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OVERALL WORLD PICTURE

VATICAN - WORLD MISSION DAY - CATHOLIC CHURCH STATISTICS 2014

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – As every year, in view of World Mission Day, this year celebrated on Sunday, October 19, 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 2012) 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 2012 the world population was 7,023,377,000 with an increase of 90,067,000 units compared with the previous year. Population growth was registered on every continent above all in Asia (+ 51,473,000) and Africa (+ 26,664,000) followed by America (+ 8,639,000); Europe (+ 2,977,000) and Oceania (+ 314,000).

Catholics

On the same date Catholics in the world numbered 1,228,621,000 units with an overall increase of 15.030.000 more than the previous year. The increase affects all continents especially America (+ 6,509,000) and Africa (+4.920,000) followed by Asia (+ 2,403,000); Europe (+ 1,122,000) and Oceania (+ 76,000).

The world percentage of Catholics slightly decreased by 0.01 %, settling at 17.49%. By continent: increases were registered in America (+ 0.12) and Asia (+ 0.01) while decrease was shown in Europe (-0.01) and Oceania (- 0.02), stable in Africa

Persons and Catholics per priest

This year the number of persons per priest in the world increased by 178 units, average 13,572. The distribution by continent: increase in America (+ 76); Europe (+ 63) and Oceania (+ 199); decrease in Africa (- 49); Asia (- 365).

The number of Catholics per priest in the world increased by 29 units, average 2,965. There are increases on every continent except Asia and Africa: America (+ 56); Europe (+ 17) and Oceania (+ 50); Asia (-12) and Africa (-11).

Ecclesiastical circumscriptions and mission stations

The number of ecclesiastical circumscriptions are 2 more than the previous year to 2,981 with new circumscriptions created in: Africa (+2); America (+1) and decrease in Asia (-1). Mission stations with a resident priest number 1,847 (65 more than in the previous year) and increases registered in America (+31), Asia (+51) and Oceania (+11). Decreases in Africa (-23) and Europe (-5). Mission Stations without a resident priest decreased in number by 658 units, to 130,795. Compared to the previous year, increase is registered in Africa (+1.152) and Asia (+433); whereas the number dropped in America (- 2,038); Europe (- 4) and Oceania (- 201).

Bishops

The total number of Bishops in the world increased by 1 unit, to 5,133. Overall Diocesan Bishops increase in numbers, while Religious Bishops decrease: Diocesan bishops number 3,917 (11 more than in the previous year); Religious Bishops number 1,216 (10 less). The increase in diocesan Bishops is registered in America (+ 13); Asia (+ 6); Europe (+ 11) and

Oceania (+ 2), whereas the number dropped in Africa (-2) and Europe (-8). The number of religious Bishops increased only in Europe (+4); whereas the number dropped in Africa (-2); America (-8); Asia (-3) and Oceania (-1).

Priests

The total number of priests in the world increased by 895 units, to 414,313. The only continents which registered a decrease was again Europe (- 1,375) America (- 90) and Oceania (-80), whereas figures grew in Africa (+ 1,076); and Asia (+ 1,364). Diocesan priests increased by 1,215 units, reaching a total of 279,561 with increases in Africa (+ 907); America (+ 387) and Asia (+ 596) and a drop in Europe (- 633) and Oceania (- 42). The number of Religious priests decreased by 320 units to a total 134,752. Increases were registered as in recent years in Africa (+ 169) and Asia (+ 768), whereas numbers dropped in America (- 477), Europe (- 742) and Oceania (- 38).

Permanent Deacons

Permanent deacons in the world increased by 1,190 units to 42,104. The highest increase was registered again in America (+ 938) and in Europe (+ 307), whereas the number dropped in Africa (- 2), Asia (-37) and Oceania (-16).

Permanent Diocesan deacons in the world are 41,566, with an overall increase of 1.296 units. They increased in: America (+ 965); Europe (+ 348) and Oceania (+ 11), whereas the number dropped in Africa (-2) and Asia (-26).

Religious permanent deacons number 538, decreased by 106 units compared to the previous year, with decreases on every continent: America (-27), Asia (- 11), Europe (- 41), Oceania (- 27). Africa unvaried.

Men and women religious

The number of non-religious priests increased by 229 units to 55,314. Situation: increase in Africa (+ 53), Asia (+ 138), Europe (+ 137) and Oceania (+ 81), the only decrease was registered in America (- 180). An overall decrease in the number of women religious (- 10,677), today 702,529. An increase was registered in Africa (+ 727) and Asia (+ 2,167), decrease in America (- 4,288), Europe (- 9,051) and Oceania (- 232).

Members of secular institutes, male and female

Members of male secular institutes number 711 with an overall increase of 58 units. At a continental level there is an increase on all continents: Africa (+ 2), America (+ 28), Asia (+21), Europe (+ 7), Oceania unvaried.

The members of female secular institutes increased this year, by 138 units to a total of 24,702 members. Increase in Africa (+ 37), America (+ 225) and Asia (+ 74) while a decrease was registered in Europe (- 196) and Oceania (- 2).

Lay missionaries and catechists

The number of lay missionaries in the world is 362,488 units, with an overall decrease of 19.234 units. Numbers increase in: Asia (+ 324) and Europe (+ 71). Numbers decrease in Africa (- 578), America (+ 18,794) and Oceania (- 257).

Catechists in the world increased by 45,408 units to a total of 3,170,643. The only increase was in Asia (+ 61.913), but numbers dropped in: Africa (+ 7,254), America (- 4,090), Europe (- 4,341) and Oceania (- 820).

Major seminarians

The number of major seminarians, diocesan and religious decreased this year, they are globally 565 units, reaching a total of 120.051. Increases, as occurred in previous years, in Africa (+ 245) and Asia (+ 179) and this year even in Oceania (+ 3); while even this year a decrease in America (- 624) and Europe (-368).

Major diocesan seminarians number 71,989 (- 288 less than the previous year) and Religious major seminarians 48,062 (- 277). Diocesan seminarians increased only in Africa (+ 330), decreases are in America (- 278), Asia (- 11), Europe (-306) and Oceania (- 23).

Religious Seminarians increased in Asia (+190) and Oceania (+ 26), while they decreased in Africa (- 85), America (- 346) and Europe (- 62).

Minor seminarians

The number of minor seminarians, diocesan and religious increased by 173 units to 102,703. Overall increase in America (+68) and Asia (+381) and decreased in Africa (- 161), Europe (- 97) and Oceania (- 18).

Minor diocesan seminarians number 79,954 (+ 604), whereas religious seminarians number 22,749 (- 431). The number of diocesan minor seminarians has decreased in Europe (- 211) and Oceania (- 13), but have increased in Africa (+ 278), America (+196), Asia (+ 354). Religious minor seminarians increased in number in Asia (+ 27) and Europe (+114) and decreased in Africa (- 439), America (- 128) and Oceania (- 5).

Catholic schools and Education

In the field of education, the Catholic Church runs 71,188 kindergartens with 6,728,670 pupils; 95,246 primary schools with 32,299,669 pupils; 43,783 secondary schools with 18,869,237 pupils. The Church also cares for 2,381,337 high school pupils, and 3,103,072 university students.

Catholic charity and healthcare centres

Charity and healthcare centres run in the world by the Church are 115,352 and include: 5,167 hospitals (- 268 less than the previous year) most of them in America (1,493) and Africa (1,298); 17,322 dispensaries (- 202) mainly in Africa (5,256); America (5,137) and Asia (3,760); 648 Care Homes for people with Leprosy (+81) mainly in Asia (322) and Africa (229); 15,699 (- 85) Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability mainly in Europe (8,200) and America (3,815); 10,124 orphanages (- 410), mainly in Asia (3,980); 11,596 (+4) creches; 14,744 marriage counselling centres (- 264) mainly in America (5,636) and Europe (6,173); 3.663 social rehabilitation centres and 36.389 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 8 October 2014 are 1,109 with an increase of 1 circumscription (in Africa) compared to the previous year. Most of the ecclesiastical circumscriptions are mainly in Africa (507) and in Asia (476). Followed by America (80) 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	1.066.140.000 (+ 26.644.000)	198.587.000 (+ 4.920.000)	18,63 % (=)
America	946.971.000 (+ 8.639.000)	598.819.000 (+ 6.509.000)	63,24 % (+ 0,12)
Asia	4.254.259.000 (+ 51.473.000)	134.641.000 (+ 2.403.000)	3,16 % (+ 0,01)
Europe	718.706.000 (+ 2.977.000)	286.868.000 (+ 1.122.000)	39,91 % (- 0,01)
Oceania	37.301.000 (+ 314.000)	9.706.000 (+ 76.000)	26,04 % (+ 0,02)
Total	7.023.377.000 (+ 90.067.000)	1.228.621.000 (+15.030.000)	17,49% (+ 0,01)

PERSONS/CATHOLICS PER PRIEST

Continent	persons per priest	Catholics per priest
Africa	26.565 (- 49)	4.948 (- 11)
America	7.704 (+ 76)	4.871 (+ 56)
Asia	47.531 (- 365)	2.242 (- 12)
Europe	3.854 (+ 63)	1.538 (+ 17)
Oceania	7.897 (+ 199)	2.054 (+ 50)
Totale	13.572 (+ 178)	2.965 (+ 29)

ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION – MISSION STATIONS

Continenti	Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions	Mission Stations with resident priest	Mission Stations without resident priest
Africa	534 (+ 2)	528 (- 23)	73.936 (+ 1.152)
America	1.083 (+ 1)	498 (+ 31)	15.433 (- 2.038)
Asia	533 (- 1)	705 (+ 51)	40.797 (+ 433)
Europe	751 (=)	81 (- 5)	107 (- 4)
Oceania	80 (=)	35 (+ 11)	522 (- 201)
Total	2.981 (+ 2)	1.847 (+ 65)	130.795 (- 658)

BISHOPS

Continent	Total Bishops	Diocesan Bishops	Religious Bishops
Africa	700 (- 4)	506 (- 2)	194 (- 2)
America	1.919 (+ 5)	1.369 (+ 13)	550 (- 8)
Asia	766 (+ 3)	576 (+ 6)	190 (- 3)
Europe	1.612 (- 4)	1.377 (- 8)	235 (+ 4)
Oceania	136 (+ 1)	89 (+ 2)	47 (- 1)
Total	5.133 (+ 1)	3.917 (+ 11)	1.216 (- 10)

PRIESTS

Continent	Total Priests	Diocesan priests	Religious priests
Africa	40.133 (+ 1.076)	27.493 (+ 907)	12.640 (+ 169)
America	122.924 (- 90)	82.864 (+ 387)	40.060 (- 477)
Asia	60.042 (+ 1.364)	34.731 (+ 596)	25.311 (+ 768)
Europe	186.489 (- 1.375)	131.742 (- 633)	54.747 (- 742)
Oceania	4.725 (- 80)	2.771 (- 42)	1.994 (- 38)
Total	414.313 (+ 895)	279.561 (+ 1.215)	134.752 (- 320)

PERMANENT DEACONS

Continent	Totale Permanent deacons	Diocesan Permanent deacons	Religious Permanent deacons
Africa	419 (- 2)	387 (- 2)	32 (=)
America	27.258 (+ 938)	27.096 (+ 965)	162 (- 27)
Asia	230 (- 37)	178 (- 26)	52 (- 11)
Europe	13.826 (+ 307)	13.535 (+ 348)	291 (- 41)
Oceania	371 (- 16)	370 (+ 11)	1 (- 27)
Total	42.104 (+ 1.190)	41.566 (+ 1.296)	538 (- 106)

BROTHERS AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Continent	Brothers	Women Religious
Africa	8.645 (+ 53)	68.590 (+ 727)
America	15.953 (- 180)	186.395 (- 4.288)
Asia	11.688 (+ 138)	169.590 (+ 2.167)
Europe	17.574 (+ 137)	269.532 (- 9.051)
Oceania	1.454 (+ 81)	8.422 (- 232)
Total	55.314 (+ 229)	702.529 (- 10.677)

MEMBERS OF SECULAR INSTITUTES

Continent	Members of secular institutes Male	Members of secular institutes Female
Africa	77 (+ 2)	851 (+ 37)
America	254 (+ 28)	5.975 (+ 225)
Asia	72 (+ 21)	1.839 (+74)
Europe	367 (+ 7)	15.993 (- 196)
Oceania	1 (=)	44 (- 2)
Total	771 (+ 58)	24.702 (+ 138)

LAY MISSIONARIES AND CATECHISTS

Continent	Lay missionaries	Catechists
Africa	7.195 (- 578)	393.580 (-7.254)
America	317.403 (+ 18.794)	1.846.107 (- 4.090)
Asia	31.344 (+ 324)	365.720 (+ 61.913)
Europe	6.456 (+ 71)	549.878 (- 4.341)
Oceania	90 (- 257)	15.358 (- 820)
Total	362.488 (- 19.234)	3.170.643 (+ 45.408)

MAJOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

Continent	Total Major Seminarians	Diocesan Major seminarians	Religious Major seminarians
Africa	27.728 (+ 245)	18.713 (+ 330)	9.015 (- 85)
America	35.841 (- 624)	23.998 (- 278)	11.843 (- 346)
Asia	35.476 (+ 179)	16.321 (- 11)	19.155 (+ 190)
Europe	19.928 (- 368)	12.274 (-306)	7.654 (- 62)
Oceania	1.078 (+ 3)	683 (- 23)	395 (+ 26)
Total	120.051 (- 565)	71.989 (- 288)	48.062 (- 277)

MINOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

Continent	Total Minor seminarians	Diocesan Minor seminarians	Religious Minor seminarians
Africa	53.085 (- 161)	47.295 (+ 278)	5.790 (- 439)
America	13.965 (+ 68)	10.307 (+ 196)	3.658 (- 128)
Asia	25.065 (+ 381)	16.074 (+ 354)	8.991 (+ 27)
Europe	10.353 (- 97)	6.096 (- 211)	4.257 (+ 114)
Oceania	235 (- 18)	182 (- 13)	53 (- 5)
Total	102.703 (+ 173)	79.954 (+ 604)	22.749 (- 431)

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	INFANT schools	INFANT pupils	PRIMARY schools	PRIMARY pupils	SECONDARY schools	SECONDARY pupils	High school pupils	UNIVERSIT pupils
Africa	14.711	1.444.069	36.613	16.472.059	12.060	5.241.057	83.298	177.395
America	17.052	1.382.068	23.195	6.521.866	10.965	3.738.541	740.940	2.210.730
Asia	14.064	1.875.272	16.097	5.675.312	10.450	5.801.336	1.275.864	416.918
Europe	23.959	1.954.799	15.884	2.939.700	9.633	3.660.559	273.428	277.691
Oceania	1.402	72.462	3.457	690.732	675	427.744	7.807	20.338
Total	71.188	6.728.670	95.246	32.299.669	43.783	18.869.237	2.381.337	3.103.072

HOSPITALS/CLINICS, CHARITY WORK, WELFARE

Continent	Hospital	Dispensar.	Leprosy centres	Homes for the elderly, chronically ill, disabled	Orphanages	Nursery schools	Marriage Counsel. centres	Catholic schools	Other institutes
Africa	1.298	5.256	229	632	1.398	2.099	1.728	223	2.556
America	1.493	5.137	72	3.815	2.418	3.661	5.636	1.551	15.111
Asia	1.137	3.760	322	2.520	3.980	3.441	933	581	4.751
Europe	1.039	2.637	21	8.200	2.194	2.285	6.173	1.141	13.752
Oceania	200	532	4	537	134	110	274	167	219
Total	5.167	17.322	648	15.699	10.124	11.596	14.744	3.663	36.389

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 1.109 Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions (to 8 October 2014)

Continent	AD	D	AT	VA	PA	M	AA	OM	TOTALE
Africa	91	387	-	22	2	1	-	3	507
America	7	27	-	43	1	2	-	-	80
Asia	76	338	1	17	34	3	5	2	476
Oceania	11	31	-	-	1	2	-	1	46
TOTAL	185	784	1	82	38	8	5	6	1109

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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