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OVERALL WORLD PICTURE

VATICAN - WORLD MISSION DAY - CATHOLIC CHURCH STATISTICS 2016

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – As every year, in view of World Mission Day, which this year celebrates its 90th anniversary on Sunday, October 23, Fides News Service offers some statistics chosen to give a panorama of the missionary Church all over the world. The tables are taken from the latest edition of the “Church’s Book of Statistics” published (updated to 31 December 2014) regarding members of the Church, church structures, healthcare, welfare and education. Please note that variations, increase or decrease, emerging from our own comparison with last year's figures, are marked increase + or decrease – in brackets

World population

To 31 December 2014 the world population was **7.160.739.000** with an increase of **66.941.000** units compared with the previous year. Population growth was registered on every continent above, except Europe: increases were registered above all in Asia (+ 37.349.000) and Africa (+ 23.000.000) followed by America (+ 8.657.000) and Oceania (+ 649.000). Decrease in Europe (- 2.714.000).

Catholics

On the same date Catholics in the world numbered **1,272,281,000** units with an overall increase of **18.355.000** more than the previous year. The increase affects all continents, except Europe. Increases were registered above all in Africa (+8.535.000) and in America (+ 6.642.000) followed by Asia (+ 3.027.000), and Oceania (+ 208.000). Decrease in Europe (- 57.000). The world percentage of Catholics increased by 0.09 %, settling at **17.77%**. By continent: increases were registered in Africa (+ 0.38), America (+ 0.12), Asia (+ 0.05), Europe (+ 0.14) and Oceania (+ 0.09).

Persons and Catholics per priest

This year the number of persons per priest in the world increased by 130 units, average **13,882**. The distribution by continent: increase in America (+ 79); Europe (+ 41) and Oceania (+ 289); decrease in Africa (- 125); Asia (- 1.100).

The number of Catholics per priest in the world increased by 41 units, average **3.060**. There are increases in Africa (+ 73), America (+ 59); Europe (+ 22) and Oceania (+ 83); decrease in Asia (-27).

Ecclesiastical circumscriptions and mission stations

The number of ecclesiastical circumscriptions are 9 more than the previous year to **2,998** with new circumscriptions created in: Africa (+1), America (+3), Asia (+3), Europe (+2). Oceania unvaried.

Mission stations with a resident priest number **1,864** (7 less than in the previous year) and increases registered in Africa (+39) and Europe (+ 2). Decreases in America (- 35), Asia (- 8) and Oceania (- 5).

Mission Stations without a resident priest increased in number by 2.703 units, to **136.572**. Compared to the previous year, increase is registered in Africa (+1.151), America (+ 2.891), and Oceania (+ 115). The number dropped in Asia (- 1.452) and Europe (- 2).

Bishops

The total number of Bishops in the world increased by 64 units, to **5,237**. Contrary to previous

years where Diocesan Bishops increased in numbers, while Religious Bishops decreased, this year they both increased. Diocesan Bishops number **3,992** (47 more), while Religious Bishops number **1,245** (17 more). The increase in diocesan Bishops is registered in all continents except Oceania (-1): in America (+ 20); Asia (+ 9), Africa (+1) and Europe (+ 18). The number of religious Bishops increased on every continent: Africa (+5), America (+2), Asia (+3), Europe (+6), Oceania (+1).

Priests

The total number of priests in the world increased by 444 units, to **415.792**. The only continents which registered a decrease was again Europe (- 2.564) and a slight decrease in America (-123) and Oceania (- 86), whereas figures grew in Africa (+ 1.089) and Asia (+2.128). Diocesan priests increased by 765 units, reaching a total of **281.297** with increases in Africa (+ 1.023); America (+ 810) and Asia (+ 848). A drop in Europe (- 1.914) and Oceania (- 2). The number of Religious priests decreased by 321 units to a total **134.495**. Increases were registered as in recent years in Africa (+ 66) and Asia (+ 1.280), whereas numbers dropped in America (- 933), Europe (- 650) and Oceania (- 84).

Permanent Deacons

Permanent deacons in the world increased by 1,371 units to **44.566**. The highest increase was registered again in America (+ 965) and in Europe (+ 311) and an increase in Africa (+ 25), Asia (+65) and Oceania (+5).

Permanent Diocesan deacons in the world are **43.954**, with an overall increase of 1.304 units. They increased on every continent: Africa (+8), America (+ 971), Asia (+36), Europe (+ 285) and Oceania (+ 4).

Religious permanent deacons number **612**, increased by 67 units compared to the previous year, with increases in Africa (+17), Asia (+ 29), Europe (+ 26) and Oceania (+1). The only decrease was registered in America (- 6).

Men and women religious

The number of non-religious priests decreased by 694 units to **54.559**. Situation: increase in Africa (+ 331) and Asia (+ 66), while a decrease was registered in America (- 362), Europe (- 653) and Oceania (- 76).

Even this year there is an overall decrease in the number of women religious by 10.846 units to **682.729**. An increase was registered in Africa (+ 725) and Asia (+ 604), decrease in America (- 4.242), Europe (- 7.733) and Oceania (- 200).

Members of secular institutes, male and female

Members of male secular institutes number **654** with an overall decrease of 58 units. At a continental level there is an increase only in Africa (+ 2) while a decrease was registered in America (- 13), Asia (- 16), Europe (-31), Oceania unvaried.

The members of female secular institutes increased this year, by 243 units to a total of **24.198** members. Increase in Asia (+ 44) and Europe (+ 515) while a decrease was registered in Africa (- 7), America (- 306) and Oceania (- 3).

Lay missionaries and catechists

The number of lay missionaries in the world is **368.520** units, with an overall increase of 841 units. Numbers increase in Africa (+9), Europe (+ 6.806) and Oceania (+ 41). Decrease was registered in America (- 5.596) and Asia (- 419)

Catechists in the world increased by 107.200 units to a total of **3.264.768**. A significant increase was registered in Africa (+ 103.084), Asia (+ 6.862) and a slight increase in Oceania (+ 271). Decrease in America (- 2.814) and Europe (- 203).

Major seminarians

The number of major seminarians, diocesan and religious decreased this year, they are globally 1.312 units, reaching a total of **116.939**. Increases occurred only in Africa (+ 636), while even this year a decrease in America (- 676), Asia (- 635), Europe (-629) and Oceania (-8).

Major diocesan seminarians number **70.301** (- 1.236 less than the previous year) and Religious major seminarians **46.638** (- 76). Diocesan seminarians increased only in Africa (+ 222), while decreases are in America (- 595), Asia (- 373), Europe (-471) and Oceania (- 20).

Religious Seminarians decreased in three continents: America (- 82), Asia (- 262) and Europe (- 158). Increases in Africa (+ 414) and Oceania (+ 12).

Minor seminarians

The number of minor seminarians, diocesan and religious increased by 1.014 units to **102.942**. Overall increase on all continents, except Oceania (- 42): Africa (+ 487), America (+ 1), Asia (+ 174) and Europe (+ 394).

Minor diocesan seminarians number **78.489** (- 67), whereas religious seminarians number **24.453** (+ 1.081). The number of diocesan minor seminarians decreased in America (- 47), Asia (- 668) and Oceania (- 37). Increases in Africa (+ 291) and Europe (+ 394).

Religious minor seminarians increased in number in Africa (+ 196), America (+ 48) and Asia (+ 842) and decreased in Oceania (- 5) and unvaried in Europe.

Catholic schools and Education

In the field of education, the Catholic Church runs 73.580 kindergartens with 7.043.634 pupils; 96.283 primary schools with 33.516.860 pupils; 46.339 secondary schools with 19.760.924 pupils. The Church also cares for 2.477.636 high school pupils, and 2.719.643 university students.

Catholic charity and healthcare centres

Charity and healthcare centres run in the world by the Church include: 5.158 hospitals, most of them in America (1.501) and Africa (1.221); 16.523 dispensaries, mainly in Africa (5.230); America (4.667) and Asia (3.584); 612 Care Homes for people with Leprosy, mainly in Asia (313) and Africa (174); 15.679 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability, mainly in Europe (8.304) and America (3.726); 9.492 orphanages, mainly in Asia (3.859); 12.637 creches, mainly in Asia (3.422) and America (3.477); 14.576 marriage counselling centres, mainly in America (5.634) and Europe (5.670); 3.782 social rehabilitation centres and 37.601 other kinds of institutions.

Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions dependent on the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

The ecclesiastical Circumscriptions dependent on the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Cep) to 4 October 2016 are **1.108** with an decrease of 3 circumscriptions compared to last year. Most of the ecclesiastical circumscriptions are mainly in Africa (508) and in Asia (480). Followed by America (74) and Oceania (46).

STATISTICS

*Source: Church's Yearly Book of Statistics latest edition
elaborated by Fides
in brackets variations compared with previous year: increase (+) decrease(-)*

WORLD POPULATION - CATHOLICS

Continent	Population	Catholics	Percentage
Africa	1.112.948.000 (+ 23.000.000)	214.759.000 (+ 8.535.000)	19,30 % (+0,38)
America	973.493.000 (+ 8.657.000)	620.512.000 (+ 6.642.000)	63,74 % (+ 0,12)
Asia	4.319.384.000 (+ 37.349.000)	139.829.000 (+ 3.027.000)	3,24 % (+ 0,05)
Europe	716.281.000 (- 2.714.000)	287.096.000 (- 57.000)	40,08 % (+ 0,14)
Oceania	38.633.000 (+ 649.000)	10.085.000 (+ 208.000)	26,12 % (+ 0,09)
Total	7.160.739.000 (+ 66.941.000)	1.272.281.000 (+18.355.000)	17,77% (+ 0,09)

PERSONS/CATHOLICS PER PRIEST

Continent	persons per priest	Catholics per priest
Africa	25.934 (- 125)	5.004 (+73)
America	7.915 (+ 79)	5.045 (+59)
Asia	46.071 (- 1.100)	2.198 (- 27)
Europe	3.944 (+ 41)	1.581 (+ 22)
Oceania	8.333 (+ 289)	2.175 (+ 83)
Totale	13.882 (+ 130)	3.060 (+ 41)

ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION – MISSION STATIONS

Continenti	Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions	Mission Stations with resident priest	Mission Stations without resident priest
Africa	537 (+ 1)	593 (+ 39)	76.656 (+ 1.151)
America	1.087 (+ 3)	414 (- 35)	19.126 (+ 2.891)
Asia	537 (+ 3)	755 (- 8)	39.929 (- 1.452)
Europe	756 (+ 2)	70 (+ 2)	103 (- 2)
Oceania	81 (=)	32 (- 5)	758 (+115)
Total	2.998 (+ 9)	1.864 (- 7)	136.572 (+ 2.703)

BISHOPS

Continent	Total Bishops	Diocesan Bishops	Religious Bishops
Africa	711 (+ 6)	510 (+ 1)	201 (+ 5)
America	1.958 (+ 22)	1.405 (+ 20)	553 (+ 2)
Asia	792 (+ 12)	593 (+ 9)	199 (+ 3)
Europe	1.645 (+ 24)	1.401 (+ 18)	244 (+ 6)
Oceania	131 (=)	83 (- 1)	48 (+ 1)
Total	5.237 (+ 64)	3.992 (+ 47)	1.245 (+ 17)

PRIESTS

Continent	Total Priests	Diocesan priests	Religious priests
Africa	42.915 (+ 1.089)	29.702 (+ 1.023)	13.213 (+ 66)
America	122.989 (- 123)	84.213 (+ 810)	38.776 (- 933)
Asia	63.610 (+ 2.128)	36.479 (+ 848)	27.131 (+ 1.280)
Europe	181.642 (- 2.564)	128.155 (- 1.914)	53.487 (- 650)
Oceania	4.636 (- 86)	2.748 (- 2)	1.888 (- 84)
Total	415.792 (+ 444)	281.297 (+ 765)	134.495 (- 321)

PERMANENT DEACONS

Continent	Totale Permanent deacons	Diocesan Permanent deacons	Religious Permanent deacons
Africa	452 (+ 25)	400 (+ 8)	52 (+ 17)
America	28.907 (+ 965)	28.727 (+ 971)	180 (- 6)
Asia	303 (+ 65)	237 (+ 36)	66 (+ 29)
Europe	14.510 (+ 311)	14.201 (+ 285)	309 (+ 26)
Oceania	394 (+ 5)	389 (+ 4)	5 (+ 1)
Total	44.566 (+ 1.371)	43.954 (+ 1.304)	612 (+ 67)

BROTHERS AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Continent	Brothers	Women Religious
Africa	8.758 (+ 331)	70.608 (+ 725)
America	15.636 (- 362)	177.605 (- 4.242)
Asia	11.921 (+ 66)	170.366 (+ 604)
Europe	16.788 (- 653)	256.137 (- 7.733)
Oceania	1.456 (- 76)	8.013 (- 200)
Total	54.559 (- 694)	682.729 (- 10.846)

MEMBERS OF SECULAR INSTITUTES

Continent	Members of secular institutes Male	Members of secular institutes Female
Africa	81 (+ 2)	910 (- 7)
America	226 (- 13)	5.399 (- 306)
Asia	48 (- 16)	1.886 (+ 44)
Europe	298 (- 31)	15.963 (+ 515)
Oceania	1 (=)	40 (- 3)
Total	654 (- 58)	24.198 (+ 243)

LAY MISSIONARIES AND CATECHISTS

Continent	Lay missionaries	Catechists
Africa	7.235 (+ 9)	506.078 (+ 103.084)
America	314.890 (- 5.596)	1.819.202 (- 2.814)
Asia	31.915 (- 419)	377.111 (+ 6.862)
Europe	14.350 (+ 6.806)	547.973 (- 203)
Oceania	130 (+ 41)	14.404 (+ 271)
Total	368.520 (+ 841)	3.264.768 (+ 107.200)

MAJOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

Continent	Total Major Seminarians	Diocesan Major seminarians	Religious Major seminarians
Africa	28.528 (+ 636)	19.173 (+ 222)	9.355 (+ 414)
America	33.985 (- 676)	22.897 (- 594)	11.088 (- 82)
Asia	34.469 (- 635)	15.958 (- 373)	18.511 (- 262)
Europe	18.945 (- 629)	11.649 (- 471)	7.296 (- 158)
Oceania	1.012 (- 8)	624 (- 20)	388 (+ 12)
Total	116.939 (- 1.312)	70.301 (- 1.236)	46.638 (- 76)

MINOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

Continent	Total Minor seminarians	Diocesan Minor seminarians	Religious Minor seminarians
Africa	53.339 (+ 487)	46.593 (+ 291)	6.746 (+ 196)
America	14.008 (+ 1)	10.096 (- 47)	3.912 (+ 48)
Asia	25.646 (+ 174)	15.933 (- 668)	9.713 (+ 842)
Europe	9.747 (+ 394)	5.726 (+ 394)	4.021 (=)
Oceania	202 (- 42)	141 (- 37)	61 (- 5)
Total	102.942 (+ 1.014)	78.489 (- 67)	24.453 (+ 1.081)

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	INFANT schools	INFANT pupils	PRIMARY schools	PRIMARY pupils	SECONDARY schools	SECONDARY pupils	High school pupils	UNIVERSIT pupils
Africa	18.200	1.688.564	38.162	17.013.610	13.564	5.675.930	94.973	107.601
America	16.408	1.455.721	21.915	6.414.488	11.516	4.229.228	791.626	1.820.117
Asia	13.788	1.889.319	16.078	6.334.576	10.898	5.749.826	1.297.057	398.603
Europe	23.940	1.954.736	16.158	3.040.311	9.664	3.670.962	284.318	363.170
Oceania	1.244	55.294	3.970	713.875	697	434.978	9.662	30.152
Total	73.580	7.043.634	96.283	33.516.860	46.339	19.760.924	2.477.636	2.719.643

HOSPITALS/CLINICS, CHARITY WORK, WELFARE

Continent	Hospital	Dispensar.	Leprosy centres	Homes for the elderly, chronically ill, disabled	Orphanages	Nursery schools	Mariage Counsel. centres	Catholic schools	Other institutes
Africa	1.221	5.230	174	648	1.120	2.996	2.088	213	2.044
America	1.501	4.667	43	3.726	2.227	3.477	5.634	1.603	15.363
Asia	1.159	3.584	313	2.564	3.859	3.422	928	696	4.391
Europe	1.042	2.485	81	8.304	2.173	2.606	5.670	1.158	15.624

Oceania	235	557	1	437	113	136	256	112	179
Total	5.158	16.523	612	15.679	9.492	12.637	14.576	3.782	37.601

ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS DEPENDENT ON THE CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – The Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples is at the service of the Holy Father the Pope as the “central body for promoting, directing and co-ordinating” the activity of evangelisation of peoples and missionary cooperation throughout the world (cfr, Ad gentes, 29; Pastor bonus, 85),

The Church down through the centuries, in obedience to the command received from Christ, has always proclaimed the Gospel to all peoples. In order to fulfil her missionary duty, in the face of growing demand for evangelisation in the 16th century, the Church set up special structures. In 1622 Pope Gregory XV instituted the “Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide”, with the task of “preaching and proclaiming the Gospel and Catholic doctrine in all missions”, giving the Congregation decision making powers to guarantee rapidity and effectiveness. In 1627 Pope Urban VIII founded the Urban College of Propaganda Fide for the formation of secular clergy for the mission and the Tipografia Poliglotta (Printing Press) to print documents and books in many different languages.

With the apostolic Constitution Pastor bonus, Pope John Paul II confirmed the general principle of jurisdiction laid down by the Second Vatican Council (cfr. Ad gentes, 29), which states: “The Congregation has the task of directing and co-ordinating activity for the evangelisation of peoples and for missionary cooperation” (85).

The main duties of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples include: ensure fair distribution of missionaries; formation for local secular clergy and catechists; involve Religious Institutes, Mission Societies, and local Churches in the task of evangelising mission territories.

The CEP is responsible for a total number of 1.108 Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions (to 4 October 2016)

Continent	AD	D	AT	VA	PA	M	AA	OM	TOTALE
Africa	92	388	-	22	2	1	-	3	508
America	7	21	-	43	1	2	-	-	74
Asia	76	342	1	17	34	3	5	2	480
Oceania	11	31	-	-	1	2	-	1	46
TOTAL	186	782	1	82	38	8	5	6	1.108

KEY: Archdiocese (AD), Diocese (D), Territorial Abbacy (AT), Apostolic Vicariate (VA), Apostolic Prefecture (PA), Apostolic administration (AA), Mission sui juris (M), Military Ordinariate (OM).

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