

SVD STATISTICAL PROFILE

The following statistical profile adds further detail to the data published in the first section of the report of the Superior General.

1. SVD Members

Table 1.1 summarizes some basic characteristics of SVDs in 2000 and 2005. The data include all members: novices, temporary vows and final vows. Table 1.2 gives zonal summaries for the basic characteristics of all SVDs in 2005. This data, which was presented separately in each zonal introduction, is gathered together here to allow for easy comparison. (*Note:* The category foreign-born, counts those confreres who are assigned to a country that is different from their birth-country.)

Table 1.1 – Basic Characteristics for All SVDs (2000-2005)

	2000	2005
Bishops	44	46
Clerics	3726	3844
Brothers	678	654
Br. temp. vows	137	89
Scholastics	1023	1106
Novices	382	336
Total	5990	6075
Average Age (years)	47.2	47.6
Foreign-born (%)	34.2%	34.0%
Nationalities Present	62.	70

Table 1.2 – Some Characteristics for All SVDs According to Zones (2005)

	ALL	AFRAM	ASPAC	EUROPA	PANAM
Bishops	46	3	28	3	12
Clerics	3844	326	1621	901	996
Brothers	654	61	246	235	112
Br. Temp. vows	89	4	68	10	7
Scholastics	1106	106	687	158	155
Novices	336	26	275	19	16
Total	6075	526	2925	1326	1298
Average Age	47.6	41.1	42.2	57.0	52.7
Foreign-born (%)	34.0%	74.7%	18.7%	27.8%	58.3%
Nationalities Present	70	36	42	44	52

2. SVD Ministries

While SVDs are engaged in a wide variety of ministries, a comparison between the year 2000 and 2005 shows very stable percentages of confreres assigned to different sectors. Table 2.1 presents the distribution of confreres according to type of assignment for SVDs in final vows for 2000 and 2005.

Note: Novices, Scholastics and Brothers in temporary vows are not counted in this survey. It does include Bishops, Clerics and Brothers in final vows. However, there is a slight discrepancy between the 2000 and 2005 survey. Some “scholastics” according to the *Catalogus* count are already in final vows – i.e. they have taken final vows but they are not yet ordained priests. In general, the 2000 survey included them in the Personnel Distribution, many under the category of Studies and Cultural Orientation. However, the 2005 survey generally includes only those who

have completed initial formation. Looking at the totals for 2000 and 2005 one might think the number of members in “final Vows” is not growing, but that is mistaken. The *2000 Catalogus* counts 4448 in the categories of Bishop, Cleric and Brother in Final Vows. The *2005 Catalogus* counts 4544 in the same categories. The “extra” 98 confreres included in the 2000 survey amount to 2.1% of the total for the year and so they affect the reported percentages only marginally.

Note: Some confreres are assigned to more than one sector; for instance, one might work part-time in SVD administration and part-time in parish ministry. In such a case the person would be counted as one-half in each sector. No confreres are counted in more than two sectors. The category, Studies and Cultural Orientation, includes confreres doing advanced studies, renewal courses, and language and cultural-orientation courses.

Table 2.1 – Personnel Distribution of Members in Final Vows (2000 and 2005)

	2000		2005	
	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)
Parish Ministries	31.0	1408	31.2	1418.5
Schools & Education	8.7	395	8.6	389
Other Apostolates	15.2	688.5	15.3	695
SVD Vocations & Formation	7.8	353	7.4	334
SVD Administration & Support	15.2	688.5	15.3	696
Studies & Cultural Orientation	6.1	278	5.1	230
Retired & Sick	12.3	559	12.0	545.5
Other	3.9	176	5.2	236
Total		4546		4544

A comparison of the distribution of personnel according to zones suggests some of the particular characteristics of SVD missionary presence in the various parts of the world. The larger commitment to parish ministry in PANAM reflects the large numbers of Catholics and the relative scarcity of ministers.

In AFRAM the Church is growing very fast – even faster than the increase in the number of local vocations. ASPAC commits more personnel to Education than the other zones. EUROPA has a much larger number of retired confreres and of confreres in SVD administration and support. Both categories reflect Europe’s long support for mission in other parts of the world.

Table 2.2 – Personnel Distribution (in %) of Members in Final Vows by Zones (2005)

	ALL	AFRAM	ASPAC	EUROPA	PANAM
Parish Ministries	31.2	41.7	28.5	21.5	42.1
Schools & Education	8.6	5.0	14.3	2.6	6.2
Special Apostolates	15.3	18.0	15.7	15.3	13.8
SVD Vocations & Formation	7.4	7.3	9.6	5.0	5.8
SVD Admin. & Support	15.3	11.7	13.8	24.5	9.9
Studies & Cultural Orientation	5.1	11.7	6.0	4.0	2.3
Retired and Sick	12.0	1.4	6.0	24.1	13.5
Other	5.2	3.3	6.2	2.9	6.4

3. Internationality

International and multi-cultural communities are an important part of SVD witness to the coming of the Kingdom. One indication of this witness is the percentage of confreres who are foreign-born, i.e., assigned to a country other than their birth country. Table 3 indicates that in 2005 approximately 34% of SVDs were foreign-born.

Note: The data do not take account of the current citizenship of the members nor of their cultural background.

Table 3 – Foreign-born (in %) According to Zones (2000 and 2005)

	ALL	AFRAM	ASPAC	EUROPA	PANAM
% Foreign-born (2000)	34.2	80.7	20.8	23.6	56.6
% Foreign-born (2005)	34.0	74.7	18.7	27.8	58.3
without ID-IN-VIE (2000)	47.0		49.7		
without ID-IN-VIE (2005)	48.0		47.4		

The overall percentage of foreign-born confreres rises significantly if the ten very populous provinces of India, Vietnam and Indonesia are left out of the count (32.2% of SVDs were assigned to those provinces in 2005). Thus, when government restrictions on the presence of foreign missionaries are not a factor, about half of SVDs are foreign-born and half are locally-born. Even the remaining eight provinces of ASPAC show a rough equilibrium between foreign and local born confreres. There is, however, one important exception hidden in the overall numbers: in the Philippines less than one in five SVDs is foreign born. In 2000, 19.8% of the SVDs in the Philippines were foreign-born. That percentage declined still further to only 17.2% in 2005.

Obviously, very many confreres who are working in their birth countries are nonetheless living and working in highly multicultural contexts. We have no data to directly measure the cultural context in which our confreres live and work.

4. Religious Context for Mission

One indication of the religious context of the people we serve is the percentage of the population that identifies itself with Christianity. This broad indicator counts both practicing Christians and those who are not active. Roughly three-quarters of all SVDs live and work in areas where more than 60% of the population identifies itself as Christian. One consequence is that in areas where Christianity is the dominant religious tradition we need to be particularly careful and deliberate in selecting missionary activities in accord with our *ad gentes* charism.

Table 4 shows the distribution of SVDs in 2005 according to the percentage of the population that identifies itself as Christian. The table lists the countries where SVDs are assigned in ascending order from the smallest percentage of the population that is Christian (Thailand 2.2%) to the largest (Paraguay 97.7%). (The estimates for the Christian population are for 2000 and are taken from David Barrett, George Kurian and Todd Johnson's *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd edition, 2001.)

Note: One eastern Indonesian province, NTT (which includes the islands of Flores and Timor), is approximately 83% Christian while Indonesia as a whole is only 13.1% Christian. NTT is also home to 16% of all SVDs. Since the diverse cultural-religious contexts of Indonesia are heavily influenced by the country's island make-up, the accompanying distribution counts the confreres in NTT separately from the confreres in the rest of Indonesia.

One might suspect that the proportion of SVDs assigned to heavily Christian areas is greatly influenced by the number of students in initial formation and retired confreres. However, the percentages for "All SVDs" and "Active SVDs" are virtually identical.

Note: The category "Active SVDs" includes members in Final Vows who are assigned to either direct ministry with the public or are serving the Society in Formation, Administration and Support. As such, confreres in initial formation are not included here, nor are confreres who are doing additional studies, or those who are retired and sick, or those who are absent.

Table 4 – Distribution of SVDs According to Christian Population (2005)

	<i>All</i>		<i>Active</i>		
	<i>SVDs</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>SVDs</i>	<i>%</i>	
0-20% Christian	1256	20.7	720	20.4	6 countries: Thailand, Japan, India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia (excluding NTT).
21-40% Christian	45	0.7	28	0.8	4 countries: Chad, Benin, Mozambique, S.Korea.
41-60% Christian	307	5.1	185.5	5.3	7 countries: Togo, Cuba, Madagascar, Tanzania, Ghana, Russia, Botswana.
61-80% Christian	617	10.2	344	9.8	11 countries: Czech Rep., Zimbabwe, Serbia-Montenegro, Moldova, Belarus, France, Germany, Kenya, Australia, Canada, Netherlands.
81-100% Christian	3850	63.4	2255	63.8	39 countries (and NTT, Indonesia): Italy, Zambia, UK, Indonesia-NTT, Ukraine, S.Africa, New Zealand, Jamaica, Slovakia, USA, Hungary, Romania, Panama, Belgium, Switzerland, Chile, Philippines, Austria, Brazil, Anguilla, Timor Leste, Portugal, Argentina, Spain, Antigua, Angola, Bolivia, St. Kitts-Nevis, PNG, Croatia, D.R.Congo, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ireland, Poland, Ecuador
Total	6075		3532.5		Paraguay.

5. First Assignments

During the current sexennium the number of confreres available for first assignment has decreased somewhat. From 2001 to 2005 the average number of first assignments per year was roughly 107 – that is approximately ten fewer per year than the previous average.

Table 5.1 shows the number of first assignments made to each of the four zones. The second column represents the total for the six years leading up to the 2000 General Chapter. The third column shows the first five years of the current sexennium. The yearly averages are shown in the fourth and fifth columns.

Table 5.1 – First Assignments to the Zones (1995-2005)

	1995-2000	2001-2005	Avg. '95-'00	Avg. '01-'05
AFRAM	135	103	22.5	20.6
ASPAC	252	227	42.0	45.4
EUROPA	100	73	16.7	14.6
PANAM	222	134	37.0	26.8
TOTAL	709	537	118.2	107.4

Table 5.2 shows the number of first assignments made to the individual provinces, regions and missions. CAM and ING are not listed here because they have only recently been erected as independent regions. There were no first assignments to ROM.

Table 5.2 – First Assignments to Provinces, Regions and Missions (1995-2005)

	1995- 2000	2001- 2005	Avg. '95-'00	Avg. '01-'05		1995- 2000	2001- 2005	Avg. '95-'00	Avg. '01-'05
ANG	15	16	2.5	3.2	ESP	3	7	0.5	1.4
BOT	26	11	4.3	2.2	GEN	13	14	2.2	2.8
CNG	18	21	3.0	4.2	GES	9	8	1.5	1.6
GHA	22	18	3.7	3.6	HUN	3	9	0.5	1.8
KEN	20	8	3.3	1.6	IBP	0	3	0.0	0.6
MAD	12	4	2.0	0.8	ITA	9	7	1.5	1.4
MOZ	6	9	1.0	1.8	NEB	2	0	0.3	0.0
TCD	—	1	—	0.2	OES	14	2	2.3	0.4
TOG	16	15	2.7	3.0	POL	18	8	3.0	1.6
AFRAM	135	103	22.5	20.6	POR	0	3	0.0	0.6
AUS	8	6	1.3	1.2	SLO	13	5	2.2	1.0
IDE	29	17	4.8	3.4	SWI	5	0	0.8	0.0
IDJ	28	19	4.7	3.8	URL	11	7	1.8	1.4
IDR	19	15	3.2	3.0	EUROPA	100	73	16.7	14.6
IDT	19	20	3.2	4.0	ARE	9	4	1.5	0.8
INC	11	9	1.8	1.8	ARN	10	4	1.7	0.8
INE	13	13	2.2	2.6	ARS	15	5	2.5	1.0
INH	—	7	—	1.4	BOL	13	9	2.2	1.8
INM	10	12	1.7	2.4	BRA	11	8	1.8	1.6
JPN	21	16	3.5	3.2	BRC	15	10	2.5	2.0
KOR	6	2	1.0	0.4	BRN	16	6	2.7	1.2
PHC	14	6	2.3	1.2	BRS	13	8	2.2	1.6
PHN	11	10	1.8	2.0	CHI	13	13	2.2	2.6
PHS	12	11	2.0	2.2	COL	16	7	2.7	1.4
PNG	29	18	4.8	3.6	ECU	17	12	2.8	2.4
SIN	22	29	3.7	5.8	MEX	25	12	4.2	2.4
VIE	—	17	—	3.4	PAR	13	5	2.2	1.0
ASPAC	252	227	42.0	45.4	USC	17	14	2.8	2.8
					USS	10	9	1.7	1.8
					USW	9	8	1.5	1.6
					PANAM	222	134	37.0	26.8

6. Formation

Approximately two-thirds of all SVDs in initial formation are being trained in ASPAC and the total number there is increasing. AFRAM shows a steady number of students while the number of students in both EUROPA and PANAM is declining.

Table 6 shows the number of confreres in initial formation in each zone – including Brother and clerical novices, Scholastics and Brothers in temporary vows. A comparison of the 12 year average to the 6 year average indicates that the total number of students continues to grow.

Table 6 – Number of Students in Initial Formation (2001-6)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	<i>12 yr. avg. 1995-2006</i>	<i>6 yr. avg. 2001-2006</i>
AFRAM	115	111	121	135	136	139	<i>125.0</i>	<i>126.2</i>
ASPAC	1047	1098	1052	1033	1030	1072	<i>1005.1</i>	<i>1055.3</i>
EUROPE	178	196	184	187	187	156	<i>191.2</i>	<i>181.3</i>
PANAM	189	185	172	177	178	172	<i>187.2</i>	<i>178.8</i>
SVD Total	1529	1590	1529	1532	1531	1539	<i>1508.4</i>	<i>1541.7</i>

7. Vocations Promotion

The Society has been blessed with success in attracting new members in Asia, meanwhile recruitment in the other zones has been holding steady. In general the picture of recruitment is stable with a slight decrease in the average number of novices in the past six years as compared to the twelve-year-range from 1995-2006.

The number of novices is the best available indicator to show where new members are being recruited. This is so for two reasons. First, though many students have part of their initial formation outside of their “home” zone, novices are almost always trained close to the place where they have been recruited. Second, a small but growing number of our students are immigrants from other zones

before they come to us. This is especially true in North America where many were born in Asia or Africa but have joined the Society in North America.

Table 7 shows the number of novices (including both clerical and Brother novices) in each zone for the years 2001-2006. A caution – the comparison of numbers of novices among the zones can be somewhat misleading because some provinces, particularly in ASPAC and EUROPA, have novitiate before philosophy or university studies. As a result their total numbers are much higher than those areas where novitiate is placed after philosophy and/or university. Also, several provinces, notably those in Indonesia, have two year novitiates, effectively doubling the number of novices.

Table 7 – Number of Novices (2001-2006)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	<i>12 yr. avg. 1995-2006</i>	<i>6 yr. avg. 2001-2006</i>
AFRAM	21	19	26	33	26	27	<i>27.4</i>	<i>25.3</i>
ASPAC	300	367	342	303	275	296	<i>311.0</i>	<i>313.8</i>
EUROPE	35	31	13	26	19	11	<i>26.8</i>	<i>22.5</i>
PANAM	37	30	36	45	16	29	<i>32.3</i>	<i>32.2</i>
SVD Total	393	447	417	407	336	363	<i>397.5</i>	<i>393.8</i>

8. Sources for Data

The statistical summaries above and those published with the provincial, regional and zonal reports were provided by the Generalate SVD Mission Secretariat.

The data about those assigned to each province (including the average age, the percentage of foreign-born confreres, and the number of nationalities present) are based on the *Catalogus* listings of 2000 and 2005.

The information for the “Personnel Distribution of Confreres in Final Vows” was provided by the provincial, regional, and mission superiors based on the 2005 *Catalogus*.

Data for first assignments was gathered by Herbert Scholz SVD.

9. Explanatory Notes for Categories

The following notes apply to the tables in the current statistical profile and for the tables in the individual reports of the zones, provinces, regions and missions.

Assigned to Province. The base number of those assigned to each province includes all confreres who have received an appointment to the province, whether they are present in the province, or whether they are residing elsewhere.

Clerics – includes priests and permanent deacons who have professed final vows and have completed initial formation. (A priest who is a novice is counted as a novice. Priests in temporary vows or newly-ordained deacons who have not yet completed initial formation are counted as Scholastics.)

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Scholastics – includes all clerics and clerical students who are in initial formation. Though most are in temporary vows, some priests join the congregation after their ordination. Also, some students in initial formation have already professed final vows but have not yet completed initial formation. They are counted as Scholastics.

Novices – includes both clerical and Brother novices.

Foreign-born – counts those confreres who are assigned to a country that is different from their birth-country.

Personnel Distribution. The surveys used to determine the personnel distribution allowed for the designation of a confrere in up to two categories. Thus it is possible for a confrere to be listed as part time in Parish Ministry and part time in a Special Apostolate, etc. In principal the personnel distribution counts only those confreres whom the *Catalogus* lists as Bishops, Clerics and Brothers in final vows.

Parish Ministry - includes both priests and Brothers whose work is focused on the diverse needs and programs of a parish.

Schools & Education - includes all confreres working in either SVD or non-SVD schools at all levels, whether as Administrators, Teachers, or Support Staff or Campus ministers. This category does not include Formators and Educators dedicated to the formation of SVD students. They are listed under SVD Vocations & Formation.

Special Apostolates - counts all confreres working in all other apostolates whose primary focus is contact with the public. Examples include Communications workers, Prison chaplains, Retreat masters, etc.

SVD Vocations & Formation – counts all confreres working to recruit and train SVD missionaries.

SVD Administration & Support – counts all confreres working to organize and support the Society and its activities. Examples in this category include Provincials, Rectors, those caring for retired members, receptionists, gardeners, computer experts, treasurers, etc.