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# Evolution Report 2022

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Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way - OACI

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Inaziotar Bidea  
Camino Ignaciano  
Camí Ignasià  
Camiño Ignaciano

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## I. PRESENTATION

After an obligatory hiatus due to the special circumstances of the pandemic - COVID 19, we return to present a summary of the pilgrimage activity on the Ignatian Way. The year 2020 had a very low influx, as well as 2021, but in the celebration of the second Jubilee Year of the Ignatian Way, picking up the spirit of the 500th anniversary of the first pilgrim who made the route from Azpeitia-Loyola to Manresa, it has been noted that the pilgrims have responded to the invitation to "Jubilee", as the bishops of the dioceses through which the Ignatian Way runs requested in July 2021 (see <https://caminoignaciano.org/empieza-el-ano-jubilar-2022-del-camino-ignaciano/> ).

The celebration of the 500 years has been lived very unevenly along the Ignatian Way. The expected promotion by the administration at the level of the Autonomous Communities did not arrive, in spite of proposing in 2021 the publication of a new website and the promotion within the Spanish national territory. As a result of the little promotion, the Camino as such is still very unknown within the national territory and the invitation does not reach the potential pilgrims. However, according to the statistics that we have collected in the Pilgrim's Office, in 2022 we have seen a greater influx of pilgrims of Spanish nationality, which does not equal the number of foreigners, but is much closer than it was in 2019 (see the memory of 2019 to make the comparison <https://caminoignaciano.org/informe-sobre-evolucion-del-camino-ignaciano-2019/> ).

As we have already pointed out in other progress reports of previous years, there is a typical difficulty, which occurs in all pilgrimage routes, when we want to certify the total number of pilgrims arriving at their destination, which for us is the city of Manresa. We have found that groups organized with travel agencies hardly fill out the registration form to register as pilgrims; even some of the pilgrims that we could identify as "typical" (those similar to the typology of the Camino Jacobeo) do not do so either. Of all these pilgrims, we have no written record in the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way, although we often see them when they appear at the Office in La Cova de Manresa and ask for information afterwards. Therefore, while we have moved in 2022 with a figure of 638 pilgrims registered in our office, in the Tourist Office of Manresa, they certify the passage of 850 "typical" pilgrims and 1229 pilgrims arrived through travel agencies. This makes a total of 2079 pilgrims marked by the Ignatian call to the Camino and arrived in Manresa in just one year. Compared to the last "normal" year, 2019, in which the total number was 349 pilgrims, there is no doubt that the Ignatian Way has proven to be a valid offer of religious tourism and pilgrimages, without closing itself to other offers, such as nature or cultural tourism.

Since we can only speak of our own figures, the statistics presented here must be taken as a sample of only 638 pilgrims, but from which conclusions can be extrapolated and decisions can be made.

The year 2022, with its celebration of the 500th anniversary of the first pilgrim, the illustrious Ignatius of Loyola, has represented a good launching pad for those who have desired it. Thus we have seen the appearance of new pilgrim hostels-shelters, such as Santa Cruz de Campezo, Araia, Lapuebla de Labarca or Igualada. Renovations have been made in the lodgings of San Vicente or in the Cave of San Ignacio in Manresa, which has increased its capacity for pilgrims with 40 new beds. Municipalities such as Fuenmayor or Navarrete have mobilized to improve the

The new signposts have been installed along the Camino. A press trip organized by the Turespaña Office in Frankfurt, with the partial collaboration of the CCAA, resulted in several articles in the German press. The more than 100 acts developed in the city of Manresa have been the confirmation and consolidation of the project of the Ignatian Way initiated in 2011 and that has been growing throughout this time. This was joined by the Autonomous Community of Catalonia declaring to commemorate institutionally the 500 years of the stay of Ignatius of Loyola in Catalonia, with a central act in the Palace of the Generalitat.

Manresa has stood out in the promotion of the Camino and the Ignatianity of the entire itinerary, not only because of its calls for the participation of the five Autonomous Communities and the agents of local administration and institutions (the gastronomic days of the Camino, the concert of the Orfeón Dontiarra, of the Escolanía de Montserrat), but also because of its initiatives to promote the Camino. and the agents of the local administration and institutions (the gastronomic days of the Camino, the concert of the Orfeón Donostiarra, the Escolanía de Montserrat), but also for the inclusive initiatives in which the motto of 2022 was promoted: the transformation, personal, following the profound change experienced by the first pilgrim, Ignatius of Loyola. Thus, from the mountain bike pilgrimage to the International Multireligious Forum for Peace, from the celebration of the Modern History Congress on the world of Ignatius to the premiere of the play Enecus, with great public success. Popular events such as the #LAREFESTA, which puts fire and dance to the octave before July 31, with great acceptance of the citizens of Manresa, have highlighted the imprint of Ignatius in the collective memory. Cycles of concerts, both classical music (Liceu Symphony Orchestra) and modern (Love of Lesbian, Sílvia Pérez Cruz) and multiple conferences, as well as activities in schools to bring the figure of the Pilgrim to children, have been populating with life and experience all the 2022 Manresa. From the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way - OACI we can only congratulate Manresa for showing a way in which to celebrate life with Ignatius of Loyola. To see in more detail: <http://www.manresa2022.cat/esp/menu/14827-todo-el-programa>

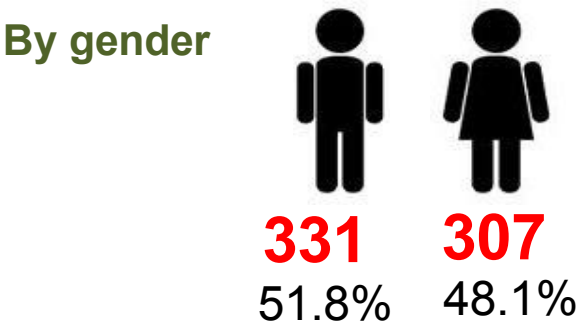
Two documentary films on the Ignatian Way (one Hungarian and one Catalan), as well as several short videos, have helped to promote the Camino, although we must regret the difficulty of finding platforms to disseminate these audiovisual materials to the maximum. As an example: <https://caminoignaciano.org/video-500-anos-de-la-estancia-de-ignacio-de-loyola-en-cataluna/>. Another very popular route in Spain, the Camino del Cid, started in 2023 with a series of thirteen chapters on the more than 2000 km of its itinerary, presented on TVE2, with national broadcasting. Perhaps we have failed to coordinate, to put sufficient resources, and lack of ambition for the future, or perhaps believe in the project, which could have made the final results of this 2022 fly more, in number of pilgrims.

Finally, and as a necessary and obligatory note before the end of 2022, we received the good news of the official proclamation of the periodicity of the Jubilee years granted to the Ignatian Way by the competent authorities: the Provincial of Spain of the Society of Jesus, with the admission of the Father General of the Jesuits in Rome (<https://caminoignaciano.org/camino-ignaciano-declaracion-de-anos-jubilaes-periodicos-cada-7-anos/>). In this way the following Jubilee years are automatically programmed, with a periodicity of seven years, so that the next one will be in 2029. We can say that the legacy of what is being built today will remain for future generations, perhaps for centuries to come. Everything remains in the hands of each link of the Ignatian Way.

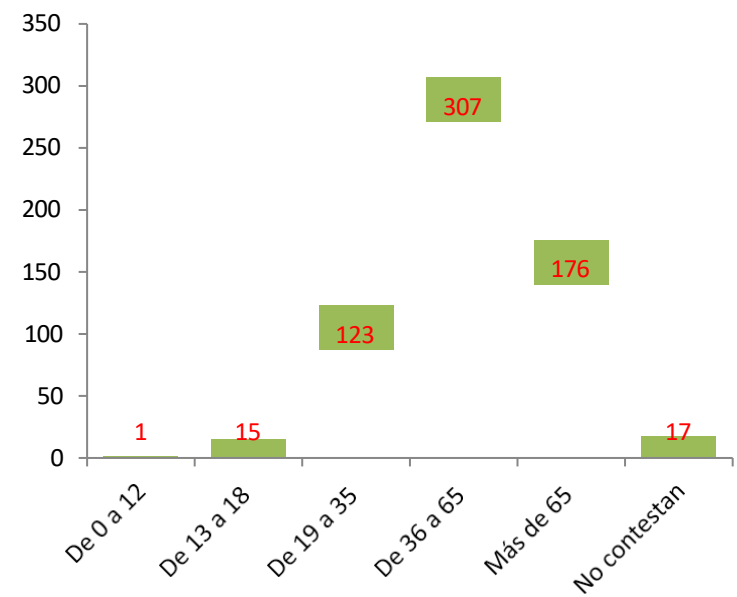
**P. Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj.** - Director of the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way - Apostolic Work Ignatian Way (OACI)

II. GENERAL DATA ON PILGRIMAGES BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2022

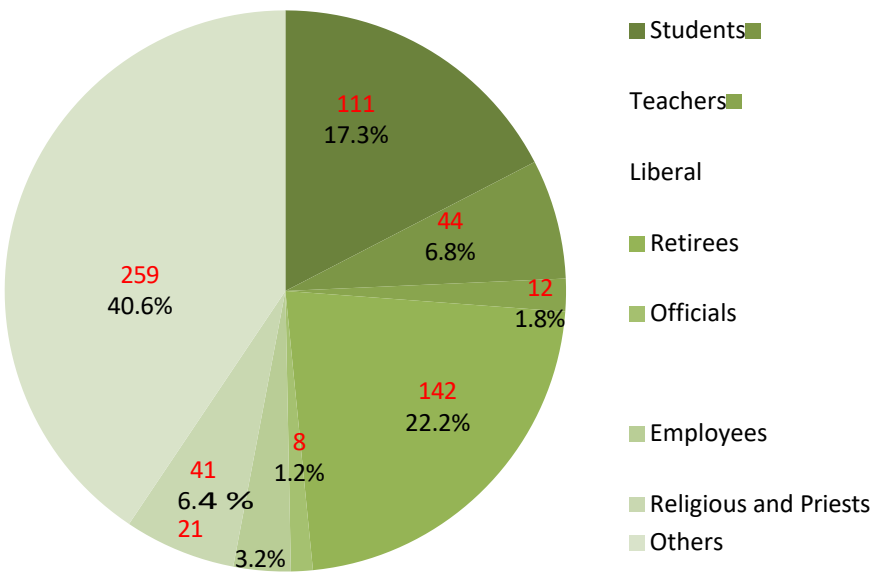
Number of registered pilgrims  
in the pilgrim's office database



By age  
professions

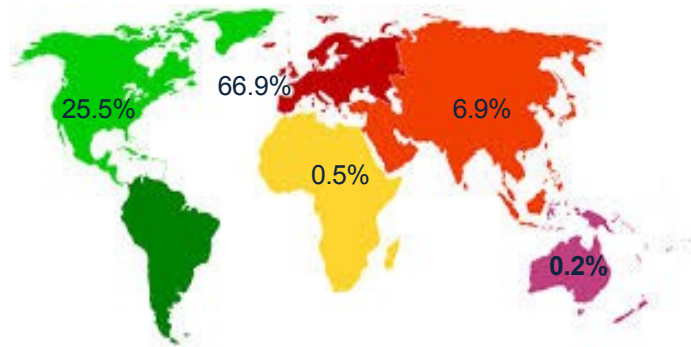


groupsBy

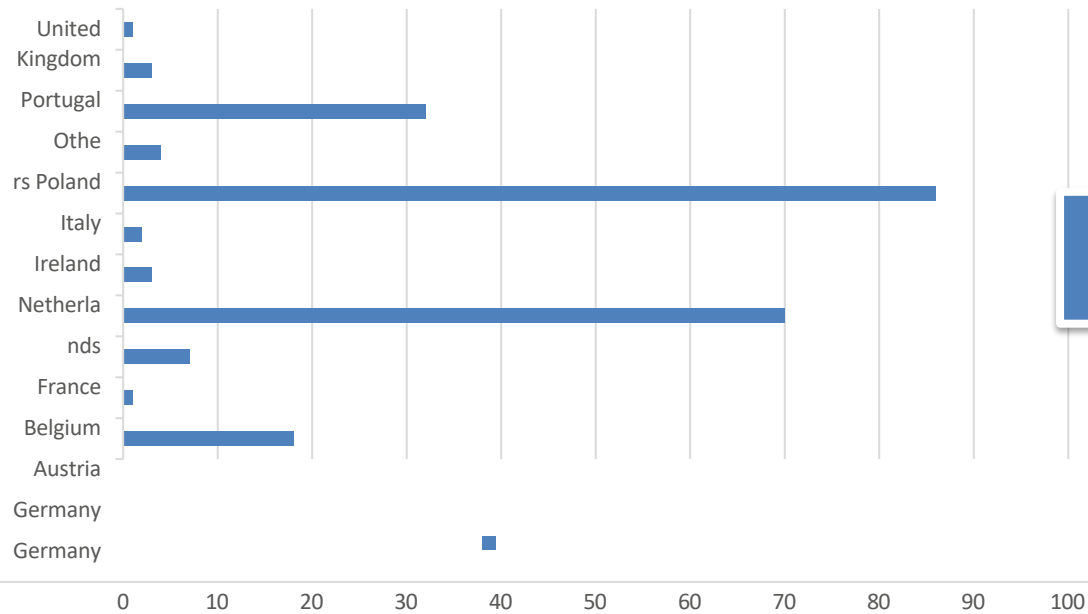


## Origin of pilgrims

America	Europe	Asia	Oceania	Africa
163	427	44	1	3



Europeans (non-Spanish nationals)



Spain Rest of the World

**200**  
31.4%



**438**  
68.6%

Autonomous communities in Spain

Catalonia  
75  
37.5%

Euskadi  
37  
18.5%

Othe  
r 6  
3%

No answer 82  
41%



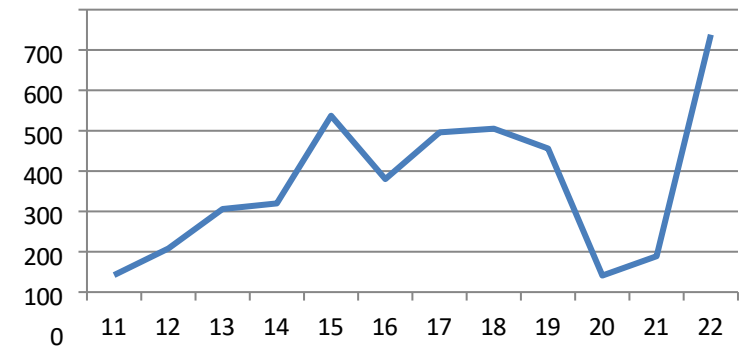
## Comparison of pilgrimages

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

Total accumulated in our office: 3,225

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

62

Colleges

30

Communities

68

Individuals

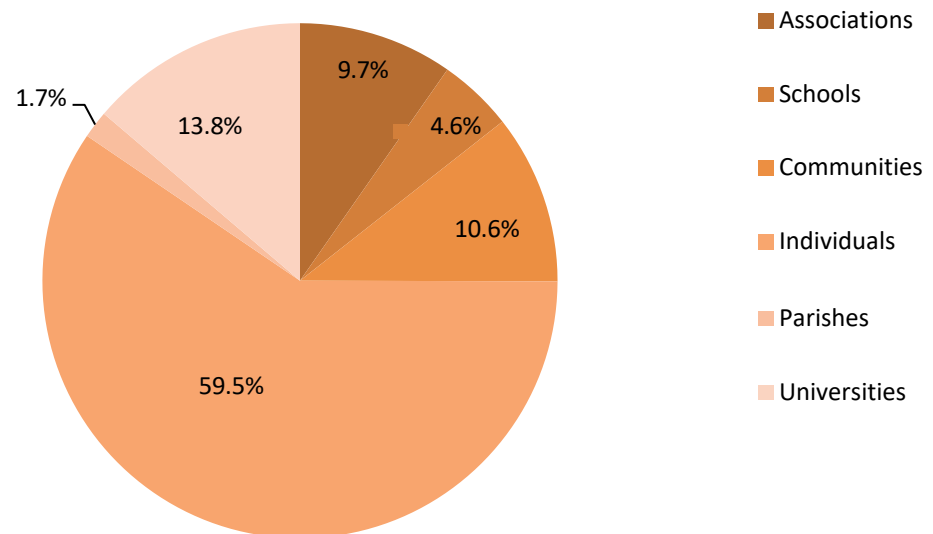
380

Parishes

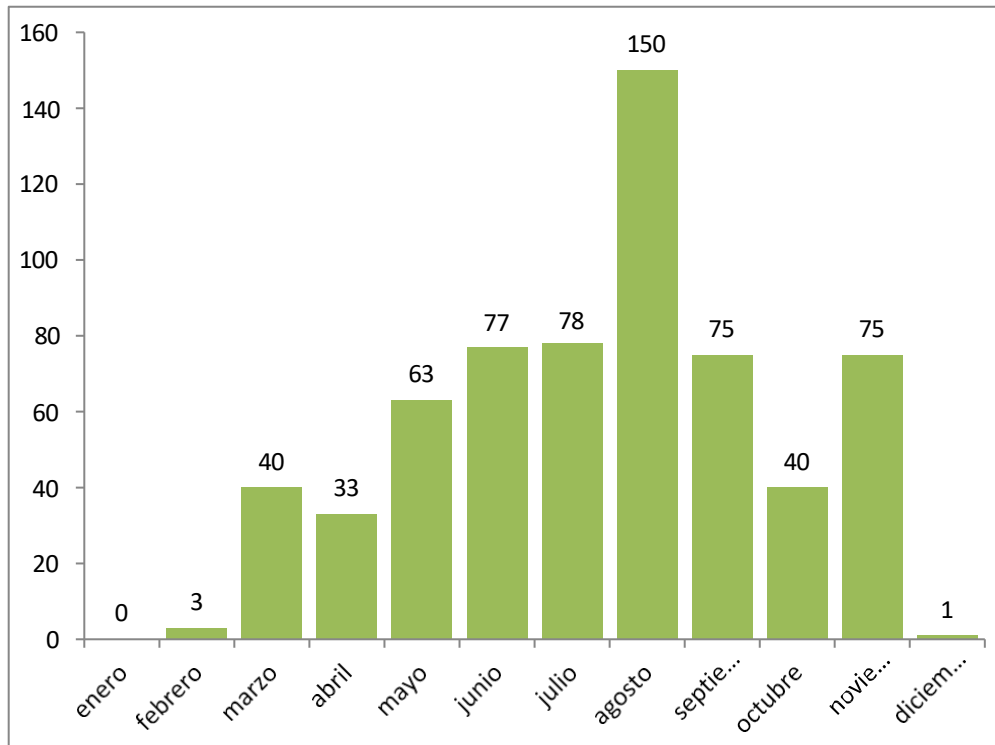
11

Universities

88

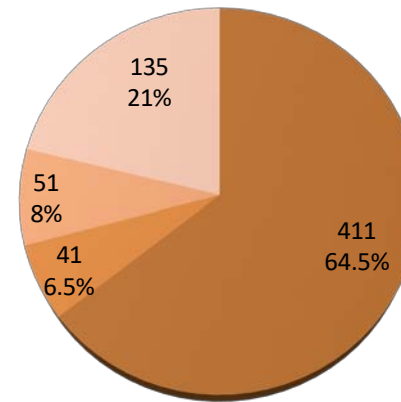


## Final month of the



## pilgrimageHow to make the pilgrimage

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



## Reason for the pilgrimage

