
2017 Annual Report

Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj
Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way - OACI

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Inaziotar Bidea
Camino Ignaciano
Camí Ignasià
Camiño Ignaciano

I. PRESENTATION

From the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way we present to the public the memory of the Ignatian pilgrimage that gathers the movements of the pilgrims registered in our database in Manresa, the arrival point of the Way.

One more year of journey that leaves us with a more than positive balance: once again the number of pilgrims continues to rise, maintaining the dynamics of slow but steady growth. 396 pilgrims have been counted this 2017 at the Pilgrim's Welcome Office in Manresa compared to 280 pilgrims in 2016. To highlight, once again, the disparity of figures that are shuffled between the start of the pilgrimage in Loyola and the results obtained in Manresa: according to estimates in Euskadi more than 525 pilgrims started their pilgrimage in 2017. This disparity is not at all strange if one thinks that the Ignatian Way needs a month to be walked in its entirety and there are many people who do not have such long times available. Therefore, the Camino is done in stages. This characteristic, which also occurs in other Ways, such as the French Way of St. James, is accentuated in our case by having a very marked beginning (Loyola): unlike the French Way of St. James, where what counts are the last 100 kilometers, in the Ignatian Way, not starting in Loyola represents a great loss of meaning, so going to the beginning is a must.

As can be seen in the graph of the evolution of the number of pilgrims, what happens in other pilgrimage routes is also true in this pilgrimage route: in the Jubilee year there is a good increase with respect to the previous year which is not maintained in the following year; but, as can be seen, the figures for the years after the Jubilee year continue to increase and do not return to the year before the Jubilee year. This dynamic underpins the frequent request for Jubilee years by pilgrimage routes in Spain and beyond. Finally, on this point of the figures, we must insist on the need for all pilgrims to register once their pilgrimage is over, because we continue to note the arrival of pilgrims to Manresa who are not registered.

From the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way we noticed this 2017 an increase in requests for direct information from pilgrims. Almost all of them are individual pilgrims or couples and very rarely groups. New travel agencies specialized in pilgrimages are contacting us for advice and we have to highlight the arrival for the first time of French and Mexican agencies. A new public has been added this year to the Ignatian Way: those coming from Singapore, who join those already known from the Philippines.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, new hostels and inns for pilgrims are springing up along the Ignatian Way. We highlight the new large-capacity hostel in Azcoitia, the "boutique" hostel in Meano and the new *Posada Ignatius* in the former Palace of the Duke of Nájera, which Iñigo knew so well in his younger years, between 1517 and 1521. The Sanctuary of La Cova de Manresa has also increased its capacity to receive pilgrims to 60 places. New shelters that make the Ignatian Way more comfortable and with greater historical and experiential value. From the Office we remain committed to support and guide all these initiatives, public and private, so that more and more pilgrims feel this route as a safe and easy to walk. Our goal is that the Camino

Ignatian be a memorable experience for all. Lodging is a good way to share the economic benefit of this route between the hikers and the local inhabitants. Public initiative should join these private efforts for the benefit of all.

The initiatives that have been emerging in other years from the local society, such as the pilgrim's march of the city council of Manresa and the Gastronomic Days of the Ignatian Way, held this 2017 in both Manresa and Loyola, are consolidated. As in other years, it is worth mentioning the institutional support offered to the Ignatian Way by the different autonomous governments in their promotional campaigns and national and international publicity, in the production of a miniseries on the Way by the government of Euskadi and the participation in national and international fairs (FITUR). The socio-political instability in which we are living has logically affected the development of joint plans with the administration, but it is certainly a circumstantial obstacle that will be overcome with the good will of all.

The Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way has promoted the Camino with the publication of the guide in English and Italian, in addition to the German and Spanish versions. The Way was also promoted in Rome with a conference on St. Ignatius in Manresa at the Gregorian University, a permanent exhibition located in the Gesú, the church where St. Ignatius is buried, and an interview with the Father General of the Society of Jesus, to begin to prepare the ground for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the conversion and pilgrimage of Ignatius.

This year 2017 has seen the consolidation of the signage of the entire Ignatian route. In the province of Alava, new and very aesthetic orange arrows on a black background have been distributed as urban and interurban signage, notably in the area of Laguardia and Lapuebla de Labarca. Throughout the more than 650 km of the Camino Ignaciano the signage is homogeneous in all areas, with complementarity between the orange arrows, the rising or rampant sun and the signs with the complete logo of the Camino. The signage of the Ignatian Way, combined with the signage of other routes that cross and/or share it, makes the signage a stable element of the pilgrimage.

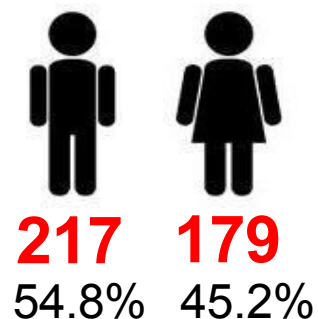
Once again we congratulate ourselves for the effort of promotion and constant growth that we have observed in the civil society and in the Society of Jesus. In 2017 we have already surpassed the barrier of 1,600 pilgrims who have come to Manresa and we hope to reach 2,000 in a short time. We are set to reach that figure in 2018. It will depend on everyone's coordination and mainly on the communication effort we can make. We are working on it.

P. 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 2017

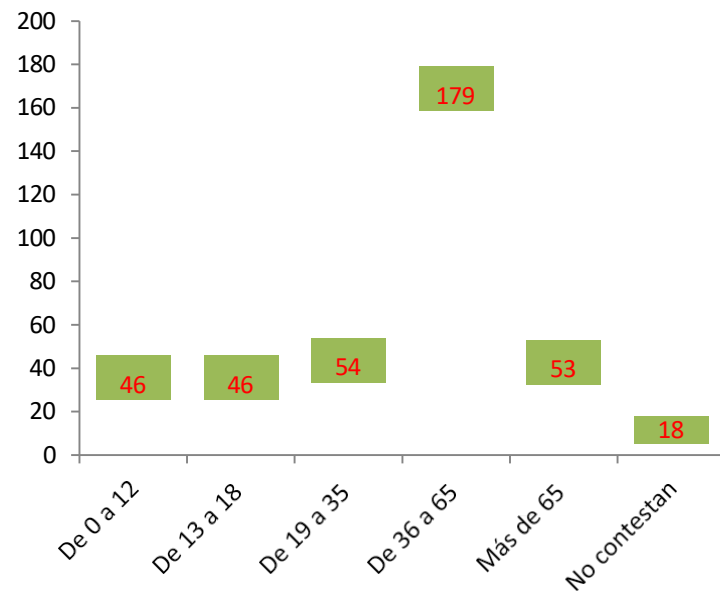
By gender



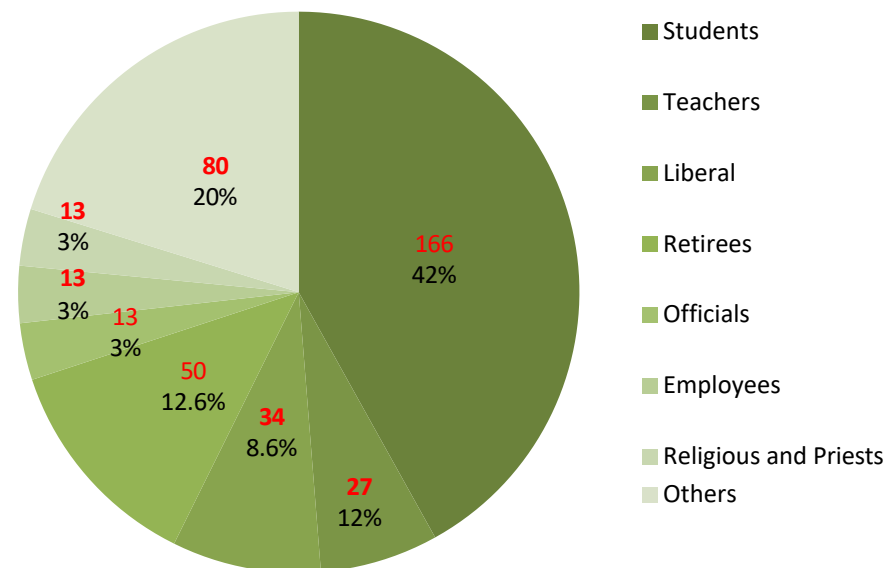
Number of registered pilgrims in the pilgrim's office database



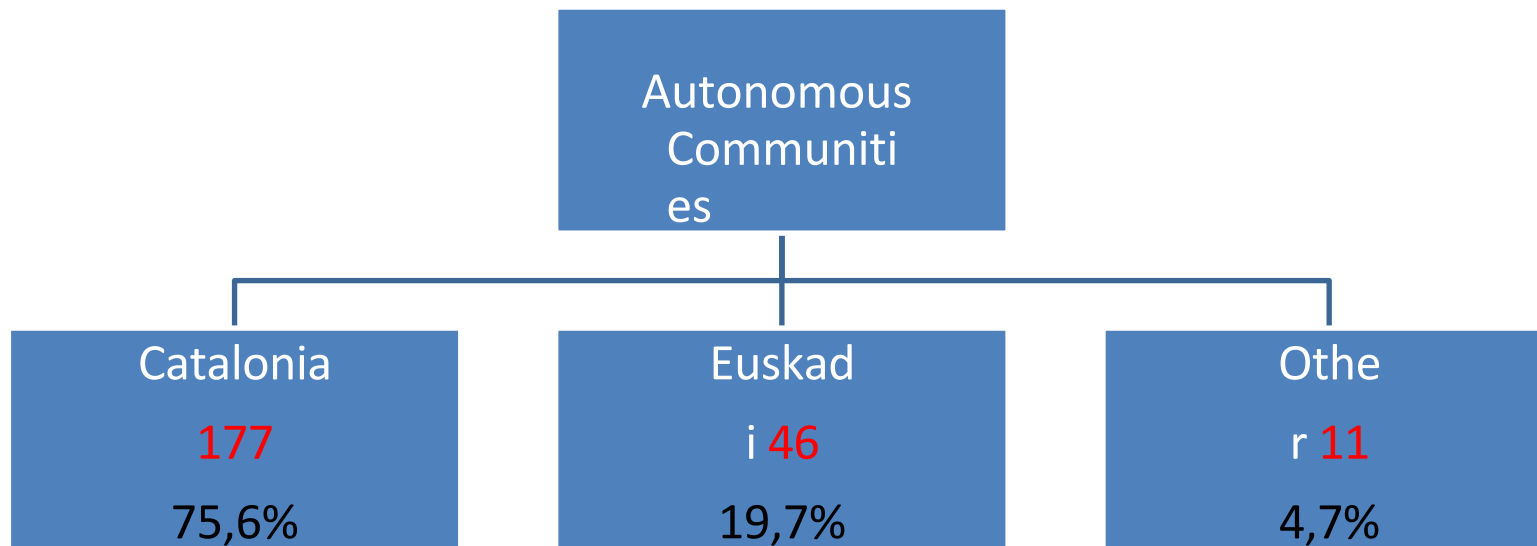
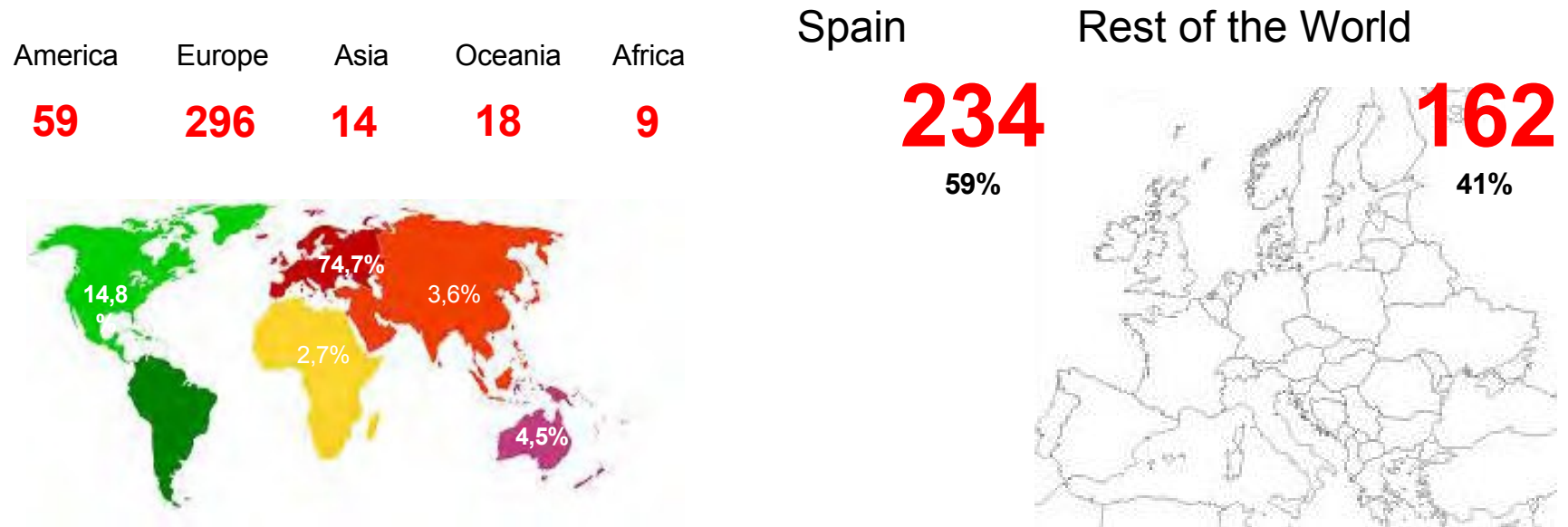
By age group



By profession



Origin of pilgrims

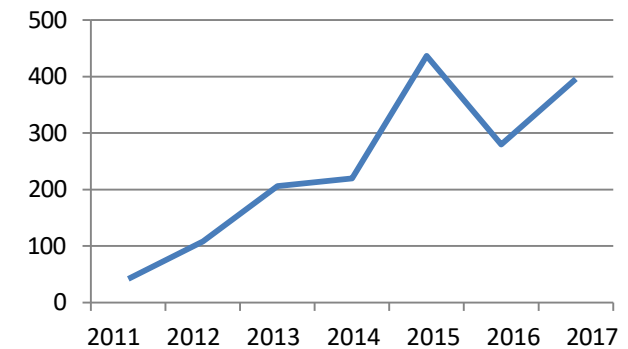


Comparison of pilgrimages

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
42	108	206	221	443	280	396

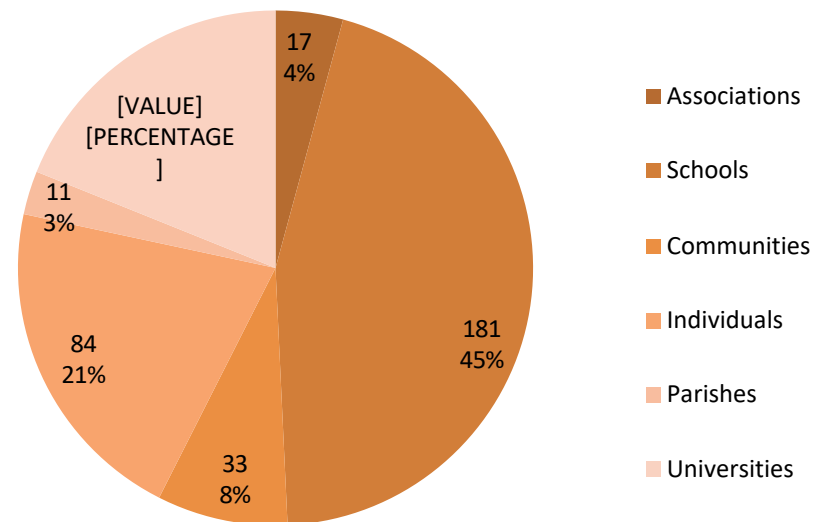
Cumulative total: 1696

Evolution of the pilgrimages per year

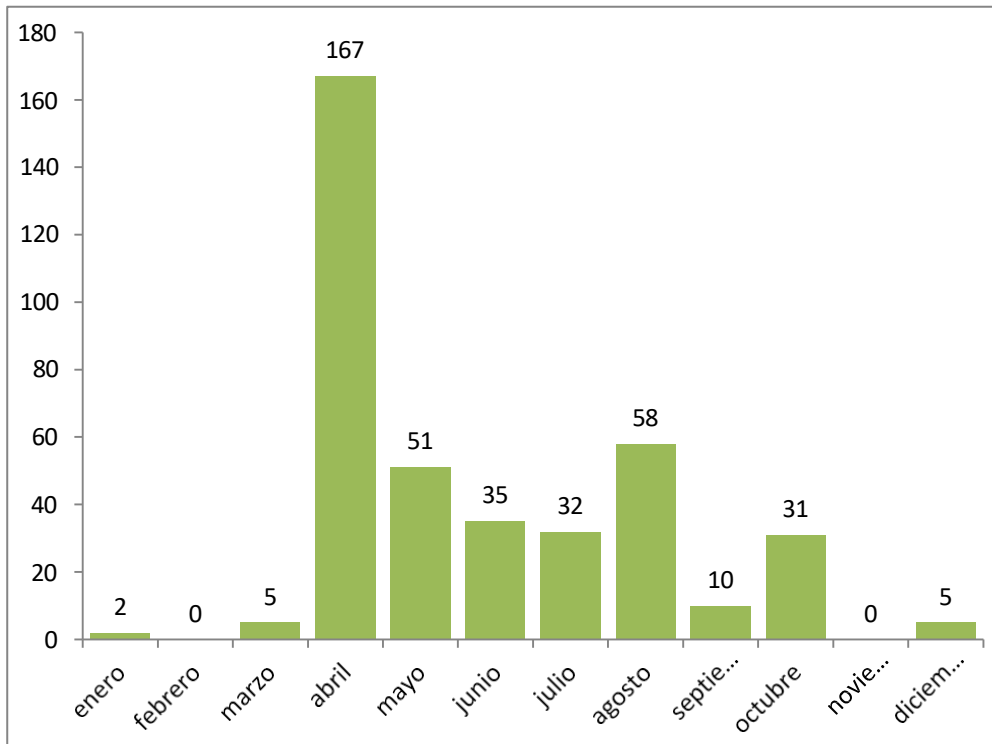


In 2017, the institution that presents the pilgrim

Associations	Colleges	Communities
17	181	33
Individuals	Parishes	Universities
84	11	76

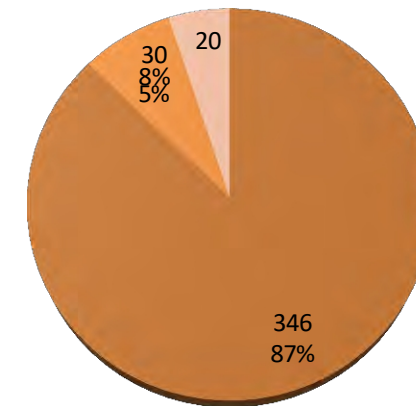


Starting month

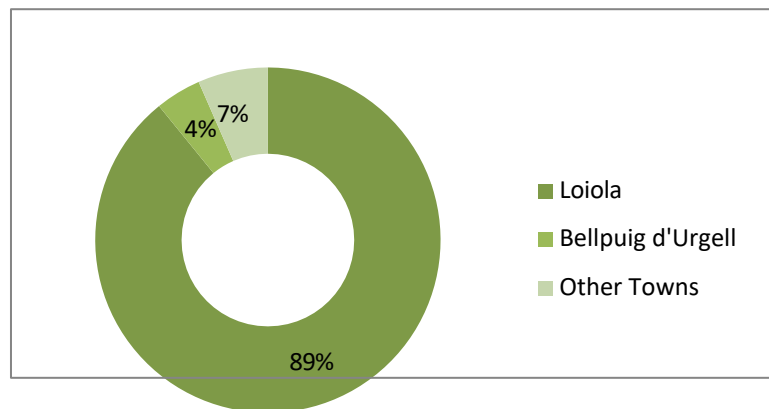


How to make the pilgrimage

on foot by bicycle other means



Starting point



Reason for the pilgrimage

