest the 27th of December, 1993, he was also a lawyer and social activist, working against the local mafia.

(Fides Agency 3/1/2018)

The body of **Fr. Florent Mbulanthie Tulantshiedi**, of the Congregation of the Joséphis, 46 years old, was found the 2nd of March, 2018, on a boat on the banks of the Kasai River, in the area of the village of Biyenge, in the District of Kasai, in the central west of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC).

According to his superior, Fr. Georges Minga, the face of Fr. Florent was unrecognizable, and he was identified by his clothes, rosary and watch. The priest, ordained in 2007, worked in the parish of Christ the Saviour of Ilebo, and for some years occupied himself with the formation of candidates to the priesthood. It was precisely these candidates who informed his superior of his having passed away, he in his turn called the police.

(Fides Agency 3/5/2018)

Dagoberto Noguera Avendano, born in Ecuador, a 68-year-old ex-priest, from 1990 he exercised his ministry in the United States, occupying himself with the Hispanic communities in various parishes in Brooklyn. In 2014, he retired for reasons of health and came back to Colombia, the country where he had studied and was ordained a priest in 1985. He was killed the 10th of March, 2018, in his dwelling in Santa Marta (Colombia), probably during an attempted robbery. His body presenting blows and contusions in various parts, he died of asphyxiation. Noguera, who was ill, dedicated himself nonetheless to works of charity and to social assistance for the most vulnerable persons, among whom the Venezuelan immigrants, offering them food and psychological help.

Rev. Joseph Désiré Angbabata, since October of 2017 pastor of the church of Saint Charles Lwanga in Séko, within the diocese of Bambari, in the south-central part of the Central African Republic, was wounded the morning of the 22nd of March, 2018, during an assault on his parish, perpetrated by an armed group, and he died after a few hours as a consequence of his wounds. At least thirty people were killed in those days in the course of fighting between the Seleka and anti-balaka militias in some villages in the area of Bambari, originating with attacks and counterattacks. This zone is strategic not only because of its central position but also for the presence of gold and diamond mines, which excite the appetites of various armed groups.

(Fides Agency 3/23/2018; 3/24/2018; 3/26/2018)

Rev. Walter Osmin Vásquez, a 36-year-old priest of the diocese of Santiago de Maria (El Salvador), was parochial vicar of the parish of N.S. de la Merced, in the city of Mercedes Umana. He was killed by gunfire, the 29th of March, 2018, while he was headed to the parish of Lolotique, to which he had been assigned for Holy Week, to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. The automobile in which he was traveling with other persons was stopped by an SUV, by men with their faces covered with ski masks. The passengers were robbed and the priest was forced to get out. After twenty or thirty meters, he was then assassinated. The morning of Holy Thursday, he had participated in the chrismal Mass in Santiago de Maria and had renewed his priestly promises: "he was assassinated on the day dedicated to priests" one reads in the communique of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Mons. José Luis Escobar Alas.

(Fides Agency 04/04/2018)

Rev. Etienne Nsengiyumva, 38 years old, was assassinated in Kichanga (diocese of Goma, D.R. Congo) the 8th of April, 2018. The priest, who was pastor of the parish of Saint Barhelemy, had celebrated Sunday Mass, during which he also conferred baptism. He found himself together with some of the faithful for a gathering, when a criminal erupted into the premises, killing him with blasts from a firearm.

(Fides Agency 5/24/2018)

The **priest Rubén Alcántara Díaz**, 50 years old, judicial vicar of the diocese of Izcalli, in the city of Cuautitlán (Mexico), was assassinated the evening of Wednesday, the 18th of April, 2018, with a knife, a little before the 7 p.m. Mass which he would have had to celebrate in the church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, in the neighborhood of Cumbria. The secretary of the church heard the priest fight with a man. When this man went away, he found the priest lying lifeless upon the ground, while the presumed aggressor had fled.

(Fides Agency 04/19/2018)

The evening of Friday the 20th of April, 2018, **Rev. Juan Miguel Contreras García**, 33 years old, only recently ordained a priest, was killed at the end of the holy Mass he had celebrated in the parish of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina in Tlajomulco, in the state of Jalisco (Mexico), where he had substituted for another priest who had received death threats. A commando erupted into the church directing himself into the sacristy, where he opened fire against the priest, killing him. In their statement, the Mexican Bishops ask “faithful catholics to accompany their priests with prayer, above all in the pastoral service of the communities entrusted to them”, and “to those who do not respect their own lives and destroy them for any reason whatever, to let themselves look to the benevolent face of God, in order not only to put down their arms, but also the hate, the resentment, the vendetta, and all destructive sentiments”.

(Fides Agency 04/24/2018)

Rev. Bernardin Brou Aka Daniel, vicar of the parish of the Sacred Heart of Koun-Abronso in the diocese of Abengourou, in the eastern Ivory Coast, was killed during a robbery in the street. The evening of the 23rd of April, 2018, Rev. Bernardin was returning to the parish along the Agnibilekro – Koun-Fao Road after having participated in some meetings in Abengourou. In the same vehicle a missionary, Fr. Théophile Ahi, was also traveling. Around 8 p.m., in the area of Nianda, the vehicle was forced to slow down because of a truck in the middle of the street. Rev. Bernardin, who was driving, while he was trying to pass the obstacle in the road, was struck by gunfire erupting from some armed men who had unexpectedly appeared. Injured, the priest was forced to stop. The bandits asked the two priests for money and without warning shot point blank at the vicar, striking him in the abdomen, then they fled. Rev. Bernardin, although losing much blood, was able to begin driving again until he reached the city of Agnibilékrou and the local hospital, where he died because of his wounds. Rev. Bernardin Brou Aka Daniel was born in December of 1976 and was ordained a priest in 2013.

(Fides Agency 4/25/2018)

Rev. Joseph Gor and **Rev. Felix Tyolaha** were killed in a lethal attack by shepherd/jihadis in the village of Mbalom, in the parish of Saint Ignatius Ukpör-Mbalom, in the Gwer East Local Government Area in the state of Benue, in the central part of Nigeria, which divides the largely muslim North from the South, inhabited largely by Christians. The massacre happened at dawn on the 24th of April, 2018, during the daily Mass at 5:30 in the morning, much frequented by the parishioners. The Mass had just begun and the faithful were still entering the church, when several gunshots were heard from an armed group, entering unexpectedly in the place of worshiFr. The people were overcome with panic and tried to flee. Nineteen people, among whom the two priests,

who were celebrating the Mass, were killed in cold blood. Many persons were injured. After having attacked the church, the bandits raided and raised to the ground more than 60 homes.
(Fides Agency 4/25/2018)

The 25th of April, 2018, in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos (Mexico), the lifeless body of the **priest Moisés Fabila Reyes**, 83 years old, pertaining to the clergy of this archdiocese, who exercised his ministry in the National Basilica of Guadalupe, was found. The elderly priest was abducted the 3rd of April while he was traveling with his family members from Mexico City to Cuernavaca, and he died before the payment of a ransom on the part of his family members, because of the precarious condition of his health and the imprisonment. Born the 15th of December, 1934, in Valle de Bravo, in the state of Mexico, he was ordained a priest on the 29th of June, 1961, in the Cathedral of Mexico.

(Fides Agency 04/27/2018)

The morning of the 29th of April, 2018, in the north of the Philippines, **Rev. Mark Yuaga Ventura** was killed, 37 years old, head of the missionary station of San Isidro Labrador since the beginning of the month, struck by a gunshot to the head and another to the chest. According to the police, Rev. Ventura was speaking with the members of the of the choir and was playing with some children, around 8 o'clock. The assassin suddenly appeared at the rear entrance and shot at the priest striking him two times. The killer then fled on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice. Rev. Ventura supported fair elections, the rights of tribal populations, and fought against mineral exploitation in the state of Cagayan.

(Fides Agency 4/30/2018)

Rev. Albert Toungoumale-Baba, Central African, 71 years old, was killed in the parish of Notre Dame de Fatima, not far from the PK5 neighborhood of Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, where a massacre took place costing the lives of at least 16 people and which caused a hundred injuries. An armed group attacked the parish while Rev. Albert and some faithful were celebrating the Mass for the feast of Saint Joseph, the 1st of May, 2018. The murdered priest, among the oldest of the diocese of Bangui, much respected by the faithful, he found himself in that church for the celebration in his role as the chaplain of the “Fraternity of Saint Joseph” movement. The incidents between the security forces and the self-defense militias of the PK5 have unleashed violence against civilians. The militants have erupted in gunshots and thrown grenades against the faithful. The same church of Notre Dame de Fatima had undergone a bloody assault the 28th of May, 2014, in the course of which 18 faithful were killed.

(see Fides 5/30/2014; 5/2/2018; 5/3/2018; 5/8/2018; 6/7/2018)

The young Nicaraguan **José Maltez**, 22 years old, who was part of the Salesian Oratory, died from a shot to the chest, the 5th of June, 2018, in Granada, during the conflicts between bands of men and the city's defense groups. In the morning, a pitched battle began in the neighborhood of the Xalteva church, a few hundred meters from the Salesian Institute “Don Bosco” of Granada. A barricade was constructed a block away from the school. This situation alarmed the parents of the students, who decided to retrieve their students. All around were heard mortar blasts, gunfire, and tear gas launchers. The young José Maltez left his house to size up the situation and was killed by a precise gunshot to the chest. José participated in the sports programs of the Oratory. Those who knew him remember his punctuality and his perseverance; he was helpful and left a good impression on all.

D. Richmond Nilo, 44 years old, was killed by two armed thugs the 10th of June, 2018, while he was preparing to celebrate the evening Mass in the chapel of “Our Lady of the Snows”, in the village of Mayamot, in the diocese of Cabanatuan, in the north of the Philippines. Rev. Nilo, who was pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer in Nueva Ecija and also administrator of the diocese, was the third priest killed in six months in the Philippines. The other two priests are Fr. Mark Ventura, 37 years

old, killed the 29th of April in the province of Cagayan; and Fr. Marcelito Paez, 72 years old, killed the 5th of December, 2017, in Jaen twon, province of Nueva Ecija.
(Fides Agency 6/13/2018)

Sandor Dolmus, 15 years old, young minister of the Cathedral of Leon (Nicaragua), was assassinated by paramilitaries the 14th of June, 2018. He was walking along the street, together with other youths, near the church of San José in the neighborhood of Zaragoza, in Leon, when he was shot in the chest by a group of paramilitaries. Those who knew him describe him as a very good and helpful boy, who desired to become a priest. He was buried in the vestment of a minister. In his last facebook page, he wrote: “Lord Jesus, I put into your hands your country, Nicaragua, particularly Leon. Do not abandon it. Send us peace. It is unheard of that you abandoned anyone, help Leon, help us to overcome evil”.
(Fides Agency 12/10/2018)

Rev. Firmin Gbagoua, Vicar General of the diocese of Bambari, in the center of the Central African Republic, was killed the evening of the 29th of June, 2018. The hit squad was able to enter the Episcopal residence while a contingent from the Minusca (UN Mission in Central Africa) from Gabon was a few hundred meters away. The assassins wounded the guard and then asked for money from Rev. Firmin. After mortally wounding him with firearms, they fled before the arrival of the Blue Helmets. Trasported to the hospital, Rev. Firmin passed away from his injuries. He was an extraordinary priest, the collected testimonials say. A simple and very humble person, he was near to the great and to the small, and above all he was a man who spoke the truth, capable of making a very clear analysis of the situation. He was a key person in all the processes of mediation to try and maintain the peace in Bambari, and was therefore known by all.
(Fides Agency 7/3/2018; 7/5/2018; 7/13/2018)

The pastor of the Nuestra Senora de Fatima parish, in the archdiocese of Barquisimeto (Venezuela), **Rev. Iraluis José García Escobar**, 38 years old, was killed on the afternoon of Monday, the 9th of July, 2018, by bandits who wanted to steal the truck in which he was traveling. According to the Episcopal Conference, the priest was driving the truck while it was passing through the Santa Isabel neighborhood, in the western part of Barquisimeto, and was entering the courtyard of his parish, when he was shot by some criminals. Brought to Pastor Oropeza Hospital, he died there soon after. Rev. Iraluis was known to be a priest well integrated into his community, by which he was much loved, gifted with pastoral zeal, happy and with a deep spirituality, completely dedicated to the Church.
(Fides Agency 7/10/2018)

Rev. Alexandre Sob Nougi, 42 years old, pastor of the parish of the Sacro Cuore in Bomaka, in the Cameroon diocese of Buea, was killed the 20th of July on the road between Buea and Muyuka, 25 km to the northeast of Buea, which is the capital of the Anglophone region in the southeastern part of the country. The priest, who was also known as the Diocesan secretary for catholic education, was shot by a stray bullet during a clash between soldiers and separatists, while according to other reconstructions he was killed intentionally. In this area, as in the other northwestern Anglophone region, there are frequent clashes between the security forces and the separatists, who call for an independent Anglophone state. A situation was created “marked by blind, inhuman, monstrous violence and by a radicalization of the positions which alarm us a lot” the Bishops affirmed in a declaration of the 16th of May, 2018, exhorting: “Let us stop every form of violence and let us stop killing one another... Let us save our country from a baseless and useless civil war”.
(Fides Agency 7/23/2018)

The 25th of July, 2018, in the evening hours, the priest **John Fredy Garcia Jaramillo**, 50 years old, was found dead in his home in the Betlemme Los Almendros neighborhood, in the southwest part of Medellin (Colombia). The body of the priest presented knife wounds. According to the hypothesis of the police, his death is the result of an attempted robbery. Rev. García Jaramillo was part of the diocese of Apartadó, but he worked as a teacher at the school “Saint Ignatius of Loyola” in Medellín. The priest was known for his social work in the community, where he was carrying forward various social projects in the banana cultivation region.
(Fides Agency, 07/27/2018)

The morning of the 10th of August, 2018, the lifeless body of **Father Carlos Riudavets Montes**, a 73-year-old, Spanish priest of the Company of Jesus (SJ), was found bound, with signs of violence, in the peruvian amazzonian indigenous community of Yamakentsa. Father Riudavets, a native of Huelva (Spain), dedicated himself for 38 years to the education of the families of the native communities of Amazonia, and formed hundreds of native leaders. The body of the missionary was found at dawn by the cook, on the floor of his home next to the school "Valentín Salegui" of the indigenous community situated in the district of Yamakai-éntsa (province of Bagua), belonging to the apostolic vicariate of Jaén. In the school, a thousand students of the indigenous awajun and wampis peoples study. Father Carlos was totally dedicated to his mission, always available, and loved the community by which he was very much loved.
(Fides Agency 08/11/2018)

Fr. Michael Akawu, a Nigerian, was killed the 18th of August, 2018, in the course of a robbery in the supermarket where the priest found himself in order to make some purchases for the parish. Fr. Akawu was the vice-pastor in the parish of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception of Dobi-Gwagwalada, a satellite city in the territory of the federal capital of Abuja. Fr. Akawu, the first catholic priest from Abuja, was ordained the 4th of February, 2017, by Card. John Onayeikan, Archbishop of Abuja.
(Fides Agency 8/20/2018)

Fr. Stephen Ekakabor, pastor of the St. Joseph parish of Okpare-Olomu, in the region of the Delta (Nigeria), died the 23rd of August, 2018, following the grave cerebral lesions receive a year earlier, the 12th of February, 2017, during a robbery which occurred one night in the chancellery. The criminals, in fact, looking for money and other objects of value, hit him violently on the head. Given the gravity of the situation, he was recovered in various hospitals. All the testimonials collected up until the aggression describe him as “an authentic servant of God”, his charitable nature made him loved by young and old, beyond having inspired and nurtured many vocations to the priesthood. Fr. Stephen Ekakabor, 74 years old, was ordained a priest the 31st of December, 1972.

The lifeless body of **Fr. Miguel Gerardo Flores Hernandez**, 49 years old, of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MHF), was found the 25th of August, 2018, in an abandoned plot of land in the little city of Nueva Italia, in the municipality of Múgica, in the Mexican state of Michoacán. The priest disappeared on the 18th of August. The homicide was probably due to the theft of the truck, which was not refund, and might not have connections with organized crime. Fr. Miguel Gerardo Flores Hernandez, was from Sombrete Zac. and was part of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MHF). In 2007, he was ordained to the priesthood and was currently the parochial vicar of the parish of Saint Catherine of Alexandria in Jucutacato, and was also engaged in the “Nazareth Center” for the formation of families, where he was occupied with couples, abandoned babies, and youths. He was much loved by the people for his tireless work.
(Fides Agency 8/27/2018)

An attempted robbery which ended badly cost the life of **Fr. Jude Egbom**, killed by gunshot the evening of the 10th September, 2018, in Umuwala, in the state of Imo, in southern Nigeria. Fr. Egbom was having his hair cut by a barber in the street along the Nkwerre-Anara Road when two criminals tried to rob him. It is not known clearly what happened, but at a certain point the bandits shot off some rounds, killing the priest and fleeing with the bag and the automobile of the priest, who was pastor at St. Patrick's Parish Amucha.

(Fides Agency 9/12/2018; 9/13/2018; 9/14/2018)

Fr. Louis Odudu died in a hospital of Warri, in the state of the Delta (in southern Nigeria), the 19th of September, 2018, four days after he fled the lair of his abductors. The priest complained of strong pains and was brought to the hospital, where he passed away soon after. Fr. Odudu, who was ordained a priest in the diocese of Warri in 1987, had worked in the United Kingdom for several years. He had returned to Nigeria for about five months. Fr. Odudu was presently the Chaplain of the Seat of Wisdom Catholic Chaplaincy of the Petroleum Training Institute. Previously, he had been Adjunct Secretary General at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria.

(Fides Agency 9/24/2018)

The lifeless body of **Rev. Arturo Rene Pozo Sampaz**, 62 years old, pastor of the parish of San Juan, in north Quito (Ecuador), was found the morning of the 9th of October, 2018, next to his bed, with his hands and feet bound, but without any signs of violence. For some months Rev. Arturo was living in the house of his sister, who was, in those days, however, away. According to the autopsy, the death from asphyxia took place between 24 or 48 before he was found. The people remember him as a brave priest, dedicated to his ministry. The funeral was presided over by the Archbishop of Quito, Mons. Fausto Travez Travez.

(Fides Agency 10/12/2018)

A young, 19-year-old seminarian, **Gérard Anjiangwe**, was killed by a group of soldiers the 4th of October, 2018, before the parish church of Saint Theresa of Bamessing, a village near Ndop in the department of Ngo-Ketunjia, in the northwest of Cameroon. Around 9:30 in the morning, at the end of the Mass, while Gérard and the faithful were in front of the church, a military truck from Ndop arrived. Some soldiers came out from the vehicle and began to shoot. While the faithful took refuge in the sacristy bolting the door, the seminarian laid down on the ground, reciting the rosary. The soldiers tried in vain to open the door; they then came up to Gerard prostrate on the ground and they ordered him to get up, which he did hesitantly. After having interrogated him, the soldiers ordered the seminarian to kneel down again, then they shot him three times in the neck. He died instantly.

(Fides Agency 10/16/2018)

Rev. Ícmar Arturo Orta, 50 years old, disappeared the 11th of October, after having celebrated the Mass in the Colonia Obrera neighborhood. The lifeless body of the pastor of the parish of San Luis Rey de Francia, in the archdiocese of Tijuana (Mexico), was found on the afternoon of the 13th of October, on Santa María Street, in the neighborhood of Ley del Servicio Civil (Tijuana), with hands and feet bound and signs of violence over the entire body. He was much loved by his faithful, who considered him like a father.

(Fides Agency 10/15/2018)

The first Jesuit of Kenyan nationality, **Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo SJ**, was killed in South Sudan, mortally wounded on the night of the 14th of November, 2018, by a group of armed men who attacked the Jesuit community of Cueibet, in the state of Gok. The other three members of the community were unhurt. Fr. Odhiambo was the first Kenyan to become a Jesuit. Born the 20th of January, 1956, he entered the Society of Jesus (SJ) the 4th of July, 1978. He was ordained a priest the 22nd of August, 1987, and he made his definitive vows the 30th of May, 1993. In South Sudan,

Fr. Odhiambo was President of the Mazzolari Teachers College and the Vice Superior of the Jesuit Community of Cuibet from the 30th of January, 2017. The teacher of thousands of students in the Starehe Boys Center of Nairobi, in Kenya, and in the Loyola High School of Dar Es Salaam, in Tanzania, he was courageous, intelligent, kind, creative administrator and above all a believer in the value of education.

(Fides Agency 11/16/2018)

The Vicar General of the diocese of Alindao, **Rev. Blaise Mada**, and **Rev. Celestine Ngoumbango**, pastor of Mingala, in the Central African Republic, were killed during an attack on the Episcopal residence where they had sought refuge together with other persons, in Alindao, the 15th of November, 2018. The rebels, ex-Seleka of the UPS (Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique), attacked the Cathedral of Alindao, in the south of the country, and the nearby refugee camp. After having sacked and burned the Cathedral, the rebels moved toward the refugee camp where they killed at least 42 people. The motivation for the massacre would be a vendetta for the killing “of a muslim” at the hands of the anti-Balaka militias.

(Fides Agency 11/17/2018; 11/19/2018; 12/3/2018)

Fr. Cosmas Omboto Ondari, a missionary of Kenyan nationality belonging to the Missionary Society of Saint Joseph, Mill Hill, was killed in the early afternoon of the 21st of November, 2018, in Kembong, a few km from Memfe, the capital of the Department of the Southeastern Province, in Cameroon. Fr. Cosmas was struck two times by a military vehicle while he was in front of the church of St. Martin of Tours, of which he was the vice pastor. The missionary, struck in the chest and the lower stomach, died on the spot. Fr. Cosmas was about thirty years old; he was ordained the 26th of March, 2017 in Kisii, Kenya, and was immediately sent to Cameroon, first to the parish of St. Jude of Fundong in the northwestern province and then in the area of Mamfe. Fr. Cosmas was the second catholic priest killed in the southeastern Anglophone region. The seminarian Gérard Anjiangwe was also killed in similar circumstances.

(Fides Agency 11/22/2018)

The morning of the 10th of December, 2018, **Rev. John Njoroge Muhia**, 56 years old, pastor of the parish of Kinoo in Kiambu, 25 km from Nairobi, was going to a bank of Kikuyu, to deposit the offerings of the faithful, when he was approached by four hooligans who, after having blocked the car in which he was traveling, they suggested he pass over the bag he had in the automobile. Confronted with the hesitation of the priest, one of the robbers took out his pistol and shot a bullets through the windshield, which struck Fr. Njoroge in the chest. The criminals possessed themselves of the priests bag and of a cell phone and they fled on a motorcycle. I malviventi si sono quindi impossessati della borsa del sacerdote e di un telefono cellulare e sono fuggiti in motocicletta.

(Fides Agency 12/11/2018)

SUMMARY CHART OF THE YEAR 2018

N°	Name and Surname	Nationality	Istitute or Diocesese	Date and place of death
1.	Rev. Tony Mukomba	Malawi	Diocesan	17/01 – Blantyre (Malawi)
2.	Thérese Deshade Kapangala	D.R.Congo	Layperson	21/1 – Kintambo (D.R.Congo)
3.	Rev. Ivan Jaimes	Mexico	Diocesan	5/2 – Guerrero (Mexico)
4	Rev. Germain Muniz Garcia	Mexico	Diocesan	5/2 – Guerrero (Mexico)
5.	Rev. Alain-Florent Gandoulou	Congo	Diocesan	22/2 – Berlino (Germany)
6.	Fr. Florent Mbulanthie Tulantshiedi	D.R. Congo	Congregation Joséphis	2/3 – Kasay (D.R. Congo)
7.	Rev. Xavier Thelakkat	India	Diocesan	1/3 – Malayattoor (India)
8.	Rev. Joseph Désiré Angbabata	ReFr. Central African	Diocesan	22/3 – Seko (ReFr. Centrafr.)
9.	Dagoberto Noguera Avendano	Ecuador	Ex-priest	10/3 – Santa Marta (Colombia)
10.	Rev. Walter Osmin Vásquez	El Salvador	Diocesan	29/3 – Lolotique (El Salvador)
11	Rev. Etienne Nsengiyumva	D.R.Congo	Diocesan	8/4 – Kitchanga (D.R. Congo)
12.	Rev. Rubén Alcántara Díaz	Mexico	Diocesan	18/4 - Cuautitlán (Mexico)
13.	Rev. Juan Miguel C. García	Mexico	Diocesan	20/4 - Tlajomulco (Mexico)
14.	Rev. Bernardin Brou Aka Daniel	Ivory Coast	Diocesan	23/4 – Agnibilékrou (Ivory Coast)
15.	Rev. Joseph Gor	Nigeria	Diocesan	24/4 – Mbalom (Nigeria)
16.	Rev. Felix Tyolaha	Nigeria	Diocesan	24/4 – Mbalom (Nigeria)
17.	Rev. Moisés Fabila Reyes	Mexico	Diocesan	25/4 – Cuernavaca (Mexico)
18.	Rev. Mark Yuaga Ventura	Philippines	Diocesan	29/4 – S.Isidro (Philippines)
19.	Rev. Albert Toungoumale-Baba	Rep. Central African	Diocesan	1/5 – Bangui (ReFr. Central African)
20.	José Maltez	Nicaragua	Layperson, Salesian Oratory	5/6 – Granada (Nicaragua)
21.	Rev. Richmond Nilo	Philippines	Diocesan	10/6 – Mayamot (Philippines)
22	Sandor Dolmus	Nicaragua	Layperson, Minister	14/6 – Leon (Nicaragua)
23.	Rev. Firmin Gbagoua	Rep.Centrafric.	Diocesan	29/6 – Bambari (Rep.Central African)
24.	Rev. Iraluis José Garcia Escobar	Venezuela	Diocesan	9/7 – Barquisimeto (Venezuela)
25.	Rev. Alexandre Sob Nougi,	Cameroon	Diocesan	20/7 – Buea (Cameroon)
26.	Rev. John Fredy Garcia Jaramillo	Colombia	Diocesan	25/7 – Medellin (Colombia)
27	Father Carlos Riudavets Montes	Spain	Jesuit SJ	10/8 – Yamakentsa (Perù)
28	Rev. Michael Akawu	Nigeria	Diocesan	18/8 – Abuja (Nigeria)
29	Rev. Stephen Ekakabor	Nigeria	Diocesan	23/8 – Warri (Nigeria)
30	Fr. Miguel Gerardo Flores Hernandez	Mexico	Missionaries of the Holy Family (MHF)	25/8 - Nueva Italia (Mexico)
31	Rev. Jude Egbom	Nigeria	Diocesan	10/9 – Abuja (Nigeria)
32	Rev. Louis Odudu	Nigeria	Diocesan	19/9 – Warri (Nigeria)
33	Rev. Arturo Rene Pozo Sampaz	Ecuador	Diocesan	7 o 8/10 – Quito (Ecuador)
34	Gérard Anjiangwe	Cameroon	Seminarian	4/10 – Bamessing (Cameroon)
35	Rev. Ícmar Arturo Orta	Mexico	Diocesan	14/10 – Tijuana (Mexico)
36	Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo	Kenya	Jesuit (SJ)	14/11 – Cueibet (South Sudan)
37	Rev. Blaise Mada	Rep.Centrafric.	Diocesan	15/11 – Alindao (ReFr. Centrafric.)

38	Rev. Celestine Ngoumbango	Rep.Centrafric.	Diocesan	15/11 – Alindao (ReFr. Centrafric.)
39.	Fr. Cosmas Omboto Ondari	Kenya	Missionaries of Mill Hill	21/11 – Kembong (Cameroon)
40.	Rev. John Njoroge Muhia	Kenya	Diocesan	10/12 - Kikuyu (Kenya)

Religious state

Priests 35

30 Diocesan; 2 Jesuits (SJ); 1 Josephite; 1 Missionary S. Famiglia (MSF); 1 Missionary of Mill Hill (MHM).

Seminarians 1

Laypeople 4

Countries of origin

Africa 22

6 Nigeria, 5 Republic Central African, 3 Kenya, 3 D.R.Congo, 1 Congo, 2 Cameroon, 1 Malawi, 1 Ivory Coast.

America 14

7 Mexico, 2 Nicaragua, 2 Ecuador, 1 Colombia, 1 Venezuela, 1 El Salvador.

Asia 3

2 Philippines, 1 India.

Europe 1

1 Spain.

Places of death

Africa 21

6 Nigeria, 5 Republic Central African, 3 Cameroon, 3 D.R. Congo, 1 South Sudan, 1 Malawi,
1 Ivory Coast, 1 Kenya.

America 15

7 Mexico, 2 Nicaragua, 2 Colombia, 1 Venezuela, 1 Ecuador, 1 Perù, 1 El Salvador.

Asia 3

2 Philippines, 1 India.

Europe 1

1 Germany.

THE PASTORAL WORKERS KILLED FROM 1980 TO 2017

Vatican City (Fides Agency) – According to the data in possession of the Fides Agency, in the decade **1980-1989 115 Spain** have lost their lives through violence. Such a number however is doubtlessly low because it refers only to the known cases and of which news has been had.

The summary chart of the years **1990-2000** presents a total of **604 Spain killed**, always according to our information. The number is noticeably higher with respect to the previous decade, however the following factors must also be taken into consideration: the genocide in Rwanda (1994) which caused at least 248 victims among ecclesiastic personnel; the greater speed of mass media in diffusing the news even from faraway places; the calculation which no longer includes only the Spain *ad gentes* in the strict sense, but all ecclesiastic personnel killed in a violent way or who has sacrificed their life aware of the risk they were running, although not abandoning the persons who were entrusted to them.

In the years **2001-2017** the total number of pastoral workers killed is **416**.

YEAR	TOT	BIS	PRI	DEA	BRO	REL	SEM	ICL	CAT	LAY	VOL
1990	17		10			7					
1991	19	1	14		1	3					
1992	21		6		2	13					
1993	21	1C+1	13			4	1	1			
1994	26		20		1	4	1				
1994*	248	3	103		47	65		30			
1995	33		18	1	3	9				2	
1996	48	3	19		8	13	1	2	1	1(ct)	
1997	68	1	19		1	7	40				
1998	40	1	13		5	17	4				
1999	32		17			9	4		2		
2000	31		19			7	3	1			1
2001	33		25			5	1	1		1	
2002	25	1	18		1	2	2	1			
2003	29	1	20		1		3			2	2
2004	16		12			1				3	
2005	25	1	18		2	3				1	
2006	24		17		1	3				2	1
2007	21		15	3	1	1	1				
2008	20	1	16		1					2	
2009	37		30			2	2			3	
2010	25	1	17		1	1	2			3	
2011	26		18			4				4	
2012	13		11			1				1	
2013	23		20			1				2	
2014	26		17		1	6	1			1	

2015	22		13			4				5	
2016	28		14			9	1			4	
2017	23		13		1	1				8	

* = Data referring only to the Rwandan genocide.

BIS: bishops; C: cardinals; PRI: Priests Diocesan e religious; DEA: deacons; BRO: religious not Priests; REL: female religious; SEM: seminarians; ICL: members of institutes of consecrated life; CAT: catechists; LAY: laypeople; VOL: volunteers; ct: catechumen.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MOST RECENT YEARS: www.fides.org

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