

STATIO CONFERENCE

INTER-PRIORY SHARING

By Sister M. Angelica Leviste, OSB

It was during our 1982 General Chapter in Rome, when a missiologist was invited to give a situationer on World Mission. He spelled out three letters which have remained in my mind to this day: M A P.

He said: "There will be expected changes in in the distribution of the world's Catholic population over the coming decades. This will also produce shifts in the ranks of the most populous nations. There will be new directions in the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics. As one looks at the demographics of Roman Catholics in the world, there will be a shift from the M (MEDITERRANEAN) to the A (ATLANTIC) and down to the P (PACIFIC). There will be a shift from EUROPE to the DEVELOPING WORLD, where approximately 70 percent of the Catholics live.

C A T H O L I C S

YEAR	WESTERN (1 st World)	SOUTHERN (3 rd World)
1900	77%	23%
1970	49%	51%
1980	42%	58%
2000	30%	70%

M	A	P
MEDITERRANEAN	ATLANTIC	PACIFIC

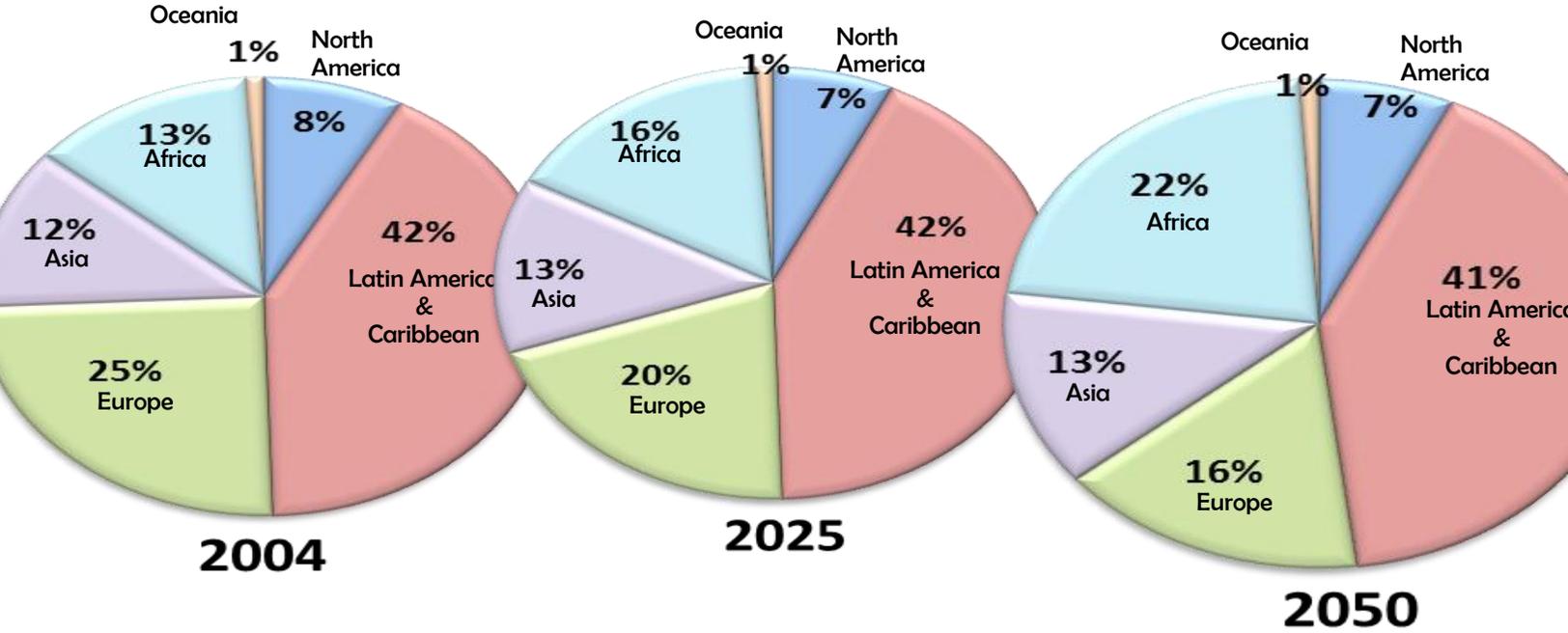
GROWTH ACROSS THE DEVELOPING WORLD

More than two-thirds of Catholics live in the developing world, and population projections clearly indicate that proportion will grow to three-fourths in the next four decades (see Table 1).¹ From 2004 to 2050, Catholic populations are projected to increase by 146 percent in Africa, 63 percent in Asia, 42 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 38 percent in North America. Meanwhile, Europe will experience a 6 percent decline in its Catholic population between 2004 and 2050.

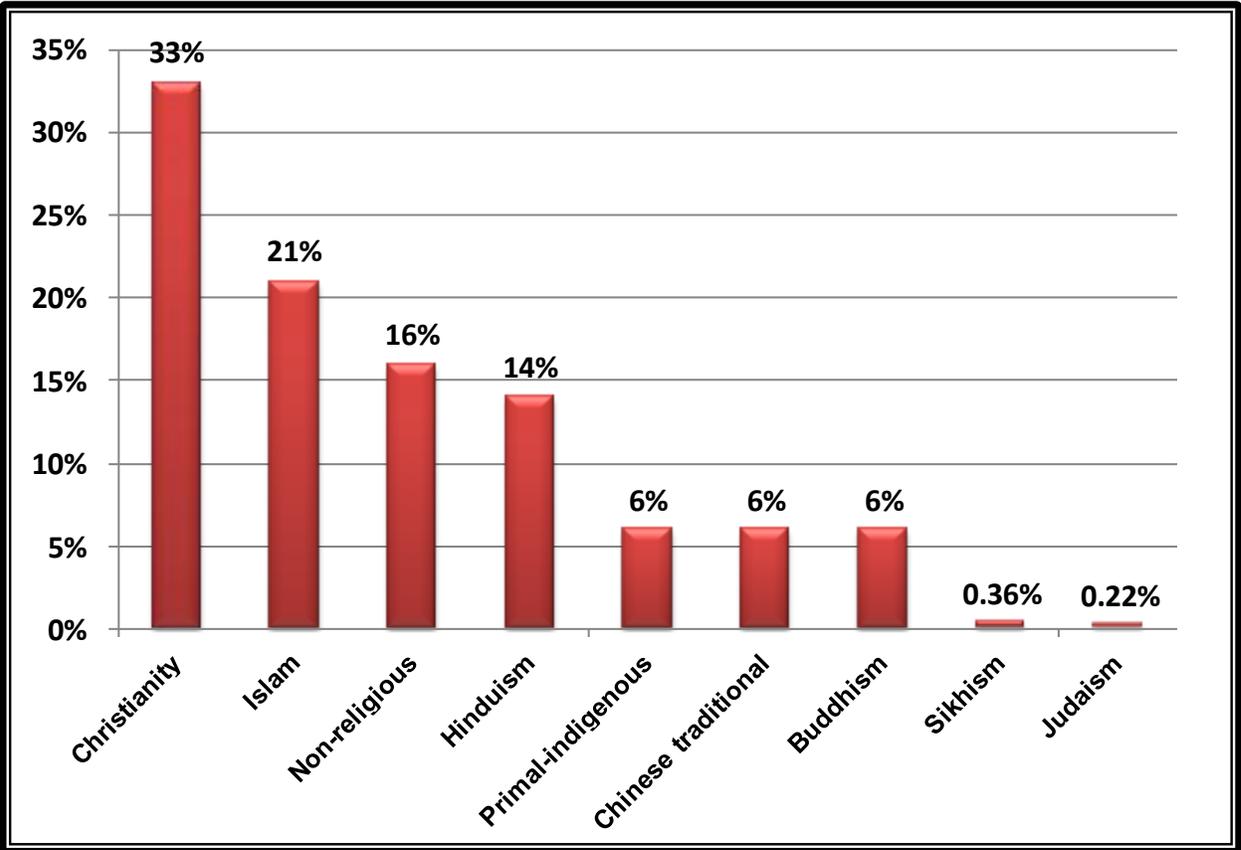
Estimated and Projected Catholic Population by Region of the World, 2004, 2025, and 2050

	Percent Catholic	Estimated Catholic Population	Projected Catholic Population	Projected Catholic Population	Change in Catholic Population, 2004-2050
Region of world	2004	2004	2025	2050	
Africa	17.9%	139,157,160	219,171,850	342,023,230	145.8%
Asia	4.3%	127,125,410	171,916,360	207,086,560	62.9%
Europe	36.4%	270,765,647	272,495,186	255,744,426	-5.5%
Latin America & Caribbean	83.3%	454,541,400	568,040,560	646,912,570	42.3%
North America	25.1%	82,000,000	97,000,000	113,000,000	37.8%
Oceania	26.8%	9,000,000	11,000,000	13,000,000	44.4%
Total world	21.6%	1,082,228,463	1,339,159,510	1,577,585,569	45.8%

DISTRIBUTION OF CATHOLICS BY WORLD REGION 2004, 2025, 2050



WORLD RELIGIONS



GROWTH ACROSS THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Rogelio Saenz, professor of sociology at Texas A&M University, and author of his book *Latinos and the Changing Face of America*, writes:

These expected changes in the distribution of the world's Catholic population over the coming decades will also produce shifts in the ranks of the most populous Catholic nations. Brazil and Mexico are expected to remain the two largest Catholic countries throughout the three time periods, with the Philippines expected to displace the United States as the third-largest Catholic country in 2050.

The rise of Congo on the list is particularly noticeable: Its Catholic population is projected to triple between 2004 and 2050, which would vault it from the 11th most-populous Catholic country to the fifth-most in just 45 years. Meanwhile, European countries are projected to only constitute five of the largest 25 Catholic countries in both 2025 and 2050.

Projected Absolute Change in Catholic Population					
Countries with Growth			Countries with Decline		
1	Congo (Dem. Rep)	60,983,400	1	Poland	-5,356,880
2	Philippines	49,735,200	2	Italy	-5,330,600
3	Mexico	38,510,550	3	Germany	-2,412,000
4	Brazil	34,867,890	4	Hungary	-1,504,250
5	United States	28,973,220	5	Portugal	-1,084,920
6	Nigeria	27,352,080	6	Spain	-1,008,720
7	Uganda	24,317,600	7	Ukraine	-673,200
8	Colombia	19,489,800	8	Slovakia	-512,470
9	Argentina	13,660,240	9	Romania	-466,200
10	Angola	13,628,760	10	Croatia	-447,600

THE CHURCH'S POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO ITS CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY

The Catholic Church has several options in responding to the demographic shift of its flock away from Europe and toward the developing world. One option would be devoting greater energy to issues that affect the lives of Catholics in the developing world—issues including poverty, hunger, AIDS, inequitable access to health care, economic inequality, and war.

The Church might also take more aggressive measures to ensure that priests from the developing world attain positions of ecclesiastical power, including the papacy. In addition, the institution might increasingly have to rely on youth from the developing world to fill the ranks of priests and nuns. Finally, the Church also could adopt a laissez-faire approach about its demographic disjunctures. These potential routes are of course not mutually exclusive. But regardless of its next steps, the Catholic Church will face major challenges in balancing the needs of its growing developing-world population and those of its traditional but declining population from the developed world.

ISSUES AFFECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Catholic Church has several options in responding to the demographic shift of its flock away from Europe and toward the developing world. One option would be devoting greater energy to issues that affect the lives of Catholics in the developing world—issues including poverty, hunger, AIDS, the inequitable access to health care, economic inequality, wars, and care for creation.

TRAINING LEADERS

The Church might also take more aggressive measures to ensure that priests from the developing world attain positions of ecclesiastical authority, including the papacy. In addition,

the institution might increasingly have to rely on youth from the developing world to fill the ranks of priests and religious. Finally, the Church could also adapt a laissez-faire approach about its demographic disjunctures. These potential routes are then courses not mutually exclusive. But regardless of its next steps, the Catholic Church will face major challenges in balancing the needs of its growing developing-world population and those of its traditional declining population from the developed world.

INTER PRIORY SHARING

It is within this context that our recent General Chapter 2012 re-iterated DIRECTION III : to continue committing ourselves to an intensified and generous sharing of spiritual, personnel, and financial resources, by responding to the calls of the Generalate, priories and districts to go beyond one's own priories' concerns, and offer selfless service where ever this is needed. It also positively reveals the internationality of our Congregation, widens one's horizons and leads us to appreciate the wealth of varied cultures.

WHOSE MISSION IS IT?

Mission is Gods mission. Mission belongs to God. It is the most basic task of the Church. It means to become part of Gods life and vision for the world. It is the overflowing love of Gods nature and being into Gods purposeful activity for humanity and the created world. It is God therefore who creates and saves people and the natural world.

(1 Timothy 2:4).. to participate in mission is to participate in Gods love toward people and the created world. God indeed is the fountain of sending love. His mission endures forever.(Edgar Javier, SVD)

WE ARE ALL MISSIONARIES

LAITY - CLERGY - RELIGIOUS

A MISSIONARY: Is Someone who is SENT

SOMEONE saying to

SOMEONE

“GO TO SOMEONE”



We are all MISSIONARIES

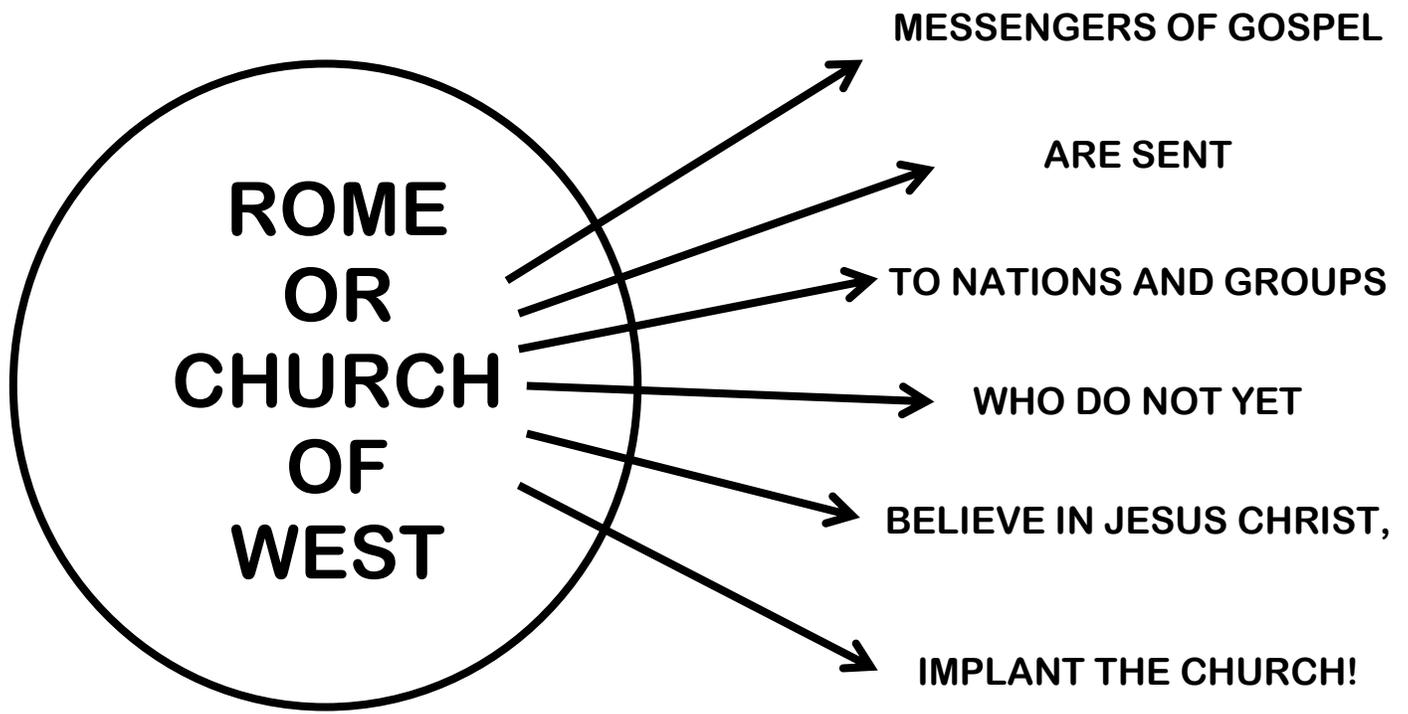
Sent out to the world

to tell the good news of

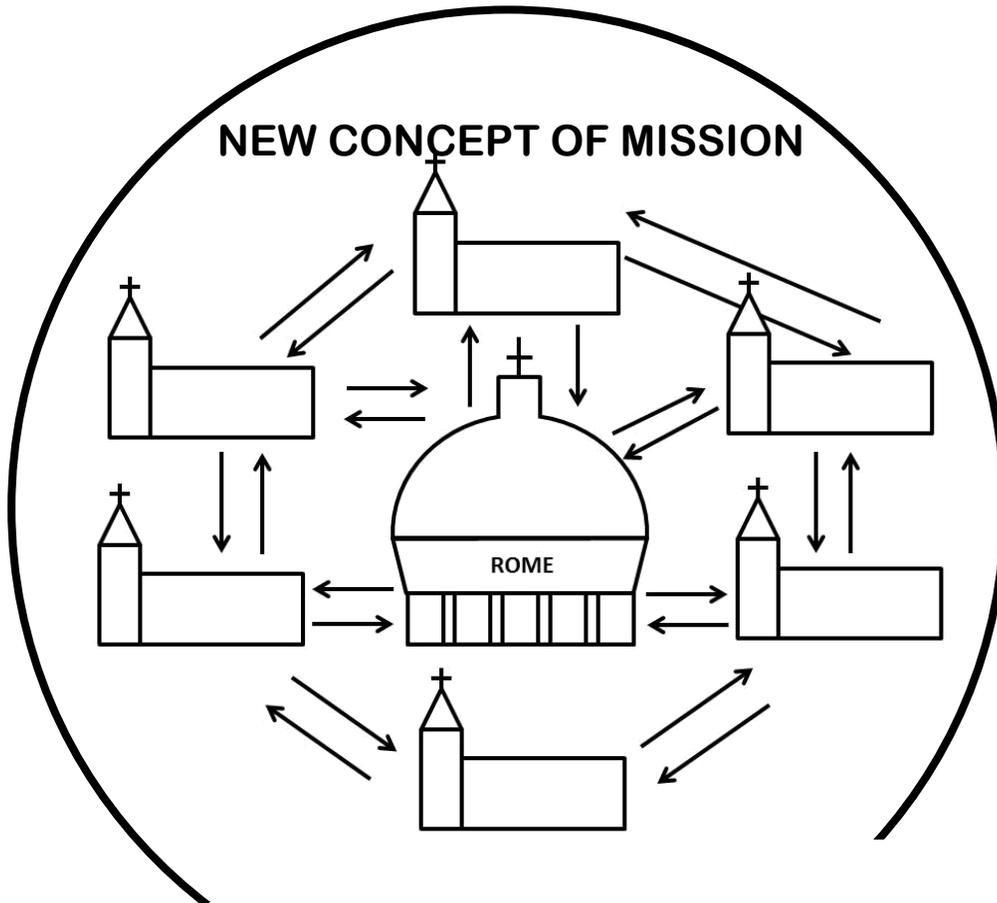
Jesus Christ

and the Kingdom of GOD

PREACH THE GOSPEL



BEFORE



COOPERATION ---- COLLABORATION
LISTEN --- LEARN --- READY TO STEP BACK

NOW



Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ... the Church as a whole and all her Pastors like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert towards the place of life towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the one who gives life in abundance.(2005)



The vocation of being a 'protector' like St. Joseph, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of

God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!(Pope Francis I Inaugural Mass-March 19, 2013)

Thinking of St Francis – a man who wanted a poor church, he said "Ah, how I would like a church that is poor and is for the poor."

REFLECTIONS

1. Read Phil 3:10; 1 Cor 4:9-13; 2 Cor 4:8-12; 11:23-28
Sufferings of Paul's Missionary Life
The Price he paid to be faithful to the Lord
2. Acts of the Apostles 5:40-42
The Apostles went out from the Council Rejoicing
3. How can a missionary be kept from giving up?
4. What is the role and importance of prayer in the missions?
5. Share examples of sharing of various ministries, resources, personnel, expertise with the Generalate and among Pories and Districts.
6. How do I live my belief in Jesus Christ in daily life?



That in all things God may be glorified!