

**STUDY OF THE STATISTICAL –FINANCIAL PROSPECTS  
IN THE JURISDICTIONS OF THE SERVITE ORDER  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, 2006-2031**

**1. STATISTICAL DATA ABOUT PERSONNEL**

**The survey.** The survey for the data needed to compile a statistical forecast of the evolution of the Order in the next 25 years has been carried out by asking every jurisdiction of the Order (Provinces, Vicariates, Delegations) to furnish data about the entrants (new simple professions and friars coming from other jurisdictions) and leavers

(those abandoning the Order, transfers to another jurisdiction and deaths) that have occurred during the last 10 years, i.e., from January 1, 1996 to January 1, 2006. The General Houses have not been taken into account, because they are anomalous in this respect.

The commission appointed for this purpose by the General Council at the start of 2004 decided that a realistic picture of the evolution of the entire Order in the coming decades could only be obtained from the sum of the individual jurisdictions' evolution.

**The replies.** All the jurisdictions, with the exception of the Spanish Province and the Delegation of Rio Plata, replied to the somewhat detailed questionnaire. A total of 50 friars did not reply, out of a total of 945. January 1, 2006 was fixed as the term for the data.

**The processing of the data.** The data received have been analysed and processed by Prof. Lamberto Soliani, an academic expert with an international reputation in this field, the author of numerous publications and now teaching demographic analysis in territorial planning at the University of Parma.

He did not take into consideration the reality of the individual jurisdictions taken singularly, because they are statistically too small to be able to make reliable projections; instead, he preferred to group them together into areas with the aim of having rather more reliable data. In fact, in some of the tables given here (especially TABLES 1-5), he noted that “the reference group is small” and therefore “little reliability” can be attached to the results.

In spite of this, they are fairly interesting and useful for us for a reflection on the evolution of the Order.

For TABLE 1, it can be noted that the evolution of the presence of the Servants of Mary in Italy (which includes the three provinces of SS. Annunziata, Piedmont-Romagna and Lombardo-Veneto) is in a phase of decline, so much so that in 25 years the actual 263 presences will be reduced to almost a half of that: 153 presences.

For TABLE 2, referring to the rest of Europe (Austria, Germany, England, Ireland, France, Belgium and Hungary), the decline is constant, but not so strong; in fact, from the present 85 members, it will go down to 61.

The movement of presences in North America (USA and Canada, with the addition of Australia by reason of common history), as given in TABLE 3, however, appears more marked: in the next 25 years they will be reduced to just about a third (from 162 to 57), caused by the scarce number of entrants.

The jurisdictions of Latin America given in TABLE 4 appear to be on the increase (from 139 presences to 204), and above all those of Asia and Africa (cf. TABLE 5)

according to which the increase will be from the present 134 presences to a good 399 over 25 years.

The results given in TABLES 6-9 however, have a good degree of reliability; they refer to large areas: Europe + North America (TABLE 6, which we shall call "Group A") or Latin America + Asia + Africa (TABLE 7, which we shall call "Group B") and especially the total projections given on TABLES 8 and 9, which are also the reasons why this enquiry was undertaken.

**The results.** The total projections referring to the entire Order are shown in TABLE 8, column (3). From this, it results that the Servite Order is in a phase of decline, whereby it will go from the 945 members of January 1, 2006, to 882 on January 1, 2031. But perhaps more interesting is the projection worked out for the percentage distribution by area, from which it is apparent that while at present Group A (TABLE 9, 1) is the majority group in the Servite world (54%), already during the next five years parity (TABLE 9, 2) will be reached, and in the future there will be an inversion of the majority, until by 2031 the friars of Group A will constitute 28% while those of Group B will make up 72%. This inversion can be attributed, above all, to the factor of new entrants; while in Group A, entrants are scarce and sometimes very scarce, in Group B, there is a high number of entrants and very few leavers, as can be seen from TABLES 6 and 7.

**TABLE 1****ITALY****Provinces of Annunziata, Piemonte-Romagna, Lombardo-Veneta**

Age	2006	(80)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	0	0,998	4		4	4	4	4	4	20-24
25-29	3	0,997	5		5	9	9	9	9	25-29
30-34	4	0,996	5		8	10	14	14	14	30-34
35-39	1	0,995	2		6	10	12	16	16	35-39
40-44	12	0,993	2		3	8	12	14	18	40-44
45-49	11	0,989	0		12	3	8	12	14	45-49
50-54	14	0,983	0		11	12	3	8	11	50-54
55-59	20	0,973	0		14	11	11	3	8	55-59
60-64	24	0,956	0		19	14	11	11	3	60-64
65-69	28	0,926	0		23	18	13	10	10	65-69
70-74	36	0,871	0		26	21	16	12	9	70-74
75-79	34	0,773	0		31	23	18	14	10	75-79
80-84	48	0,613	0		26	24	18	14	11	80-84
85 +	28	0,350	0		40	30	25	20	16	85 +
Total	263		18		228	197	174	151	153	Total

The group of reference is small. 18 entrants a year have been assumed.

Little reliability of results, especially because of the wide variability by age and in the total number of entrants that can be had in the coming years.

As regards the estimation of survivals, there are high probabilities but applied to extremely small frequencies; consequently, the adjustment to unity assumes basic role and makes the results uncertain.

**TABLE 2****REST OF EUROPE****Austria – Germany – England – Ireland – France – Belgium – Hungary**

Age	2006	(80)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	<b>0</b>	0,998	1		1	1	1	1	1	20-24
25-29	<b>1</b>	0,997	1		1	2	2	2	2	25-29
30-34	<b>4</b>	0,996	0		1	1	2	2	2	30-34
35-39	<b>0</b>	0,995	1		5	2	2	3	3	35-39
40-44	<b>6</b>	0,993	1		1	6	3	3	4	40-44
45-49	<b>4</b>	0,989	1		7	2	7	4	4	45-49
50-54	<b>8</b>	0,983	1		5	8	3	8	5	50-54
55-59	<b>10</b>	0,973	1		9	6	9	4	9	55-59
60-64	<b>13</b>	0,956	0		10	9	6	9	4	60-64
65-69	<b>11</b>	0,926	0		12	9	8	5	8	65-69
70-74	<b>12</b>	0,871	0		10	11	8	7	4	70-74
75-79	<b>7</b>	0,773	0		10	9	9	7	6	75-79
80-84	<b>6</b>	0,613	0		5	7	7	7	5	80-84
85 +	<b>3</b>	0,350	0		5	5	6	6	6	85 +
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>Total</b>

On the basis of data received, only 7 new entrants have been assumed for each 5-year period.

The group of reference is small.

Little reliability in results, especially because of the wide variability by age and in the total of entrants that may arrive in the coming years. The details for entrants are not very easy to understand; consequently, the adjustment to unity assumes a basic role and makes the results uncertain.

**TABLE 3****NORTH AMERICA****Usa – Canada – Australia**

Age	2006	(80)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	0	0,998	1		1	1	1	1	1	20-24
25-29	0	0,997	1		1	2	2	2	2	25-29
30-34	2	0,996	0		0	1	2	2	2	30-34
35-39	1	0,995	1		3	1	2	3	3	35-39
40-44	7	0,993	0		1	3	1	2	3	40-44
45-49	9	0,989	0		7	1	3	1	2	45-49
50-54	10	0,983	0		9	7	1	3	1	50-54
55-59	14	0,973	0		10	9	7	1	3	55-59
60-64	13	0,956	0		13	10	9	7	1	60-64
65-69	29	0,926	0		12	12	9	9	7	65-69
70-74	32	0,871	0		27	11	11	8	8	70-74
75-79	21	0,773	0		28	23	9	9	7	75-79
80-84	16	0,613	0		16	22	18	7	7	80-84
85 +	8	0,350	0		13	14	18	17	10	85 +
Total	162		3		141	117	93	72	57	Total

On the basis of the data received, only 3 new entrants have been assumed for each 5-year period.

The group of reference is small.

Little reliability can be attached to the results on account of the wide variability by age and total number of entrants that may arrive in the coming years. The details about entrants are not very easy to understand.

As regards the estimation of survivals, there are high probabilities but applied to small frequencies; consequently, adjustment takes on a basic role and makes results uncertain

**TABLE 4****LATIN AMERICA****Mexico – Brazil –Chile**

Age	2006	(70)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	4	0,997	7		7	7	7	7	7	20-24
25-29	6	0,996	9		13	16	16	16	16	25-29
30-34	11	0,995	6		12	19	22	22	22	30-34
35-39	27	0,992	1		12	13	20	23	23	35-39
40-44	14	0,988	1		28	13	14	21	24	40-44
45-49	14	0,981	0		14	28	13	14	21	45-49
50-54	16	0,972	1		15	14	28	14	14	50-54
55-59	7	0,957	0		15	15	14	27	13	55-59
60-64	9	0,931	0		7	14	14	13	26	60-64
65-69	6	0,882	0		8	7	13	13	12	65-69
70-74	7	0,791	0		5	7	7	11	11	70-74
75-79	10	0,659	0		6	4	5	6	9	75-79
80-84	6	0,496	0		6	4	3	3	4	80-84
85 +	2	0,300	0		3	4	3	2	2	85 +
Total	139		25		151	165	179	192	204	Total

On the basis of the data received, 25 new entrants have been assumed for each 5-year period, even though in the last there were 28.

The group of reference is small.

Little reliability can be attached to the results because of the wide variability of age and the total number of entrants that may arrive in the coming years.

As regards estimation of survivals, high probabilities but applied to extremely small frequencies. Hence the adjustment to unity assumes a fundamental role, and makes the results.

**TABLE 5****ASIA & AFRICA****India – Philippines – Uganda**

Age	2006	(70)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	5	0,997	13		13	13	13	13	13	20-24
25-29	44	0,996	29		34	42	42	42	42	25-29
30-34	22	0,995	15		59	49	57	57	57	30-34
35-39	29	0,992	0		22	59	49	56	57	35-39
40-44	17	0,988	0		29	22	58	49	56	40-44
45-49	8	0,981	0		17	29	22	57	48	45-49
50-54	5	0,972	0		8	17	28	21	56	50-54
55-59	3	0,957	0		5	8	16	27	20	55-59
60-64	0	0,931	0		3	5	8	15	26	60-64
65-69	0	0,882	0		0	3	5	7	14	65-69
70-74	0	0,791	0		0	0	3	4	6	70-74
75-79	0	0,659	0		0	0	0	2	3	75-79
80-84	1	0,496	0		0	0	0	0	1	80-84
85 +	0	0,300	0		0	0	0	0	0	85 +
Total	134		57		190	247	301	350	399	Total

**NOTE**

The following pages show 5 subdivisions by area.

As was expected, their total does not correspond with the general total and that of the first two groups, because much rounding up to unity had to be made in every age group, for entrants and for survivals.

These small unit differences multiply over time and group and thus the final difference of 25 years is some tens.

For example, for the developed countries 22 entrants have been considered; the total of the three areas, however, gives 28 entrants. This is a measure of the uncertainty of these analyses when it comes down to particularly small groups, with a classification in age groups larger than the total number.

More reliable are the bigger groups, especially because of the greater stability of entrants.

**TABLE 6****Europe + USA + Australia + Canada (Group A)**

Age	2006	(80)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	0	0,998	4		4	4	4	4	4	20-24
25-29	4	0,997	4		4	8	8	8	8	25-29
30-34	10	0,996	3		7	7	11	11	11	30-34
35-39	2	0,995	3		13	10	10	14	14	35-39
40-44	25	0,993	3		5	16	13	17	17	40-44
45-49	24	0,989	0		28	8	16	13	17	45-49
50-54	32	0,983	1		24	27	9	17	13	50-54
55-59	44	0,973	4		32	24	30	13	21	55-59
60-64	50	0,956	0		47	35	23	29	12	60-64
65-69	68	0,926	0		48	45	33	22	27	65-69
70-74	80	0,871	0		63	44	42	30	19	70-74
75-79	62	0,773	0		69	55	38	36	26	75-79
80-84	70	0,613	0		48	53	43	29	28	80-84
85 +	39	0,350	0		56	49	49	43	33	85 +
Total	510		22		448	385	329	286	250	Total

2006 = Population present on =1 January 2006 in Europe + United States e Australia + Canada = 510 (80) = Survival rates in the 5 years for that age group, in an average life of 80 years

E = Entrants estimated for the 5 year period by average age group in the period 1996-2005

2011 = 448 (22 Entrants & 84 Deaths from 2006 to 2011)

2016 = 385 (22 Entrants & 85 Deaths from 2011 to 2016)

2021 = 329 (22 Entrants & 78 Deaths from 2016 to 2021)

2026 = 286 (22 Entrants & 65 Deaths from 2021 to 2026)

2031 = 250 (22 Entrants & 58 Deaths from 2026 to 2031)



**TABLE 7****Mexico + Chile + Brazil + India + Philippines + Uganda**

Age	2006	(70)	E		2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Age
20-24	9	0,997	20		20	20	20	20	20	20-24
25-29	50	0,996	37		46	57	57	57	57	25-29
30-34	35	0,995	20		70	66	77	77	77	30-34
35-39	57	0,992	1		35	70	66	78	78	35-39
40-44	38	0,988	2		58	37	71	67	79	40-44
45-49	31	0,981	0		37	57	37	70	66	45-49
50-54	31	0,972	1		31	37	57	37	69	50-54
55-59	24	0,957	0		30	30	36	55	36	55-59
60-64	22	0,931	1		24	30	30	36	54	60-64
65-69	35	0,882	0		20	22	28	28	34	65-69
70-74	39	0,791	0		31	17	19	25	24	70-74
75-79	31	0,659	0		31	26	13	15	20	75-79
80-84	23	0,496	0		21	21	17	9	10	80-84
85 +	10	0,300	0		24	18	16	13	8	85 +
Total	435		82		478	508	544	587	632	Total

**2006** = Population present at =1 January 2006 in Mexico + Chile + Brazil + India + Philippines + Uganda = 435

**(70)** = Survival rate in the 5 year period for that age group, of 70 years average life 70

**E** = Entrants estimated for the 5 year period by average age group for the period 1996-2005

**2011** = 478 (82 Entrants & 39 Deaths from 2006 to 2011)

**2016** = 508 (82 Entrants & 52 Deaths from 2011 to 2016)

**2021** = 544 (82 Entrants & 46 Deaths from 2016 to 2021)

**2026** = 587 (82 Entrants & 39 Deaths from 2021 to 2026)

**2031** = 632 (82 Entrants & 37 Deaths from 2026 to 2031)

- A few individuals should be subtracted as exiting the Order

According to the historian, about 4-5 individuals every 5 year period

**TABLE 8****TOTAL PROJECTIONS**

<b>Year</b>	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>(1) A</b>	510	448	385	329	286	250
<b>(2) B</b>	435	478	508	544	587	632
<b>(3) Total</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>882</b>

**(1) Group A** = Europe + USA & Australia + Canada

**(2) Group B** = Mexico + Chile + Brazil + India + Philippines + Uganda

**(3) Total** = Order of Servants of Mary

**TABLE 9****PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY AREA**

<b>Year</b>	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>(1) A</b>	54%	48%	43%	38%	33%	28%
<b>(2) B</b>	46%	52%	57%	62%	67%	72%
<b>(3) Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**(1) Group A** = Europe + USA & Australia + Canada

**(2) Group B** = Mexico + Chile + Brazil + India + Philippines + Uganda

**(3) Total** = Order of Servants of Mary

## **2. EVALUATION OF THE RESTRUCTURING CARRIED OUT IN RECENT YEARS**

After the analysis of the statistical-demographic situation of the Order, the survey took into consideration the process that has dominated the life of the Servite Order in the last twenty years: restructuring. This process, which has involved not only the individual friars but also and especially the government of the Order at its various levels (general, provincial and conventual), has been submitted in this enquiry to a quantitative and especially a qualitative analysis, by asking each jurisdiction to evaluate its proposed objectives, the aims reached and eventual mistakes committed, so as to find out surer paths for the immediate future, in consideration of the fact that restructuring has not yet been completed, given the vast transformation that the Order will continue to undergo in the forthcoming decades.

### ***2.2.1. Closures and openings of conventual presences in the last 10 years:***

In the countries of Group A, in the last 10 years 24 communities and 2 special ministries have been closed, while 4 have been opened; in the countries of Group B, 1 community has been closed and 9 have been opened.

### ***2.2.2. What are the objectives the jurisdictions set themselves for these openings and closures?***

These were the reasons advanced for decisions to close communities: it was necessary because of a lack of personnel through deaths or the aging of many friars; it was decided to close small presences so as to reinforce other more significant ones; presences with pastoral or parochial services were given up through lack of friars willing to undertake the role of pastor or assistant pastor.

The openings were motivated by the need to create new formation communities, particularly in the countries of Group B, and by the wish to diversify our presences in a given territory. With regard to Hungary, the opening was justified by the wish to re-establish the presence of our Order in that country.

### ***2.2.3. What were the results obtained in terms of personnel?***

The results of the evaluation that emerged from this consultation were judged to be rather negative: nothing or minimal, a reason for the dissatisfaction of various friars, the fruit of decisions not understood or unjustified. The results were judged positive only in part: it was inevitable, more significant communities have been reinforced.

### ***2.2.4. What were the results obtained in terms of finance?***

The results obtained in financial terms were also judged to be rather negative: no advantage, loss of the income from parochial ministry. In the United States, the numerous closures carried out were judged to have caused a notable decline in the income for the provincial administration. The recovery of properties belonging to the Order and less expenses because of decreased presences was judged to be only partially useful.

As regards openings made, the advantage of new presences of the Order and the resolution of problems connected to the formation of increasing numbers of candidates were taken account of, even though it was recognised that sometimes excessive expenses had been incurred or that, in any case, these decisions had led to an increase in financial outlay.

#### ***2.2.5. What mistakes have been committed in the choices made?***

A few maintain that they had not committed any substantial errors in the decisions taken about openings and closures. The majority declare that major mistakes had been made, due to lack of consultation of all the friars of the jurisdiction and of other jurisdictions concerned, that there was little account taken of the financial consequences stemming from closures and mistaken calculations about personnel available for new openings.

#### ***2.2.6. What directions should be given preference in future choices about openings and closures in the jurisdiction?***

In the future, restructuring must be carried out by giving ample space to consulting the friars concerned, as well as friars from other jurisdictions to ascertain their eventual availability; a facilitator should be made use of to accompany the process of restructuring; improvised decisions have to be avoided and long-term plans set in place; before closing parishes, the laity have to be educated to assume responsibilities, even of leadership; the consolidation of more significant forms of presence, particularly in sanctuaries, should be aimed at; friars have to be encouraged to have greater willingness to move on, with generosity of service; the financial implications of openings and closures must not be overlooked, with special attention given to the Order's properties; services within the jurisdiction have to be gradually diversified.

#### ***3.1. Do you think your jurisdiction will be completely financially self-sufficient within the next 5-10-15-20 years?***

Few replied to this question, perhaps because it would have required a very detailed response, not just a simple yes or no. Nevertheless, it seems that in Group A most of the jurisdictions consulted consider they will be self-sufficient in personnel and financial resources, while many of those in Group B declare self-sufficiency difficult in terms of finance and sometimes in terms of personnel too, so that in the foreseeable future they will still be dependent on their founding jurisdiction.

#### ***3.2. Will support be needed from other jurisdictions, and in what areas will it be essential (formation, apostolate, finance, etc)?***

The jurisdictions that think they need support indicate all three of these areas: formation (which nearly all of them think needs the most support), finance and apostolate.

### **3. THE GENERAL HOUSES**

*4.1 Which general/curial sectors have definitely to be maintained for the immediate future (for example, General Secretariats, General Houses, PTF "Marianum", International Community Sant' Alessio)?*

Some did not reply to this question. Of the 6 who did not reply, 3 were from Group A and 3 were from Group B. From the replies, there is a desire to retain the "General House" communities at Monte Senario, San Marcello and Sant' Alessio (5 from Group A, and 2 from Group B). One reply (from Group B) wishes to have only three General Houses: the Marianum, the St Alexis Formation Community and Monte Senario. One reply (from Group A) wishes to reduce the number of General Houses to two: the General Curia and the Marianum. However, 4 other jurisdictions from Group A state that there are too many General Houses. They hold that all the General Houses should be done away with – not as communities but as General Houses -- with the exception of San Marcello.

One (from Group B) maintains that the St. Alexis Formation Community and the Marianum Study Community should be unified into one community.

*4.2 Which sectors are eventually to be modified or abolished in the immediate future?*

The General Secretariats should be retained but modified in terms of more effective service to the Order (5 from Group A and 1 from Group B). One (from Group A) suggests that the General Councillors take up the work of the General Secretaries. One reply (from Group A) asks that all General Secretariats and Regional Conferences be abolished.

Four (3 from Group A, and 1 from Group B) ask that the possibility of financial self-sufficiency for the Marianum be studied. Two (from Group A) suggest that the PTF "Marianum" should become an Institute of Mariology linked to a University.

One (from Group A) asks that the need for the international formation community St. Alexis be studied. One (from Group A) states the need for international formation communities in other places besides Rome, Italy.