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**Special Feature for Mission Sunday 2015**

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## VATICAN - WORLD MISSION DAY - CATHOLIC CHURCH STATISTICS 2015

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – As every year, in view of World Mission Day, this year celebrated on Sunday, October 18, 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 2013) 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 2013 the world population was **7.093.798.000** with an increase of **70.421.000** units compared with the previous year. Population growth was registered on every continent above all in Asia (+ 27.776.000) and Africa (+ 23.808.000) followed by America (+ 17.865.000); Europe (+ 289.000) and Oceania (+ 683.000).

### Catholics

On the same date Catholics in the world numbered **1.253.926,000** units with an overall increase of **25.305.000** more than the previous year. The increase affects all continents especially America (+ 15.051.000) and Africa (+7.637.000) followed by Asia (+ 2.161.000); Europe (+ 285.000) and Oceania (+ 171.000).

The world percentage of Catholics increased by 0.09 %, settling at 17.68%. By continent: increases were registered in Africa (+ 0.29), America (+ 0.38), Asia (+ 0.03), Europe (+ 0.03). A slight decrease was shown in Oceania (- 0.01).

### Persons and Catholics per priest

This year the number of persons per priest in the world increased by 180 units, average **13.752**. The distribution by continent: increase in America (+ 132); Europe (+ 49) and Oceania (+ 147); decrease in Africa (- 506); Asia (- 360).

The number of Catholics per priest in the world increased by 54 units, average **3.019**. There are increases in America (+ 115); Europe (+ 21) and Oceania (+ 38); decrease in Asia (-17) and Africa (-17).

### Ecclesiastical circumscriptions and mission stations

The number of ecclesiastical circumscriptions are 8 more than the previous year to **2.989** with new circumscriptions created in: Africa (+2), America (+1), Asia (+1), Europe (+3) and Oceania (+1). Mission stations with a resident priest number **1.871** (24 more than in the previous year) and increases registered in Africa (+26), Asia (+58) and Oceania (+2). Decreases in America (-49) and Europe (-13). Mission Stations without a resident priest increased in number by 3.074 units, to **133.869**. Compared to the previous year, increase is registered in Africa (+1.569), America (+802), Asia (+584) and Oceania (+ 121). The number dropped only in Europe (- 2).

### Bishops

The total number of Bishops in the world increased by 40 units, to **5.173**. Contrary to previous years where Diocesan Bishops increased in numbers, while Religious Bishops decreased, this year they both increased. Diocesan Bishops number **3.945** (28 more than in the previous year), while Religious Bishops number **1.228** (12 more). The increase in diocesan Bishops is

registered in all continents except Oceania (-5): in America (+ 16); Asia (+ 8), Africa (+3) and Europe (+ 6). The number of religious Bishops increased on every continent: Africa (+2), America (+1), Asia (+6), Europe (+3), while Oceania unvaried.

### **Priests**

The total number of priests in the world increased by 1.035 units, to **415.348**. The only continents which registered a decrease was again Europe (- 2.283) and a slight decrease in Oceania (- 3), whereas figures grew in Africa (+ 1.693), America (+ 188) and Asia (+1.440). Diocesan priests increased by 917 units, reaching a total of **280.532** with increases in Africa (+ 1.186); America (+ 539) and Asia (+ 900) and Oceania (+19). A drop in Europe (- 1.673) The number of Religious priests increased by 64 units to a total **134,816**. Increases were registered as in recent years in Africa (+ 507) and Asia (+ 540), whereas numbers dropped in America (- 351), Europe (- 610) and Oceania (- 22).

### **Permanent Deacons**

Permanent deacons in the world increased by 1,091 units to **43.195**. The highest increase was registered again in America (+ 684) and in Europe (+ 373) and an increase in Africa (+ 8), Asia (+8) and Oceania (+18).

Permanent Diocesan deacons in the world are **42.650**, with an overall increase of 1.084 units. They increased on every continent: Africa (+5), America (+ 660), Asia (+23), Europe (+ 381) and Oceania (+ 15).

Religious permanent deacons number **545**, increased by 7 units compared to the previous year, with increases on every continent: Africa (+3), America (+ 24) and Oceania (+3) and a decrease in Asia (-15) and Europe (- 8).

### **Men and women religious**

The number of non-religious priests decreased by 61 units to **55.253**. Situation: increase in America (+ 45), Asia (+ 167) and Oceania (+ 78), decrease was registered in Africa (-218) and Europe (-133). Even this year there is an overall decrease in the number of women religious by 8.954 units to **693.575**. An increase was registered in Africa (+ 1.293) and Asia (+ 172), decrease in America (- 4.548), Europe (- 5.662) and Oceania (- 209).

### **Members of secular institutes, male and female**

Members of male secular institutes number 712 with an overall decrease of 59 units. At a continental level there is an increase only in Africa (+ 2) while a decrease was registered in America (- 15), Asia (- 8), Europe (-38), Oceania unvaried.

The members of female secular institutes decreased this year, by 747 units to a total of **23.955** members. Increase in Africa (+ 66) and Asia (+ 3) while a decrease was registered in America (-270), Europe (- 545) and Oceania (- 1).

### **Lay missionaries and catechists**

The number of lay missionaries in the world is **367.679** units, with an overall increase of 5.191 units. Numbers increase on every continent: Africa (+31), America (+ 3.083), Asia (+ 900) and Europe (+ 1.088). A slight decrease was registered in Oceania (- 1).

Catechists in the world decreased by 13.075 units to a total of **3.157.568**. A significant increase was registered in Africa (+ 9.414) and Asia (+ 4.529), but numbers dropped in: America (- 24.091), Europe (- 1.072) and Oceania (- 1.225).

### **Major seminarians**

The number of major seminarians, diocesan and religious decreased this year, they are globally 1.800 units, reaching a total of **118.251**. Increases occurred only in Africa (+ 164), while even this year a decrease in America (- 1.180), Asia (- 372), Europe (-354) and Oceania (-58).

Major diocesan seminarians number **71.537** (- 452 less than the previous year) and Religious major seminarians **46.714** (- 1.348). Diocesan seminarians increased in Africa (+ 238) and Asia (+10), while decreases are in America (- 507), Europe (-154) and Oceania (- 39).

Religious Seminarians decreased on every continent: in Africa (- 74), America (- 673), Asia (+382), Europe (- 200) and Oceania (- 19).

### **Minor seminarians**

The number of minor seminarians, diocesan and religious decreased by 775 units to **101.928**. Overall increase in America (+42), Asia (+407) and Oceania (+9), decreased in Africa (- 233) and Europe (- 1.000).

Minor diocesan seminarians number **78.556** (- 1.398), whereas religious seminarians number **23.372** (+623). The number of diocesan minor seminarians has decreased on every continent except Asia (+527): Africa (- 933), America (- 164), Europe (- 764), Oceania (- 4). Religious minor seminarians increased in number in Africa (+ 760), America (+ 206) and Oceania (+13) and decreased in Asia (- 120) and Europe (- 236).

### **Catholic schools and Education**

In the field of education, the Catholic Church runs 73.263 kindergartens with 6.963.669 pupils; 96.822 primary schools with 32.254.204 pupils; 45.699 secondary schools with 19.407.417 pupils. The Church also cares for 2.309.797 high school pupils, and 2.727.940 university students.

### **Catholic charity and healthcare centres**

Charity and healthcare centres run in the world by the Church include: 5.034 hospitals, most of them in America (1.495) and Africa (1.167); 16.627 dispensaries, mainly in Africa (5.252); America (4.751) and Asia (3.558); 611 Care Homes for people with Leprosy, mainly in Asia (328) and Africa (201); 15.518 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability, mainly in Europe (8.158) and America (3.679); 9.770 orphanages, mainly in Asia (3.944); 12.082 creches, mainly in Asia (3.498) and America (3.412); 14.391 marriage counselling centres, mainly in America (5.747) and Europe (5.715); 3.896 social rehabilitation centres and 38.256 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 13 October 2015 are **1.111** with an increase of 2 circumscription (in Asia) compared to the previous year. Most of the ecclesiastical circumscriptions are mainly in Africa (507) and in Asia (478). 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             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 1.089.948.000 (+ 23.808.000)        | 206.224.000 (+ 7.637.000)          | 18,92 % (+0,29)        |
| <b>America</b> | 964.836.000 (+ 17.865.000)          | 613.870.000 (+ 15.051.000)         | 63,62 % (+ 0,38)       |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 4.282.035.000 (+ 27.776.000)        | 136.802.000 (+ 2.161.000)          | 3,19 % (+ 0,03)        |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 718.995.000 (+ 289.000)             | 287.153.000 (+ 285.000)            | 39,94 % (- 0,03)       |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 37.984.000 (+ 683.000)              | 9.877.000 (+ 171.000)              | 26,03 % (+ 0,01)       |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>7.093.798.000 (+ 70.421.000)</b> | <b>1.253.926.000 (+25.305.000)</b> | <b>17,68% (+ 0,19)</b> |

### PERSONS/CATHOLICS PER PRIEST

| Continent      | persons per priest    | Catholics per priest |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 26.059 (- 506)        | 4.931 (- 17)         |
| <b>America</b> | 7.836 (+ 132)         | 4.986 (+ 115)        |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 47.171 (- 360)        | 2.225 (- 17)         |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 3.903 (+ 49)          | 1.559 (+ 21)         |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 8.044 (+ 147)         | 2.092 (+ 38)         |
| <b>Totale</b>  | <b>13.752 (+ 180)</b> | <b>3.019 (+ 54)</b>  |

### ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION – MISSION STATIONS

| Continenti     | Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions | Mission Stations with resident priest | Mission Stations without resident priest |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 536 (+ 2)                       | 554 (+ 26)                            | 75.505 (+ 1.569)                         |
| <b>America</b> | 1.084 (+ 1)                     | 449 (- 49)                            | 16.235 (+802)                            |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 534 (+ 1)                       | 763 (+ 58)                            | 41.381 (+ 584)                           |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 754 (+3)                        | 68 (- 13)                             | 105 (- 2)                                |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 81 (+1)                         | 37 (+ 2)                              | 643 (+121)                               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2.989 (+ 8)</b>              | <b>1.871 (+ 24)</b>                   | <b>133.869 (+ 3.074)</b>                 |

**BISHOPS**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Total Bishops</b> | <b>Diocesan Bishops</b> | <b>Religious Bishops</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 705 (+ 5)            | 509 (+ 3)               | 196 (+ 2)                |
| <b>America</b>   | 1.936 (+ 17)         | 1.385 (+ 16)            | 551 (+ 1)                |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 780 (+ 14)           | 584 (+ 8)               | 196 (+ 6)                |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 1.621 (+ 9)          | 1.383 (+ 6)             | 238 (+ 3)                |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 131 (- 5)            | 84 (- 5)                | 47 (=)                   |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>5.173 (+ 40)</b>  | <b>3.945 (+ 28)</b>     | <b>1.228 (+ 12)</b>      |

**PRIESTS**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Total Priests</b>     | <b>Diocesan priests</b> | <b>Religious priests</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 41.826 (+ 1.693)         | 28.679 (+ 1.186)        | 13.147 (+ 507)           |
| <b>America</b>   | 123.112 (+ 188)          | 83.403 (+ 539)          | 39.709 (- 351)           |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 61.482 (+ 1.440)         | 35.631 (+ 900)          | 25.851 (+ 540)           |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 184.206 (- 2.283)        | 130.069 (- 1.673)       | 54.137 (- 610)           |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 4.722 (- 3)              | 2.750 (+ 19)            | 1.972 (- 22)             |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>415.348 (+ 1.035)</b> | <b>280.532 (+ 971)</b>  | <b>134.816 (+ 64)</b>    |

**PERMANENT DEACONS**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Totale Permanent deacons</b> | <b>Diocesan Permanent deacons</b> | <b>Religious Permanent deacons</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 427 (+ 8)                       | 392 (+ 5)                         | 35 (+ 3)                           |
| <b>America</b>   | 27.942 (+ 684)                  | 27.756 (+ 660)                    | 186 (+ 24)                         |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 238 (+ 8)                       | 201 (+ 23)                        | 37 (- 15)                          |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 14.199 (+ 373)                  | 13.916 (+ 381)                    | 283 (- 8)                          |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 389 (+ 18)                      | 385 (+ 15)                        | 4 (+ 3)                            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>43.195 (+ 1.091)</b>         | <b>42.650 (+ 1.084)</b>           | <b>545 (+ 7)</b>                   |

**BROTHERS AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Brothers</b>      | <b>Women Religious</b>   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 8.427 (- 218)        | 69.883 (+ 1.293)         |
| <b>America</b>   | 15.998 (+ 45)        | 181.847 (- 4.548)        |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 11.855 (+ 167)       | 169.762 (+ 172)          |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 17.441 (+ 133)       | 263.870 (- 5.662)        |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 1.532 (+ 78)         | 8.213 (- 209)            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>55.253 (- 61)</b> | <b>693.575 (- 8.954)</b> |

**MEMBERS OF SECULAR INSTITUTES**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Members of secular institutes<br/>Male</b> | <b>Members of secular institutes<br/>Female</b> |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 79 (+ 2)                                      | 917 (+ 66)                                      |
| <b>America</b>   | 239 (- 15)                                    | 5.705 (+ 270)                                   |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 64 (- 8)                                      | 1.842 (+ 3)                                     |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 329 (- 38)                                    | 15.448 (- 545)                                  |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 1 (=)   | 43 (- 1)  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>712 (- 59)</b>                             | <b>23.955 (- 747)</b>                           |

**LAY MISSIONARIES AND CATECHISTS**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>Lay missionaries</b>  | <b>Catechists</b>           |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 7.226 (+ 31)             | 402.994 (+ 9.414)           |
| <b>America</b>   | 320.486 (+ 3.083)        | 1.822.016 (- 24.091)        |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 32.334 (+ 990)           | 370.249 (+ 4.529)           |
| <b>Europe</b>    | 7.544 (+ 1.088)          | 548.176 (- 1.702)           |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 89 (- 1)                 | 14.133 (- 1.225)            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>367.679 (+ 5.191)</b> | <b>3.157.568 (- 13.075)</b> |

## MAJOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

| Continent      | Total Major Seminarians  | Diocesan Major seminarians | Religious Major seminarians |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 27.892 (+ 164)           | 18.951 (+ 238)             | 8.941 (- 74)                |
| <b>America</b> | 35.841 (- 1.180)         | 23.491 (- 507)             | 11.170 (- 673)              |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 35.104 (- 372)           | 16.331 (+ 10)              | 18.773 (- 382)              |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 19.574 (- 354)           | 12.120 (- 154)             | 7.454 (- 200)               |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 1.020 (- 58)             | 644 (- 39)                 | 376 (- 19)                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>118.251 (- 1.800)</b> | <b>71.537 (- 452)</b>      | <b>46.714 (- 1.348)</b>     |

## MINOR SEMINARIANS – DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS

| Continent      | Total Minor seminarians | Diocesan Minor seminarians | Religious Minor seminarians |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 52.852 (- 233)          | 46.302 (- 993)             | 6.550 (+ 760)               |
| <b>America</b> | 14.007 (+ 42)           | 10.143 (+ 164)             | 3.864 (+ 206)               |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 25.472 (+ 407)          | 16.601 (+ 527)             | 8.871 (- 120)               |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 9.353 (- 1.000)         | 5.332 (- 764)              | 4.021 (- 236)               |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 244 (+ 9)               | 178 (- 4)                  | 66 (+ 13)                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>101.928 (- 775)</b>  | <b>78.556 (- 1.398)</b>    | <b>23.372 (+ 623)</b>       |

## SCUOLE ED ALUNNI

|                | INFANT schools | INFANT pupils    | PRIMARY schools | PRIMARY pupils    | SECONDARY schools | SECONDARY pupils  | High school pupils | UNIVERSIT pupils |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 15.950         | 1.525.589        | 37.942          | 16.110.244        | 12.756            | 5.428.610         | 94.976             | 132.990          |
| <b>America</b> | 16.799         | 1.480.202        | 22.439          | 6.587.979         | 11.766            | 4.239.329         | 711.678            | 1.859.633        |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 14.331         | 1.959.869        | 16.207          | 5.868.443         | 10.710            | 5.634.415         | 1.212.661          | 418.977          |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 24.906         | 1.953.859        | 16.354          | 2.960.238         | 9.797             | 3.683.994         | 279.104            | 288.826          |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 1.277          | 44.150           | 3.880           | 727.300           | 670               | 421.069           | 11.378             | 27.514           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>73.263</b>  | <b>6.963.669</b> | <b>96.822</b>   | <b>32.254.204</b> | <b>45.699</b>     | <b>19.407.417</b> | <b>2.309.797</b>   | <b>2.727.940</b> |

## 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 |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>  | 1.167        | 5.252         | 201             | 630  | 1.292        | 2.641           | 1.774                     | 264              | 2.339            |
| <b>America</b> | 1.495        | 4.751         | 59              | 3.679  | 2.219        | 3.412           | 5.747                     | 1.763            | 15.474           |
| <b>Asia</b>    | 1.134        | 3.558         | 328             | 2.530  | 3.944        | 3.498           | 892                       | 666              | 5.207            |
| <b>Europe</b>  | 1.032        | 2.530         | 22              | 8.158  | 2.200        | 2.408           | 5.715                     | 1.103            | 15.040           |
| <b>Oceania</b> | 206          | 536           | 1               | 521  | 115          | 123             | 263                       | 100              | 196              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5.034</b> | <b>16.627</b> | <b>611</b>      | <b>15.518</b>                                    | <b>9.770</b> | <b>12.082</b>   | <b>14.391</b>             | <b>3.896</b>     | <b>38.256</b>    |



## **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 1.111 Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions (to 13 October 2015)**

| <b>Continent</b> | <b>AD</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>AT</b> | <b>VA</b> | <b>PA</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>AA</b> | <b>OM</b> | <b>TOTALE</b> |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Africa</b>    | 92        | 387      | -         | 22        | 2         | 1        | -         | 3         | 507           |
| <b>America</b>   | 7         | 27       | -         | 43        | 1         | 2        | -         | -         | 80            |
| <b>Asia</b>      | 76        | 340      | 1         | 17        | 34        | 3        | 5         | 2         | 478           |
| <b>Oceania</b>   | 11        | 31       | -         | -         | 1         | 2        | -         | 1         | 46            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | 186       | 785      | 1         | 82        | 38        | 8        | 5         | 6         | 1111          |

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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