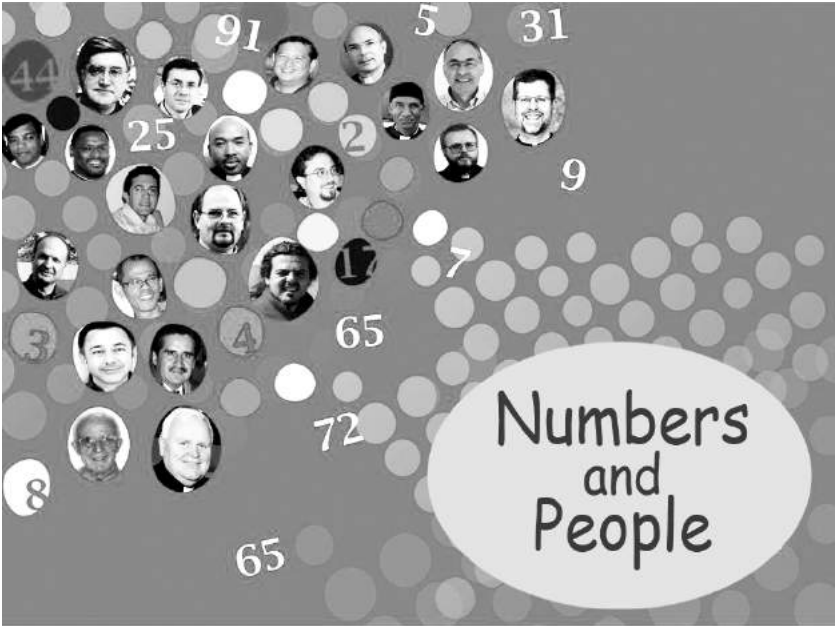


NUMBERS AND PEOPLE

CLAUDIO SANTANGELO, C.M.
Secretary General

Dear confreres, good morning,

Allow me to begin my presentation, asking your indulgence. This morning and the next two mornings, with the presentations of the Econome General and of the Directors of the VSO you will be inundated by a series of numbers, diagrams, charts and such like. This high concentration of numbers will, perhaps, be boring and tiring. Father John and Father Miles will certainly make their numbers attractive. I, for my part, will just call your attention to the peculiar characteristics of “my” numbers. They do not refer to an amount of money but to real people, our confreres. It is often said (and Father General in his talk also reminded us) that the greatest resources of the Congregation are the confreres themselves.



Well, the numbers that we see will help our common reflection on our “richness” or “poverty” in this sense. We will see where our “losses” have been more relevant in these last six years, and where we should “invest” our resources, not only to maintain, but above all to make “fruitful” the most precious talents entrusted by the Lord to our community, that is, its members.

Let me now present schematically the structure of my presentation:

1. I will begin by presenting the numerical evolution of the C.M. in these last six years 2004-2009.
2. I will then show the ministries of the C.M. in numbers and percentages.
3. The third part is the center of my presentation and will focus on the trends of the confreres in the provinces in the last six years: new incorporated, deceased, expulsions, excardinations, dispensations from priestly ministry.
4. I will then present the situation updated June 2010 of the absences in the individual provinces according to the different types of absences.
5. I will conclude my presentation showing the graphic of the evolution of “admitted” students in the C.M. in the last six years.

The Numerical Evolution of the C.M. in the Last Six Years

The numbers in table n. 1 refer to all the incorporated members. They do not, therefore, include students who have not yet taken their vows. The source of this data is the annual statistics that the General Curia receives from the provinces and sends to the Holy See. As we can see, the numerical decline of the members of our Congregation has not stopped in the last six years. From 3,435 members in 2004 we dropped to 3,299 confreres as of December 31, 2009. The negative total amounts to -136 members, meaning an average yearly loss of 27 confreres.

Actually when we see the data of the movement of the confreres (entrances and departures) taken from our database at the curia, we will notice that the loss of confreres in these six years is greater, 162 members. The discrepancy between these numbers may be due to the fact that the provinces, when filling out the statistical forms for the curia, do not always list as their members confreres who have been absent from the community for many years. On the contrary, according to our data base, a confrere remains a member of the C.M. until he has been officially dismissed or dispensed.

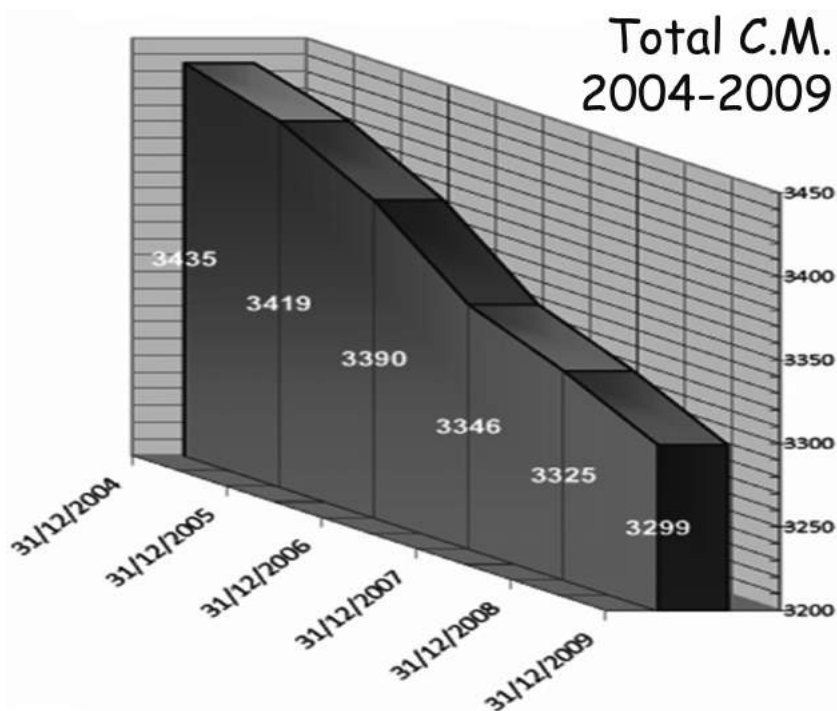


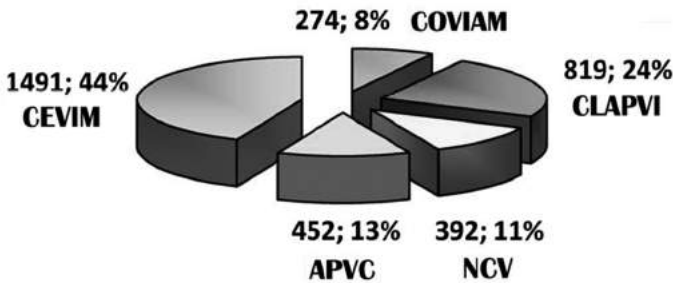
Table n. 1

In table n. 2, we can now see the distribution of the confreres by their status: bishops, priests, deacons, (that includes both the few permanent deacons as well as the transitional deacons who are waiting to be ordained), brothers, and incorporated students.

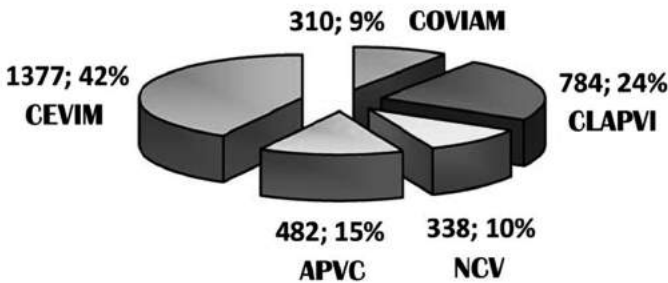
	31/12/2004	31/12/2005	31/12/2006	31/12/2007	31/12/2008	31/12/2009
Bishops	31	31	32	32	30	30
Priests	3092	3096	3078	3042	3038	2999
Deacons	94	72	67	68	60	69
Brothers	171	168	164	161	160	157
Incorporated	47	52	49	43	37	44
TOTAL	3435	3419	3390	3346	3325	3299

Table n. 2

Percentage by Conference of the Total C.M. 2004



Percentage by Conference of the Total C.M. 2009



Tables n. 3 and 4

Finally, tables n. 3 and 4 show the percentages in which Conferences contribute to the total of the members of the C.M. In comparison with 2004 CEVIM diminished by 2% and NCV 1%. On the other hand APVC increased by 2% and COVIAM by 1%. CLAPVI percentages remained stable. The progressive shift of the center of the C.M. from Europe and the US to the other continents is continuing.

The Ministries in the C.M. Numbers and Percentages

Let's now have a look at the ministries covered by our confreres. Table n. 5 compares the data of 2009 with that of 2003, according to the information provided by the Provinces in their statistics. The biggest changes regard the decrease of the number of confreres

MINISTRY	2009
Parishes	890
Retired, ill, convalescing	348
Missionary parishes or districts	232
Schools (primary, secondary, superior, professional)	190
Formation of our own exclusively	168
Missions Ad Gentes	158
Administration	152
Daughters of Charity (Director, chaplain)	139
Seminaries and clerical formation	133
Special studies	128
Other	128
Chaplains: military, immigrants, hospital, associations	121
Parish (popular) Missions to the faithful	91
Chaplains: Vincentian Lay Groups	77
Direct Service of the Poor	61
Pilgrimage sanctuaries	48
Manual work	26
Social Communications (publications, radio, television)	24

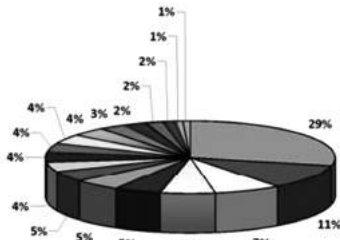
MINISTRY	2003
Parishes	886
Retired, ill, convalescing	326
Missionary parishes or districts	208
Schools (primary, secondary, superior, professional)	201
Formation of our own exclusively	200
Missions Ad Gentes	185
Administration	169
Daughters of Charity (Director, chaplain)	167
Seminaries and clerical formation	138
Special studies	133
Other	104
Chaplains: military, immigrants, hospital, associations	94
Parish (popular) Missions to the faithful	81
Chaplains: Vincentian Lay Groups	59
Direct Service of the Poor	48
Pilgrimage sanctuaries	43
Manual work	35
Social Communications (publications, radio, television)	31

Table n. 5

dedicated exclusively to the formation of our own, of those at the service of the missions *ad gentes* and of those serving the Daughters of Charity. The most noticeable increases concern the retired and ill confreres, those serving missionary parishes and the several different chaplaincies. We can also notice the always low number of confreres dedicated to popular missions.

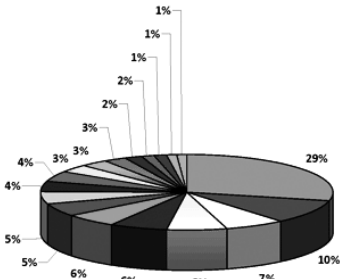
Tables n. 6 and 7 show the distribution of ministries by percentages. As we can see, they have not changed much in the

Ministries 2009



- Parishes - 29%
- Retired, ill, convalescing - 11%
- Missionary parishes or districts - 7%
- Schools (primary, secondary, superior, professional) - 6%
- Formation of our own exclusively - 5%
- Missions Ad Gentes - 5%
- Administration - 5%
- Daughters of Charity (Director, chaplain) - 4%
- Seminaries and clerical formation - 4%
- Special studies - 4%
- Other - 4%
- Chaplain: military, immigrants, hospital, associations - 4%
- Parish (popular) Missions to the faithful - 3%
- Chaplain: Vincentian Lay Groups - 2%
- Direct Service of the Poor - 2%
- Pilgrimage sanctuaries - 2%
- Manual work - 1%
- Social Communications (publications, radio, television) - 1%

Ministries 2003



- Parishes - 29%
- Retired, ill, convalescing - 10%
- Missionary parishes or districts - 7%
- Schools (primary, secondary, superior, professional) - 6%
- Formation of our own exclusively - 6%
- Missions Ad Gentes - 6%
- Administration - 5%
- Daughters of Charity (Director, chaplain) - 5%
- Seminaries and clerical formation - 4%
- Special studies - 4%
- Other - 3%
- Chaplain: military, immigrants, hospital, associations - 3%
- Parish (popular) Missions to the faithful - 3%
- Chaplain: Vincentian Lay Groups - 2%
- Direct Service of the Poor - 2%
- Pilgrimage sanctuaries - 1%
- Manual work - 1%
- Social Communications (publications, radio, television) - 1%

Tables n. 6 and 7

last few years. That can indicate continuity but also little flexibility and availability on the part of the confreres to cover ministries different from those they have been involved in for the last six years.

The Movements of the Confreres in the Provinces

We noted at the beginning the progressive decrease in the number of confreres in the C.M. in the last six years. Let's now try to discover the reasons for this decrease. I would imagine that all of us believe that the main reason for this negative balance is the high number of deaths in the provinces of Europe and US which is not balanced by the new incorporations, coming above all from the provinces of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Things in reality are not exactly like this.

Table n. 8 will help us better understand the real reasons. It gives us valuable data both at the level of the Conferences and at the overall level. I will begin with some considerations on the Con-

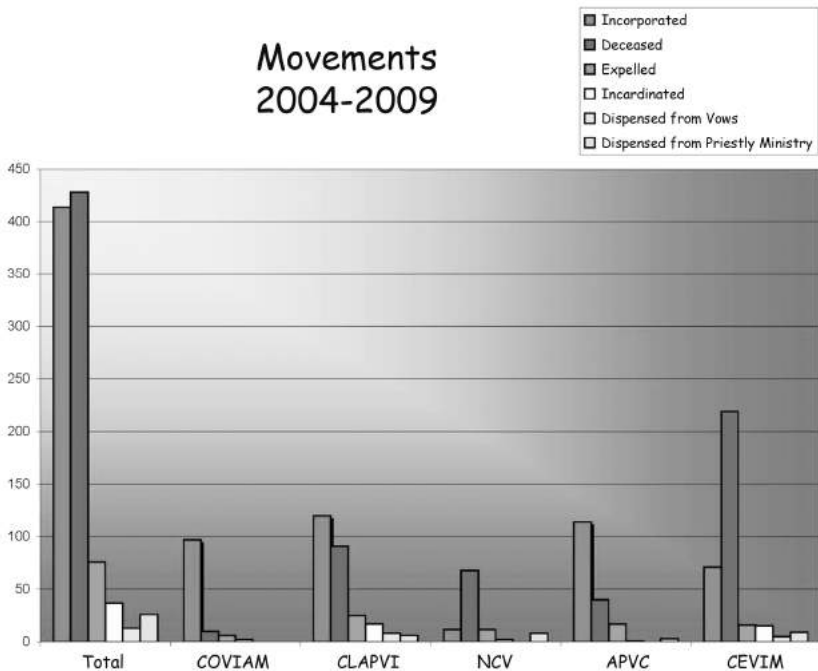


Table n. 8

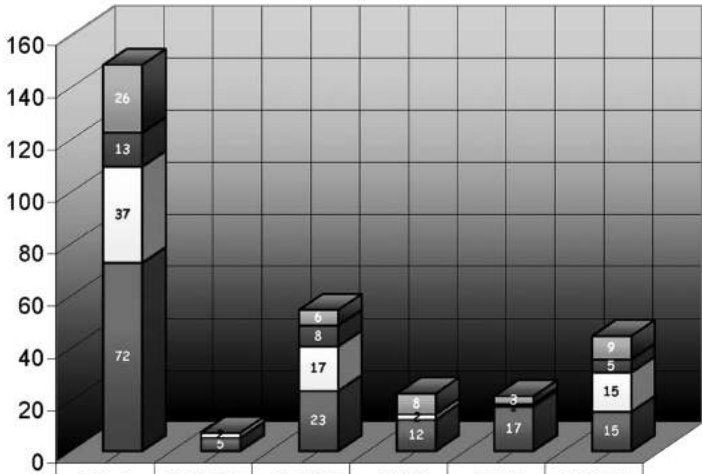
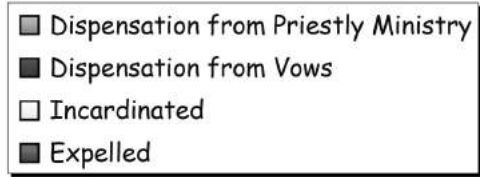
ferences limited to the comparison of new members and deceased. But before doing that, I must explain that I put the data of Cameroon and Vietnam, both regions of Paris, respectively under the COVIAM and APVC and not under CEVIM to get a more realistic picture of the actuality. Similarly the data for Belgium, which is a region of Congo, have been put under CEVIM and not under COVIAM.

- COVIAM has a very positive balance: 97 new members as opposed to 10 deceased.
- CLAPVI, too, has a positive balance, although in a lesser degree: 120 new members as opposed to 91 deceased.
- In NCV the balance is the other way: only 5 new members in the last six years as opposed to 15 deceased.
- APVC has a positive balance: 114 new members and 40 deceased.
- Finally, CEVIM: here the disproportion between new members and deceased is very large: 71 new incorporated and 219 deceased.

If we have a look now at the columns regarding the overall level we notice however that the gap between the first columns, that is the new incorporated, and the second, that is, the deceased, is minimal: just 14 confreres less, 428 deceased, as opposed to 414 new incorporated. This means that if we compare only the number of the new incorporated with that of the deceased in the last six years, the Congregation overall would be stable in the total of its numbers. What is, then, the main reason for the deficit (–162 confreres)? We must look at the other four columns: the expulsions, the incardinated in dioceses, the dispensation from vows, and the dispensation from priestly ministry. These are the main factors, and not the deaths, that contribute in a major way to the drop in the members of the C.M. On these factors I would like now to focus our attention, with the help of the next graphic.

Table n. 9 shows in a detailed way the various kinds of “departures” of the confreres. In the last six years 72 confreres have been dismissed (*ipso facto* or through a process), 37 have been excardinated and incardinated in a diocese, 13 brothers and students have received a dispensation from their vows from the Superior General and 27 confreres obtained the dispensation from the priestly ministry from the Holy See. The total number of departures is 148. The distribution of these departures in the Conferences is not uniform. COVIAM has the lowest number (2 incardinations and 5 expulsions), whereas CLAPVI has the highest (23 expulsions, 17 incardinations, 8 dispensations from vows, 6 dispensations from

Out 2004-2009



	Total	COVIAM	CLAPVI	NCV	APVC	CEVIM
■ Dispensation P.M.	26	0	6	8	3	9
■ Dispensation Vows	13	0	8	0	0	5
□ Incardinated	37	2	17	2	1	15
■ Expelled	72	5	23	12	17	15

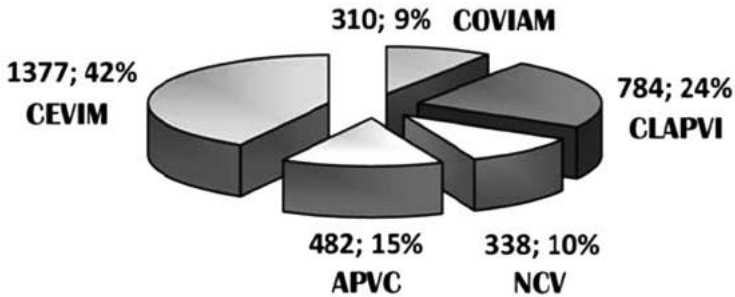
Table n. 9

priestly ministry). NCV, APVC and CEVIM have moderate numbers. It is a bit surprising that CLAPVI suffered the greatest number of departures from the Congregation even greater than CEVIM which yet accounts for many more confreres.

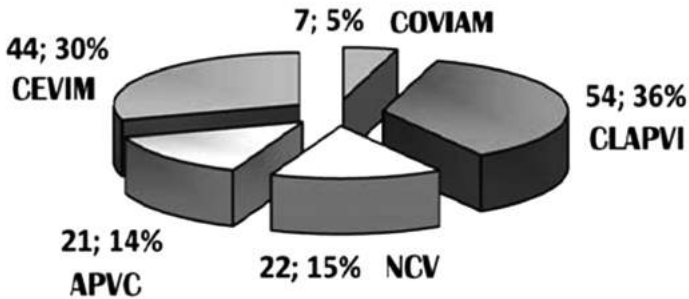
We can also see that while the phenomenon of incardinations in dioceses is almost non-existent in Africa, USA and Asia Pacific, it is very prevalent in Latin America and to a lesser degree in Europe.

Let us now look at tables n. 10 and 11 to get an idea, in percentage, of how much the Conferences contributed to the departures from the Congregation between 2004 and 2009. By way of an example I also included the graphic giving the total number and percentage of confreres by Conference as of 2009. We see that:

Percentage by Conference of the Total C.M. 2009



Percentage by Conference of the Total Leaving 2004-2009



Tables n. 10 and 11

- CEVIM has 42% of the total members of the C.M., but in the last six years only 30% of the departures came from this Conference.
- COVIAM has 9% of the total members and had only 5% of the departures during the last six years.
- APVC includes 15% of the confreres. It contributed 14% of the total departures in the six-year period.
- NCV has 10% of the confreres and 14% of the departures.
- Finally CLAPVI has 24% of the confreres but 37% of the departures.

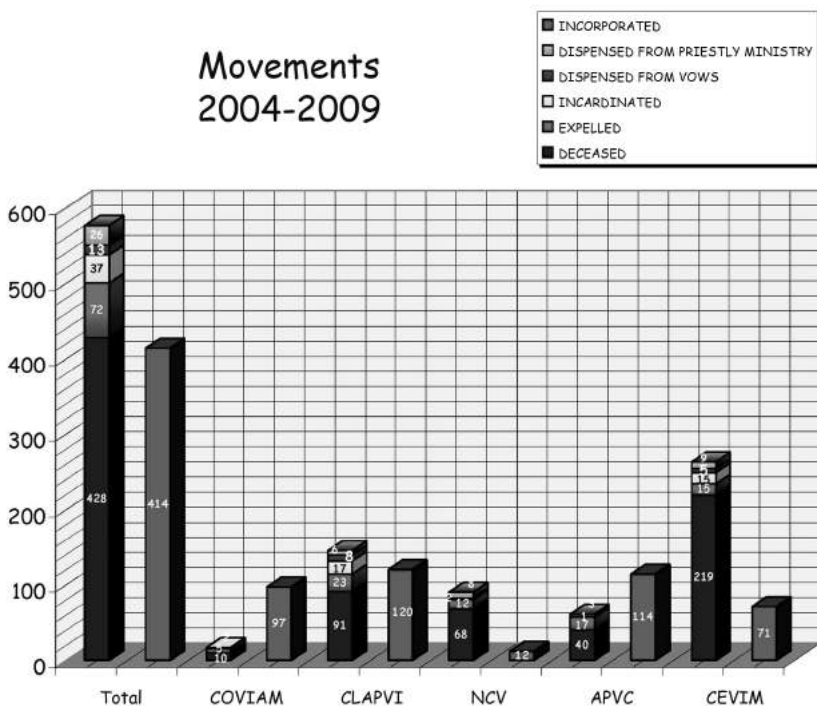


Table n. 12

Let us now stack our columns (table n. 12); this is the picture that we get if we add the departures to the deceased for the years 2004-2009. The graphic shows effectively the real causes for the deficit at the end of these six years. Interestingly it also reveals that CLAPVI, which had a positive balance in the comparison deceased-new incorporated, altogether has had more losses than new entrants.

Picture of the Absent Confreres

In tables n. 13 and 14, updated to June 2010, we can see the situation of the absent confreres which unfortunately very often has as its outcome a departure from the Congregation. This is the reservoir that often results in departures. The absences are divided according to their different types: absent with the permission of the visitor; absent with the permission of the Superior General; absent with the permission *ad experimentum*, that is in view of incardination

ABSENCES by PROVINCE - As of June 2010									
PROVINCE	Total Province Members	Permisition Visitor	Permisition Sup. Gen.	Permisition Ad Exper.	Illegitimate Absence	Out (not Official)	TOTAL	Prov. Abbr.	%
COVLEAM									
Congo	43	1			1		2	CNG	4,65
Ethiopia	45				2		2	AET	4,44
Madagascar	86				5		5	MAD	5,81
Mozambique	22					1	1	MOZ	4,55
Nigeria	75		1	1			2	NIG	2,67
Saint Justin de Jacobis	41				1		1	SJJ	2,44
TOTAL	312	1	1	1	9	1	13		4,17
NGV									
USA East	146	1	1		5	4	11	ORL	7,53
USA New England	27						0	NAN	0,00
USA West	161				3	4	7	OCC	4,35
TOTAL	334	1	1	0	8	8	18		5,39
PROVINCE	Total Province Members	Permisition Visitor	Permisition Sup. Gen.	Permisition Ad Exper.	Illegitimate Absence	Out (not Official)	TOTAL	Prov. Abbr.	%
CLAPVI									
Central America	48	3	1	1	6		11	AMC	22,92
Argentina	43	1			2		3	ARG	6,98
Brazil - Curitiba	70				6	5	11	CUR	15,71
Brazil - Fortaleza	41				2	1	3	FOR	7,32
Brazil - Rio de Janeiro	73	1			5		6	FLU	8,22
Chile	21						1	CHI	4,76
Colombia	163	2	1	7	27	3	39	COL	23,93
Costa Rica	15						0	COS	0,00
Cuba	9						0	CUB	0,00
Ecuador	30			1	4	2	7	AEQ	23,33
Mexico	100		1		16		17	MEX	17,00
Peru	52	1					4	PER	7,69
Porto Rico	60	2					3	POR	5,00
Venezuela	52			1	4		6	VEN	11,54
TOTAL	777	11	3	10	76	11	111		14,29

Table n. 13

PROVINCE	Total Province Members	Permission Visitor	Permission Sup. Gen.	Permission Ad Exper.	Illegitimate Absence	Out (not Official)	TOTAL	Prov. Abbr.	%
APVC									
Australia	51	1		1		1	3	AUL	5,88
China	33						0	SIN	0,00
Philippines	106	1		1	7	1	10	PHI	9,43
India North	92				2		2	INS	2,17
India South	103						0	INM	0,00
Indonesia	96				2	2	4	IDS	4,17
TOTAL	481	2	0	2	11	4	19		3,95
PROVINCE	Total Province Members	Permission Visitor	Permission Sup. Gen.	Permission Ad Exper.	Illegitimate Absence	Out (not Official)	TOTAL	Prov. Abbr.	%
CEVIM									
Austria	18						0	AUS	0,00
Belgium	7						0	BEL	0,00
France - Paris	165	1		1	4		6	PAR	3,64
France - Toulouse	59	1			2		3	TOL	5,08
Germany	19						0	GER	0,00
Ireland	58						0	HIB	0,00
Italy - Naples	45				1		1	NEA	2,22
Italy - Rome	49	1					1	ROM	2,04
Italy - Turin	67	1	1				2	TAU	2,99
Holland	42						0	HOL	0,00
Orient	36						0	ORI	0,00
Poland	269	1			9	1	11	POL	4,09
Portugal	50		1		4		5	LUS	10,00
Saint Cyril and Methodius	25						0	SCM	0,00
Slovakia	37	2			1		3	SLK	8,11
Slovenia	52						0	SLN	0,00
Spain - Barcelona	42						0	BAR	0,00
Spain - Madrid	111		1	1	1		3	MAT	2,70
Spain - Salamanca	84	2	1		2	5	10	SAL	11,90
Spain - San'agostza	113				3		3	CAE	2,65
Hungary	10						0	HUN	0,00
TOTAL	1358	9	4	2	27	6	48		3,53
GRAND TOTAL	3262	24	9	15	131	30	209		6,41

Table n. 14

in a diocese; illegitimately absent; and unofficially departed confreres. These are absent confreres no longer listed in the catalog but that have never been officially dismissed, and therefore are still juridically members of the C.M. It is important that we bear this in mind since the congregation is still responsible for these men and for their possible penally relevant behaviors.

For your convenience the charts also show the total number of members of each Province as well as the percentage of the absent confreres for each province.

Some general remarks:

1. All these absences should be temporary and concluded in one way or another.

- The first two types of absences (permission from the visitor and permission from the Superior General) should be provisional in view of a readmission of the confrere into the community at the expiration of the permission. Unfortunately experience shows that this is very often a first step toward the fourth type of absence, illegitimate.
- The third type of absence (with the permission *ad experimentum*) should theoretically last five years at the longest and should usually conclude with an incardination. However, this does not always happen: there were cases of confreres who after nine years *ad experimentum* in a diocese had still not been incardinated by the bishop.
- The fourth and fifth types of absences (illegitimate) ought to be resolved through a process of readmission or dismissal. However, most of these confreres remain in the limbo of the illegitimate absences.

2. We often see a sliding of the confreres from one type of absence to another. One starts with the one year permission from the visitor, then continues being absent with the permission of the Superior General and ends up with a permission *ad experimentum* or with an illegitimate absence. I wonder if this sliding is inevitable or if there is something we could possibly do to change the dynamic and reintegrate the confrere into the community.

There is a certain amount of confusion, sometimes, on the part of the visitor about the different types of permissions. It may be helpful to remember that permissions given by the visitors can never be *ad experimentum* in view of an incardination of the confrere in a diocese. Only the Superior General can grant this type of permission. It also occurs, unfortunately, that visitors give permissions of leave only verbally.

As for table n. 13, the most striking feature is the difference in the percentage of absences in the three Conferences. CLAPVI has a percentage more than three times higher than COVIAM and almost three times higher than NCV. Specifically Central America, Colombia and Ecuador have percentages above 20%.

Let us now look at table n. 14 with the remaining provinces.

- The percentage of absences here are lower, specifically CEVIM has the lowest percentage of all the five Conferences even though it is the most numerous Conference.
- Let me give you a final remark on the total of the absent confreres. There are 209. This would be the second most numerous “province” of the C.M. after Poland.

Admitted Students in the Last Six Years

In table n. 15 we can see the trend line of the admitted students in the last six years. The data come from the yearly provincial statistics. Their reliability is however, relative as some provinces sometimes

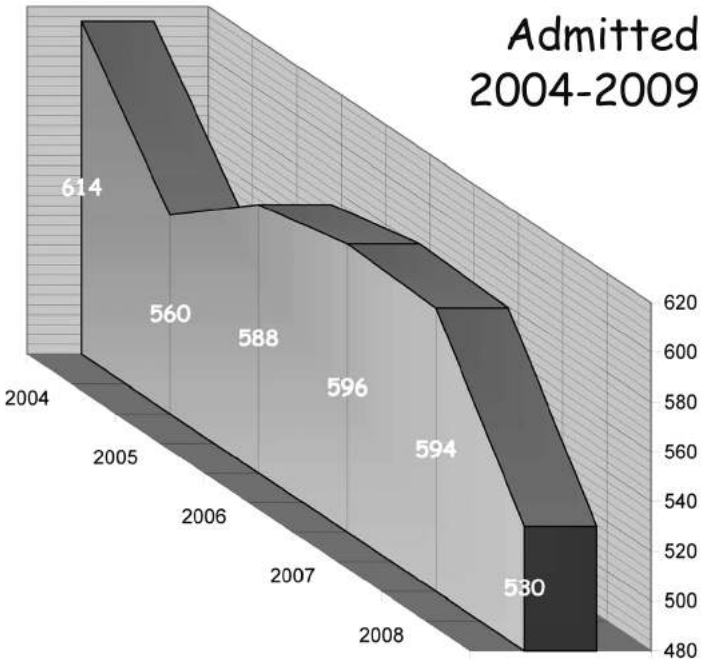


Table n. 15

count among their admitted students even those who have not yet made the internal seminary. It is certain however, that there has been a decline in the number of admitted in the last six years.

Some Final Observations

At the end of this overview on the statistical trend of the C.M. in the last six years, let me dare to draw some conclusions:

- The total number of confreres continues to diminish. The new entrants cannot balance the losses. The gap however is not caused, except in a minimal way, by deaths, which approximately equal the new incorporations, but rather by the departures from the C.M. It is this continuous — allow me the term “hemorrhage” — that weakens the body of the Congregation. Though we cannot do much about the deaths of the confreres, we certainly can commit ourselves to stop this hemorrhage of departures.
- Dismissals and dispensations are simply measures aimed at solving and regularizing situations already compromised for a long time and for which there is no other possible remedy. They are the conclusive act of long and often painful processes. It is necessary, therefore, to act at an earlier stage, at the origin, to prevent future “runaways” from the C.M. Specifically, in my opinion, we should work to strengthen both in the initial and ongoing formation the sense of belonging to the community, valuing and deepening the meaning of our vow of stability. The need for this is also shown by the “migration” of a considerable number of confreres toward dioceses.
- Special attention should be paid to the issue of the absent confreres. The cases of reintegration into the community are very rare. In fact, the most frequent outcome, unfortunately, is leaving the community. Let me encourage you not to judge too readily that a confrere with a permission to be absent is destined to leave. My feeling is that an adequate accompaniment could be helpful in an eventual return of the confrere to the community perhaps with a even stronger attachment to his Vincentian vocation. Relatively high numbers of vocations do not give us reason for failing to pay attention to the confreres already in our provinces.
- I am happy that among the recommendations of the Superior General to the next administration is to have Assistants General appointed to follow the confreres in difficulty and for initial and ongoing formation. I believe that the extent of the phenomenon of the absent and those who have left without

permission can no longer be dismissed as “personal cases!” This demands care and attention at all levels, local and general.

- St. Vincent wrote to our confrere Giovanni Martin from 27 September 1646:

“Our Lord’s work is accomplished not so much by the multitude of workers, as by the fidelity of the small number whom He calls.”

So, when we speak of a crisis in the Congregation today, we must think not so much of a scarcity of vocations, but rather to a lack of perseverance in the vincentian vocation. It is the fidelity to the charism in the Congregation of the Mission that suffers a crisis, at times dramatic. Various are the reasons for this loss of appreciation of the value of fidelity. I think, judging from the letters that arrive at the Curia, that in many cases the confreres prefer to be “free lancers” because they feel, rightly or wrongly, that their creativity is demeaned in community. For this reason I find it providential that the theme of this General Assembly is: “Creative fidelity.” It is significant that these two terms are combined: creativity is not opposed to fidelity. It is necessary to confirm and make manifest that it is possible to be creative within the community, that it is not necessary for a confrere to detach himself, to absent himself or to leave the Congregation to be able to express the talents that God has given him.

As we have heard in the song yesterday: “That all those that will come after us will find us faithful.” Yes, this is my hope and my prayer: that we can always be faithful to God who has called us, faithful to the community in which God has called us and faithful certainly to the mission which He has entrusted to us.

Thank you for your attention.

Translation: MARY HALE, D.C.