

ZONE EUROPE
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Survey for non-European Confreres SVD in Europe

January 2008

Dear Confrere!

At the Zonal Assembly in Roscommon, Ireland, in the year 1990, the Provincials of Europe decided, to request the Generalate to give confreres from all continents first- and working assignments also for Europe. This decision resulted from their awareness of the reality of Europe: It is not the Christian continent anymore which sends out missionaries but it is becoming more and more the continent which itself is in need of missionaries.

Corresponding to this so-called “consensus of Roscommon”, the Generalate has appointed non-European confreres for Europe since then, and increasingly, confreres have come to Europe to continue and complete their theological studies here. This practice has been followed well over fifteen years by now. At the recent Zonal Assembly 2007 in Zakopane, Poland, the Provincials of Europe agreed on evaluating the past by means of a survey conducted among the confreres concerned. They enlisted the assistance of Fr. Waldemar Wesoly POL, who is a sociologist. He prepared the questionnaire and will also evaluate the answers.

This is an anonymous survey, and the answers of the questionnaire will be treated with discretion.

The leadership of the whole Society and the ones responsible in the Zone Europe would like to gain a better understanding of the situation of the non-European confreres. Especially, a critical and yet balanced assessment of the process of adaptation of the confreres in Europe and of the available introductory programmes are intended to be made. By this, the Provinces should be helped to create or improve the preconditions for the confreres under which they can lead a fulfilled life as religious and are enabled to work as missionaries in a meaningful way.

We are asking you for honest and objective answers and thank you for your efforts in advance.

Fr. Peter Dusicka SVD, Provincial SLO
President of the Zone

Fr. Anton Fencz SVD
Zonal Coordinator

Questionnaire

- 1) Year of birth
- 2) Country of birth
- 3) Nationality
- 4) Where did you spend the larger part of your childhood and youth? (*Please, underline!*)
 - Village, Rural Community
 - Small town (population up to 10.000)
 - Medium-size town (up to 100.000)
 - Large city
- 5) Did you grow up in a Catholic environment? Yes - No.
If NO, in which one?
- 6) What is (was) the level of schooling of your father? (*Please, underline!*)
 - Primary / compulsory education (6-9 years)
 - Secondary education without qualification for university
 - Secondary education with qualification for university
 - University
 - Other schooling / (vocational) training, which?
- 7) What is (was) the level of schooling of your mother? (*Please, underline!*)
 - Primary / compulsory education (6-9 years)
 - Secondary education without qualification for university
 - Secondary education with qualification for university
 - University
 - Other schooling / (vocational) training, which?
- 8) What is (was) the occupation of your father? (*Please, underline!*)
 - Worker (non-skilled)
 - Farmer
 - Employee
 - Civil servant
 - Craftsman
 - Liberal profession, e.g. medical doctor, lawyer, architect, artist etc.

8a) What is (was) the occupation of your mother? (*Please, underline!*)

- Worker (non-skilled)
- Farmer
- Employee
- Civil servant
- Craftswoman
- Housewife
- Liberal profession, e.g. medical doctor, lawyer, architect, artist etc.

9) Do you have brothers and sisters? Yes - No.

If YES, how many?

10) How religious was your parents' home? (*Please, underline!*)

- Very religious
- Religious
- Averagely religious
- Less religious
- No relation to religion
- No opinion / I do not know

11) Where did you study philosophy?

12) Where did you study theology?

13) Did you go for an OTP? Yes - No.

If YES, when?

Where?

14. Did you do any other studies? Yes - No.

If YES, which?

Where?

15) Did you gain an academic degree? Yes - No.

If YES, which?

16) When were you ordained a priest?

Where?

17) In case you are a Brother,
when did you take final vows?

Where?

18) What are your hobbies?

19) How and why did you conceive the idea to ask for a first appointment to Europe?
Or to complete your theological studies in Europe?

20) Was there any preparation in your home Province in view of your assignment to Europe?
Yes - No. If YES, what did it consist of?
Language, culture of the country, situation of the Church? (*Underline and/or add!*)

21) Did you participate in such a preparation? Yes - No.
If YES, was it sufficient? Yes - No - Difficult to say.
(*Please, underline and explain briefly!*)

22) In what country (Province) did you arrive?

23) Was that the country (Province) of your choice? Yes -No.
If NO, why do you despise of it work in that country (Province)?

24) Since when have you been in Europe?

25) What are you doing in Europe? Describe your activities!

26) How were you received in the Province and in the community?
(Cordially, openly, interestedly, helpfully or coldly, reservedly, indifferently, hostilely - others)? (*Please, underline and add!*)

- 27) Were you offered an introductory programme
(introduction to language and culture) by the receiving Province? Yes - No.
If YES, what did it consist of?
- 28) Were you satisfied with this offer? Yes -No. If NO, why not?
- 29) Are you content with your work? Yes - No - Difficult to say.
(Please, underline and explain briefly!)
- 30) Would you prefer to do something different? Yes - No. If YES, what?
- 31) Was the time provided for learning the new language sufficient? Yes - No - Difficult to say.
(Please, underline and explain briefly!)
- 32) Did you encounter serious difficulties in learning the language? Yes - No.
If YES, what were those?
- 33) How did the confreres in Europe respond to your difficulties with the language?
- 34) How did the introductory programme and process help you
to adjust and adapt to life in Europa?
Very well - Well - Averagely - Poorly - Very poorly? (Please, underline!)
- 35) What were your expectations?

36) Do you feel at home in Europe? Yes - No - It could be better.

(Please, underline and explain briefly!)

37) What were the greatest difficulties in adapting to the given culture?

38) Did your horizon widen through your years in Europe? Yes - No - Difficult to say.

(Please, underline and explain briefly!)

39) How was your experience of the Church in Europe? Positive - Negative - Difficult to say.

(Please, underline and explain briefly!)

40) Do you feel at home in the reality of the Church of the country where you work?

Yes - No - Difficult to say. *(Please, underline and explain briefly!)*

41) After the years in Europe, how do you evaluate our internationality in the SVD?

Positive - Negative - Difficult to say. *(Please, underline and explain briefly!)*

42) Is the SVD truly a community of confreres from very diverse countries?

Yes - No - Difficult to say. *(Please, underline and explain briefly!)*

43) Did you make negative experiences in your relationship with European confreres in Europe?

Yes - No - Difficult to say. *(Please, underline and explain!)*

44) Did you make negative experiences in your relationship with non-European confreres in Europe? Yes - No - Difficult to say. (*Please, underline!*)

45) What negative experiences are those?

46) How should we promote internationality in our Provinces further on?

47) How can we improve communication among confreres?

48) What should, by all means, be changed in our introductory programmes?

49) What thoughts entered your mind answering this questionnaire?

50) What questions would you like to add to this questionnaire?
(*Please, answer the questions you are proposing!*)

There still is some space for further remarks: