

Our global family: The Church in numbers

Each year the Vatican releases the latest statistics on our Church throughout the world. In over 1,000 missionary dioceses around the world which are too young or poor to support themselves, the work of the Church continues thanks to your generosity and prayerful support



7.2bn

people in the world;
1 in 6 are baptised
Catholics



53,277,784

children and young people
are being educated in:

96,283

Catholic primary schools

46,339

Catholic secondary schools



16,523

dispensaries
and clinics



9,492

orphanages



5,158

hospitals



612

care homes for
people living with
leprosy



15,679

homes for the
elderly, chronically
ill, or disabled



116,843

seminarians in their final
4 years of study

415,656

priests

This includes an increase of
1,133 priests in Africa and an
additional 1,104 priests in
Asia compared with the
previous year



368,520

lay missionaries

3,264,768

catechists working with children,
young people and adults
to explore their faith