
2016 Annual Report

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Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way - OACI

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Inaziotar Bidea
Camino Ignaciano
Camí Ignasià
Camiño Ignaciano

I. PRESENTATION

As usual with us, from the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way we present to the public the report of the Ignatian pilgrimage that gathers the movements of the pilgrims registered in our database in Manresa, the arrival point of the Way.

The balance of this year is still positive, although we have seen the "Jubilee year" phenomenon that occurs in all modern pilgrimages: 2015 brought together more Ignatian pilgrims than 2016, but the figure for 2016 is better than that of 2014. We are still on the rise, albeit more modestly than the previous year. We closed this year with 280 pilgrims registered in the database compared to 221 in 2014. Once again we have to point out that there are quite a few pilgrims who have not received their final certificate and therefore we have no written record of their pilgrimage. More or less numerous groups, such as that of 17 Filipino pilgrims and their two guides who made the Camino from Loyola, passing through Fuenmayor and Luceni, as we were informed in those town halls, and who also reached Montserrat and Manresa, but were not registered on arrival. Or, that group of pilgrims from Miami of more than 30 people who also did not register and instead were celebrating in Manresa the closing Eucharist of their pilgrimage. Surely we have left out many other pilgrims and groups. From these lines we want to encourage all pilgrims to register as such upon arrival in Manresa.

As can be seen in the figures we offer, the internationality of the participants continues at a very high level, with 44%. We have been able to detect interest from French pilgrims, practically nonexistent until now, and also from English pilgrims. The response continues to be good at the peninsular level, although it is still a very timid movement and limited to the communities of Euskadi and Catalonia. We recognize the difficulty involved in starting a new pilgrimage route, due to the lack of general services for pilgrims and the resulting high final price, which is a deterrent for many. In this sense, we must highlight the growing interest shown by more municipalities in incorporating the Ignatian Way as another element of local development. Genevilla, Fuenmayor, Legazpi, Igualada, Alfaro, Bellpuig, Lapuebla de Labarca and others have joined the municipalities that from the beginning have shown their interest in developing this Ignatian pilgrimage project. New hostels are springing up along the way, although there is certainly much to be done if we wish to reach the levels of other routes. From the Office we are committed to support and guide in everything in our power so that more and more pilgrims feel this route as a safe and easy to walk. Our goal is to make the Ignatian Way a memorable experience for all, pilgrims and local inhabitants.

In this report we would like to mention an initiative of special interest developed by the town council of Alfaro. It was in March when the first days of "pilgrimage routes" were held, bringing together the two routes that pass through the city: the Jacobean and the Ignatian. Not only were conferences and various events held, but there remains for posterity a beautiful sculptural ensemble that is a permanent testimony to the spirit of the pilgrims of all times. Other initiatives have also arisen from local society, such as the pilgrim's march organized by the Manresa City Council and the First Gastronomic Days of the Ignatian Way, as well as the walk organized by the Lapuebla de Labarca City Council. We cannot be exhaustive in these brief lines, but these are just a few examples.

examples to encourage other towns and cities along the Camino to enter into this dynamic of promotion and growth for all. Finally, we would like to comment and thank the institutional support offered to this project by the different autonomous governments in their promotional campaigns and national and international publicity, in the edition of brochures and the publication of an alternative guide to the official one by the government of Euskadi, the participation in fairs and the promotion in Europe.

The Pilgrim's Office of the Camino Ignaciano has promoted the Camino by helping institutions and groups that have wished to make the pilgrimage in 2016, organizing and accompanying these pilgrims when required. In June, the 3rd corrected and improved edition of the official guide of the Ignatian Way was published by Mensajero-Grupo Loyola de Comunicación. Also last August the Official Guide of the Ignatian Way was published in German, which greatly increases the potential market of pilgrims.

The consolidation of the Ignatian Way continues along its almost 700 km of route. Orange arrows mark practically the entire route, together with posts and plaques installed by different administrations, from the local to the regional level. Pilgrims express their satisfaction with the good signage along the Camino, as well as the appearance of new lodgings for pilgrims that help to keep spending levels a little lower.

Unlike last year, this year we have noticed that the school and university groups have decreased compared to the adult groups: most probably the youth groups were more mobilized in the first summer of the Jubilee Year. But the adults are not losing pace and we believe that in the future they will be a group to be taken into account: the pilgrimage experience is not exclusive to young people in good physical shape.

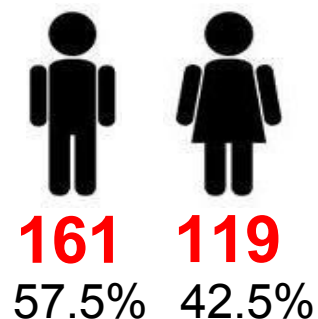
We congratulate ourselves for the effort of promotion and constant growth that we have observed in civil society and in the Society of Jesus. In 2016 we have already surpassed the barrier of 1,300 pilgrims who have come to Manresa and we hope to reach 2,000 in a short time. We are committed to reach that figure in 2018 at the latest. It will depend on everyone's coordination and mainly on the communication effort we can make. We are working on it.

Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj.

Director of the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way Apostolic
Work of the Ignatian Way (OACI)

II. GENERAL DATA ON PILGRIMAGES BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2016

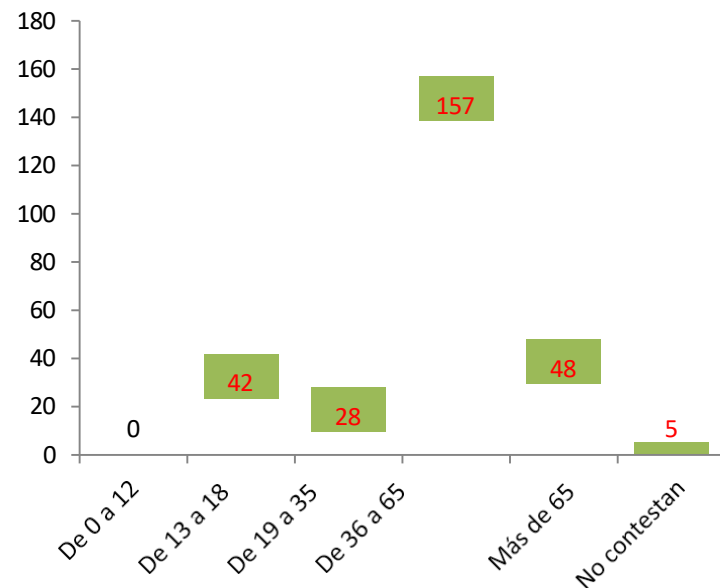
By gender



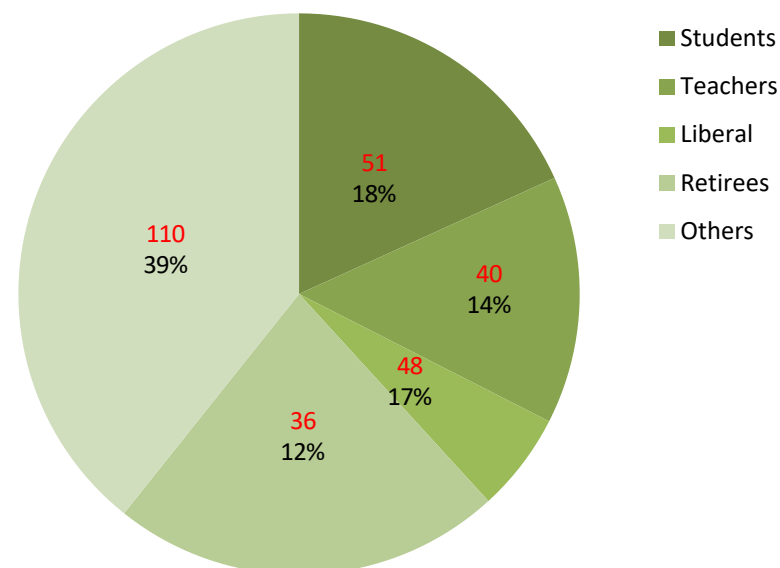
Number of registered pilgrims
in the pilgrim's office database



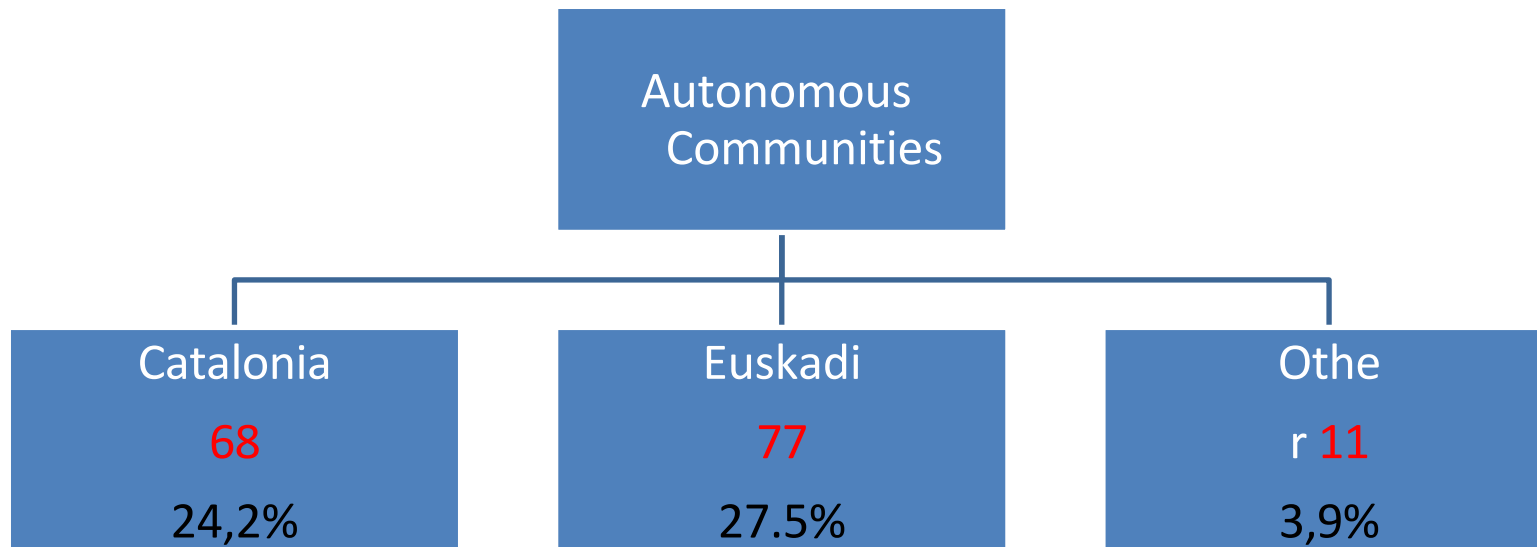
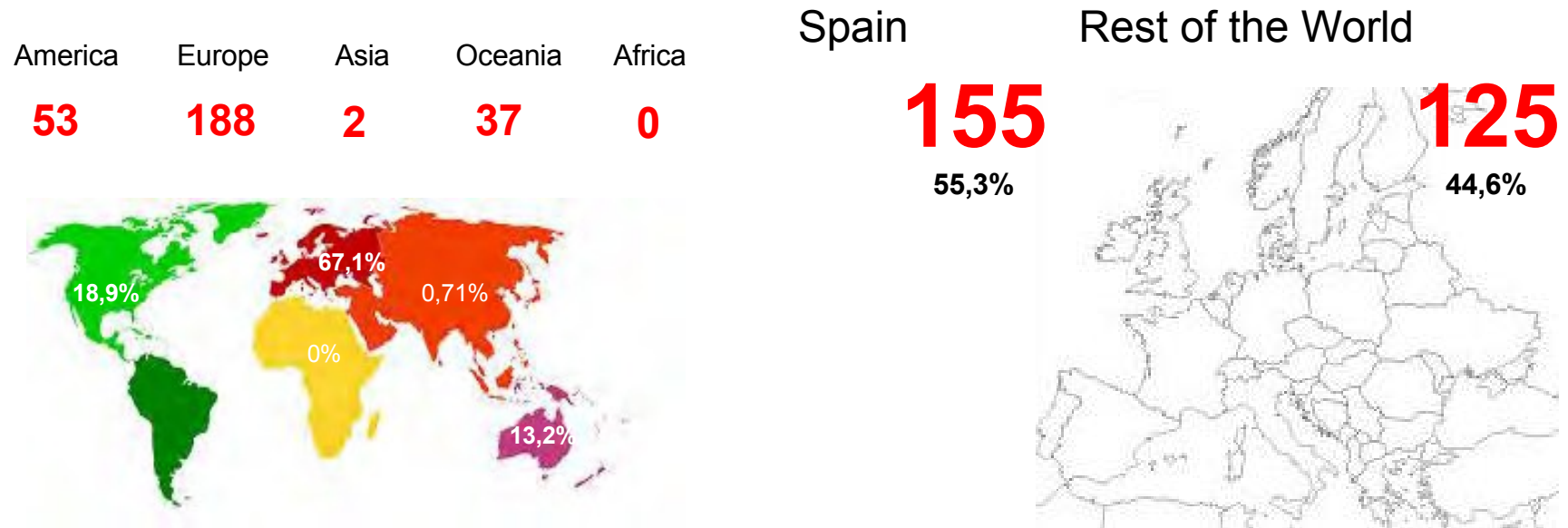
By age group



By profession



Origin of pilgrims

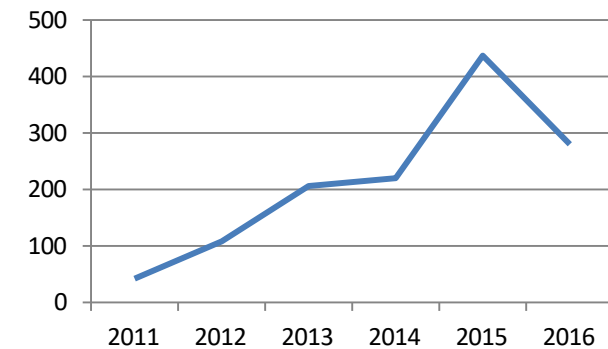


Comparison of pilgrimages

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
42	108	206	221	443	280

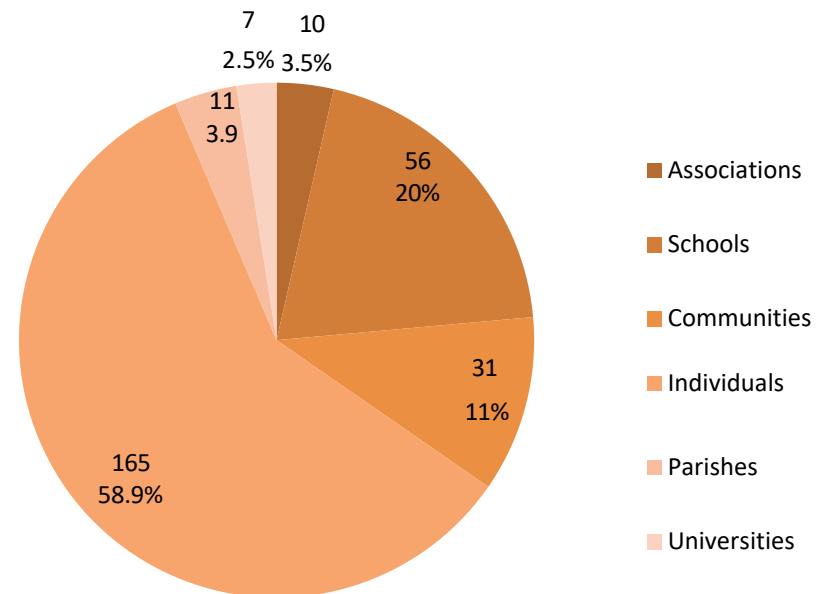
Cumulative total: 1300

Evolution of pilgrimages per year

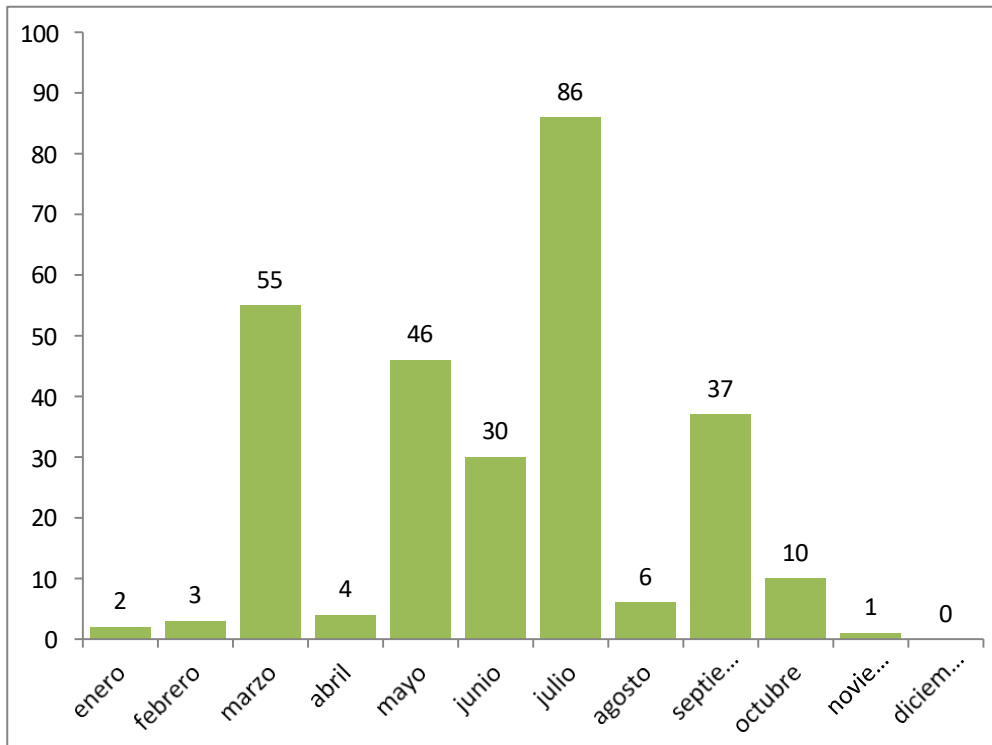


In 2016, the institution that presents the pilgrim

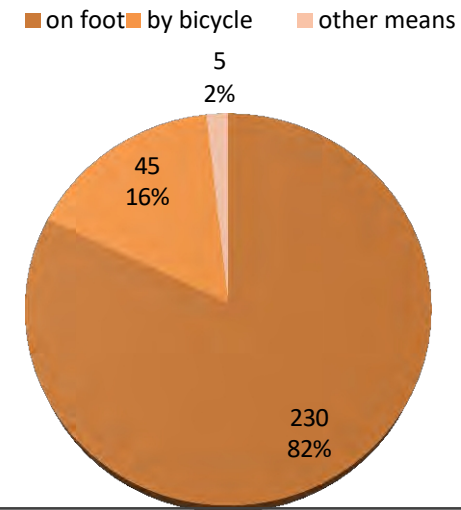
Associations	Colleges	Communities
10	56	31
Individuals	Parishes	Universities
165	11	7



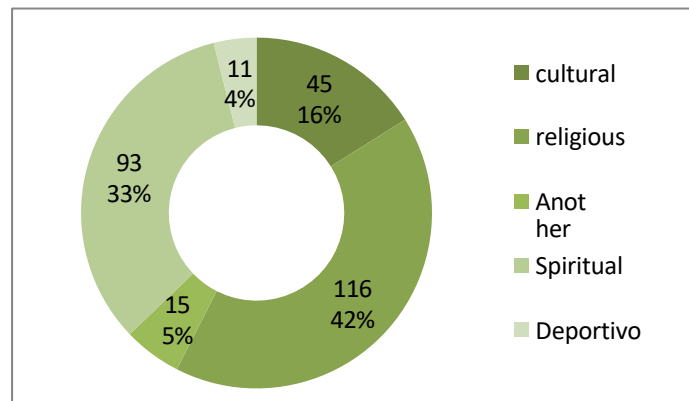
Starting month



How to make the pilgrimage



Reason for the pilgrimage



Start location

