
Evolution Report 2023

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Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way - OACI

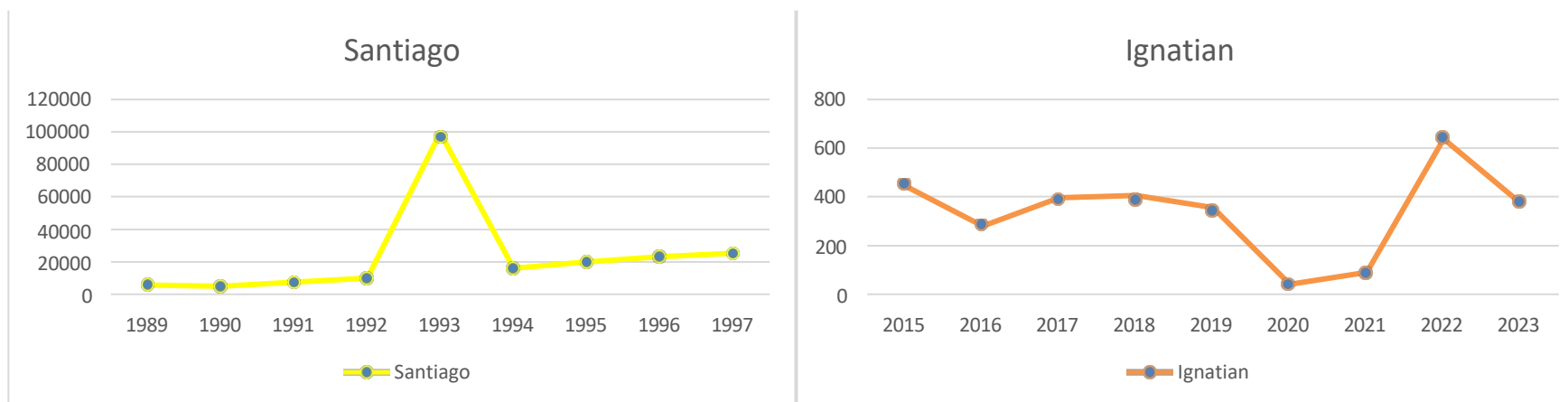
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Camino Ignaciano
Camí Ignasià
Camiño Ignaciano

I. PRESENTATION

The year 2023 has been a "post-celebration" year: after a remarkable Jubilee Year 2022, the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the first pilgrim of the Ignatian Way, the founder Ignatius of Loyola himself, we can see the fall in the number of pilgrims, which we believe is quite natural. It is not possible to compare the number of pilgrims in a Jubilee Year with that of a normal year. We can make a comparison with the Camino de Santiago, at a time, in the 90's, when the Camino was already beginning to gain strength:



The enormous increase in pilgrims in the 1993 Jubilee year was followed by a considerable decrease, with a total of 15,863 pilgrims arriving in Santiago. Nevertheless, that 1993 Jubilee year represented a launching to the present moment, without any doubt. As we already know, the secret of such an incredible change and growth was nothing more than the massive promotion of the Camino Jacobeo, the appearance of the Xacobeo brand, the fact that the Xunta de Galicia was seen as the administrative manager of the proposed pilgrimage of the future. Later, other administrations were added and even the so-called Jacobean Council was created, which, although it has not been very effective, has helped to consolidate the project of the Way of St. James in the late twentieth century and in our twenty-first century. Consolidation of a government structure and promotion of the product is what made the Camino de Santiago take off.

Certainly the Jubilee Year of the 500 years of the Ignatian Way went unnoticed in many places along the Ignatian route, but it was a clear impulse that will perhaps lead us to see a progressive increase in pilgrims in the years to come. The proclamation of the next Jubilee Year 2029 can be an incentive for the administrations to try again to promote and market internationally this product of religious tourism and pilgrimages that the Society of Jesus began in 2011, with its design and structuring of an itinerary, with its signage and consolidation in the territory.

The pilgrim figures we offer in this evolution report are restricted to the data we have collected at the Pilgrim's Office, with the help of the Manresa Tourist Office, who carries out the first reception of pilgrims. We can only talk about the pilgrims who fill in the form and give us their data. We are still uncertain about all those who have arrived in Manresa, the end of the Ignatian Way, and who do not fill in the form. Maybe we are talking about 200 or 300 pilgrims more, how do we know?

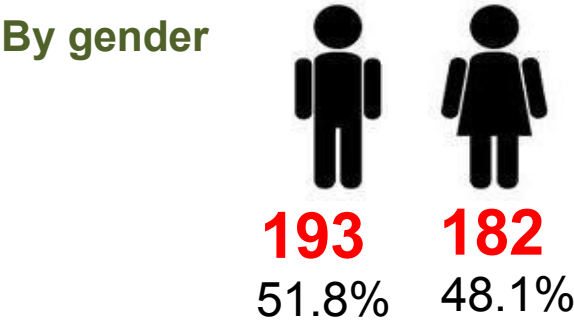
A highlight of 2023 is the expansion of the Ignatian Way to the Mediterranean: the stages from Manresa to Barcelona are already signposted, with the help of the Diputació de Barcelona. Pilgrims are already walking these two or three stages (depending on whether they want to walk faster or slower) and in May there was a group of pilgrims who ventured not only to Barcelona, but also to Rome, arriving on foot using the signage of the Via Francigena. There are plans to offer future pilgrims a few more stages linking the itinerary in Spain with the itinerary in Italy, reaching Rome and the place where the Society of Jesus was founded, the resting place of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

And now we can only hope that someday the public administrations begin to believe in the future of the Ignatian Way, and put the means to make it known, so that the services so necessary for pilgrims can be developed. 2029 is the next goal to reach with a good grade. Pilgrims come every year, how are we going to welcome them on the 700 km of the Ignatian Way?

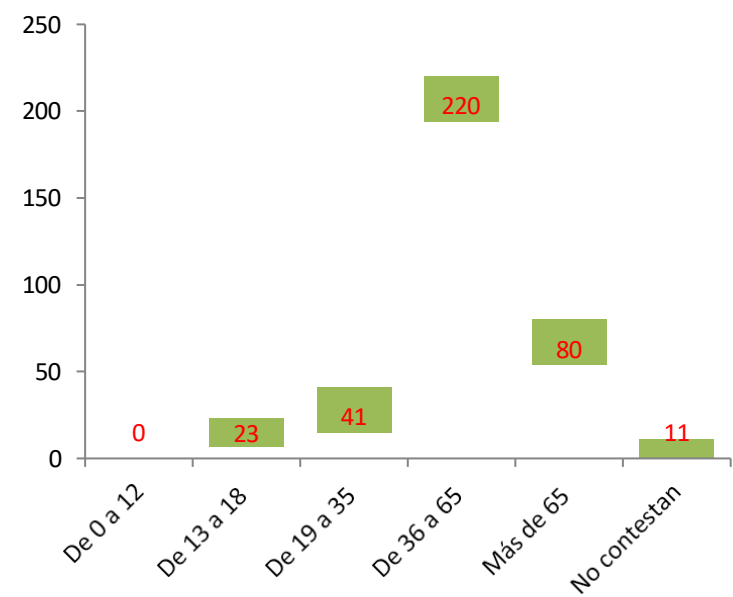
P. Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj. - Director of the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way - Apostolic Work Ignatian Way (OACI)

II. GENERAL DATA ON PILGRIMAGES BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2022

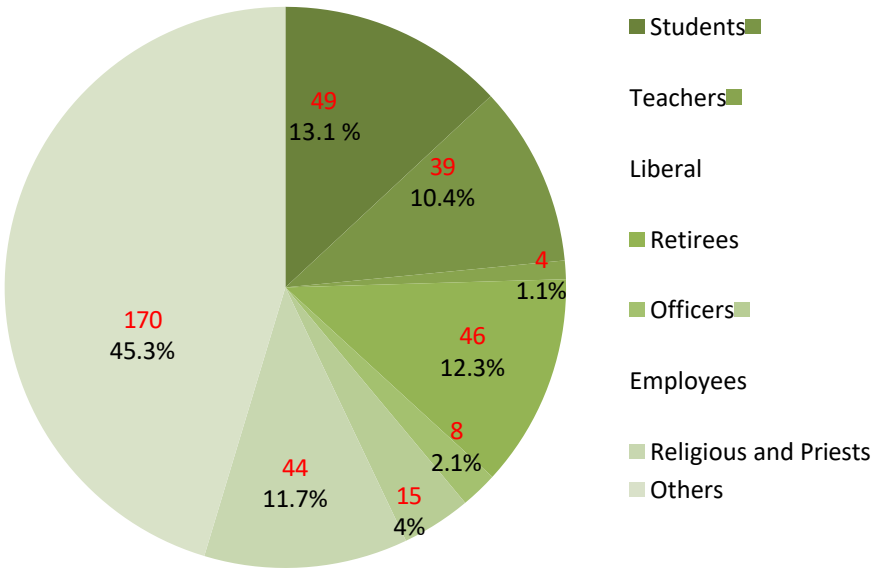
Number of registered pilgrims
in the pilgrim's office database



By age
professions

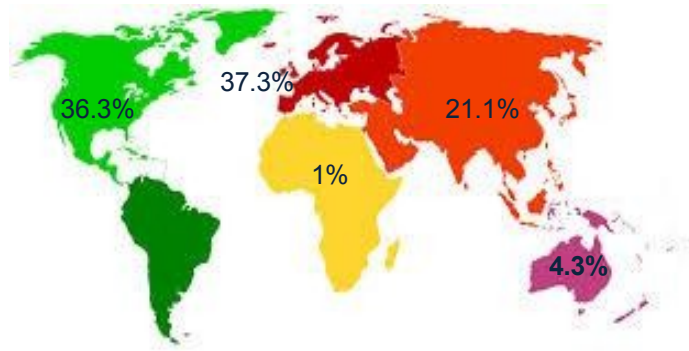


groupsBy



Origin of pilgrims

America	Europe	Asia	Oceania	Africa
136	140	79	16	4



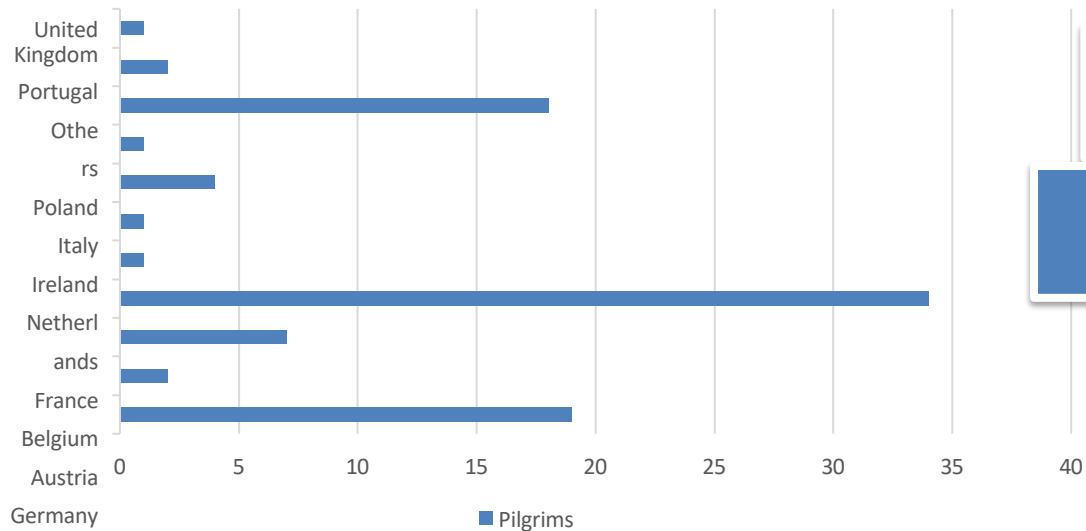
Spain Rest of the World

42
11.2%



333
88.8%

Europeans (non-Spanish nationals)



Communities
autonomous
in
Spain

Catalonia
7
16.6%

Euskadi
15
35.8%

Other
20
47.6%

No answer 0
0%

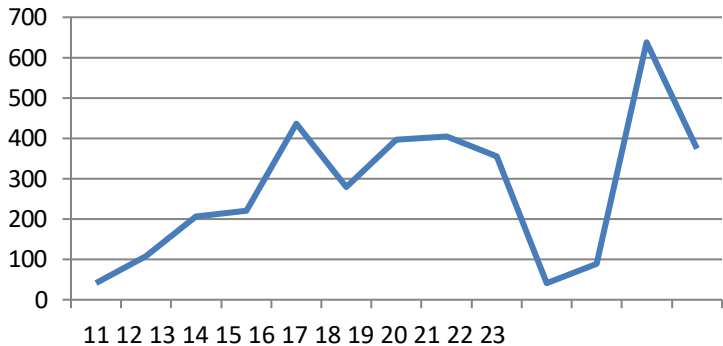
Comparison of pilgrimages

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
42	108	206	221	443	280	396	405	356	41	89	638	375

Total accumulated in our office: 3,600

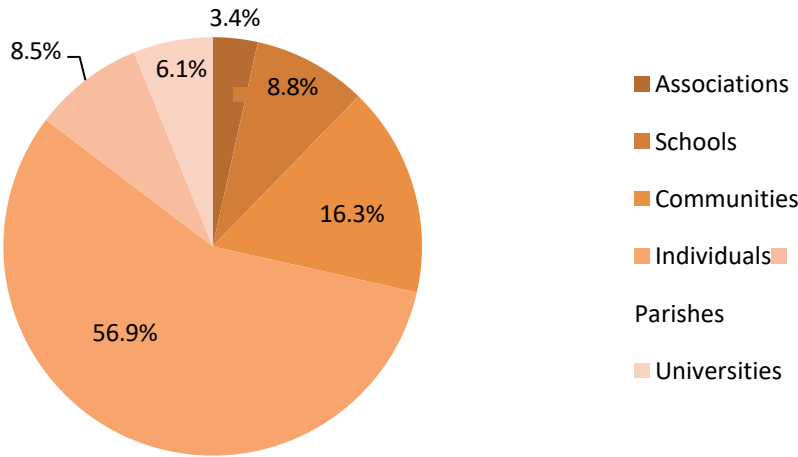
According to data from the Manresa Tourist Office, in 2022 alone = 2,079 pilgrims.

Evolution of pilgrimages per year

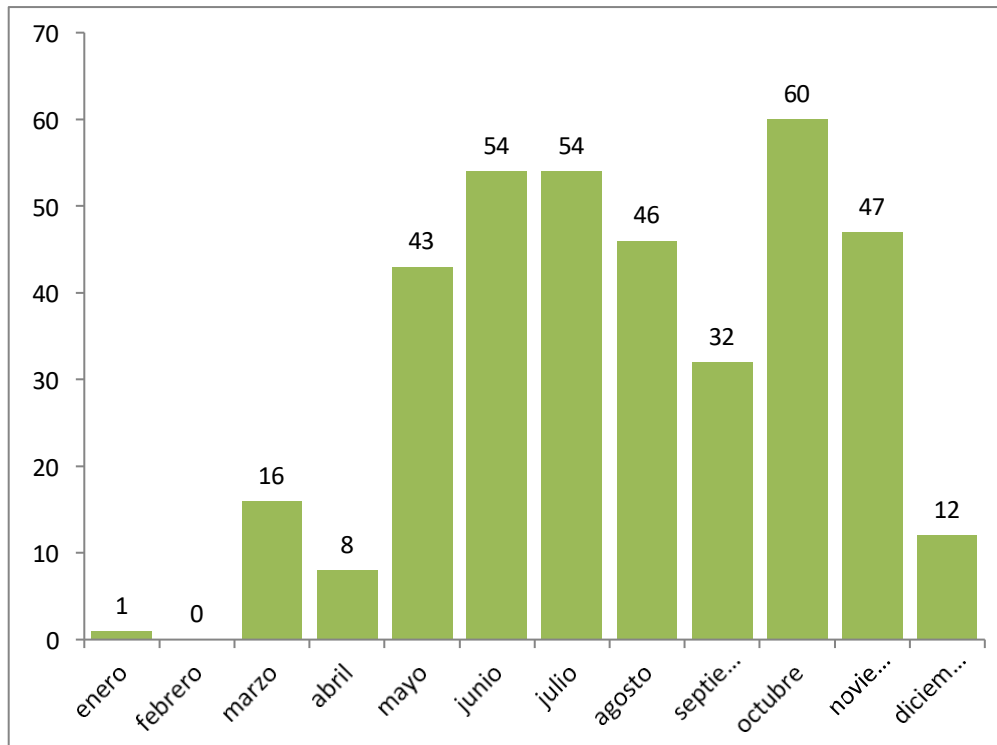


In 2022, the institution that presents the pilgrim

Associations	Colleges	Communities
13	33	61
Individuals	Parishes	Universities
213	32	23

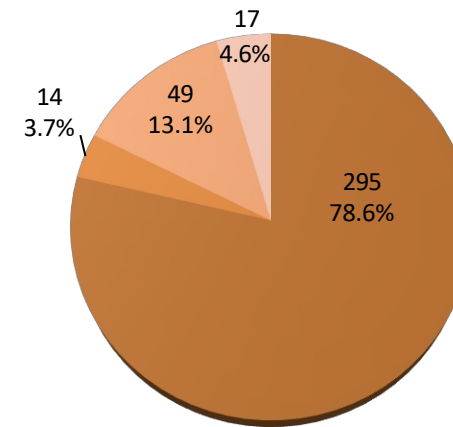


Final month of the



pilgrimageHow to make the pilgrimage

■ on foot ■ by bicycle ■ other means ■ mixed (foot, bus, bicycle)



Reason for the pilgrimage

