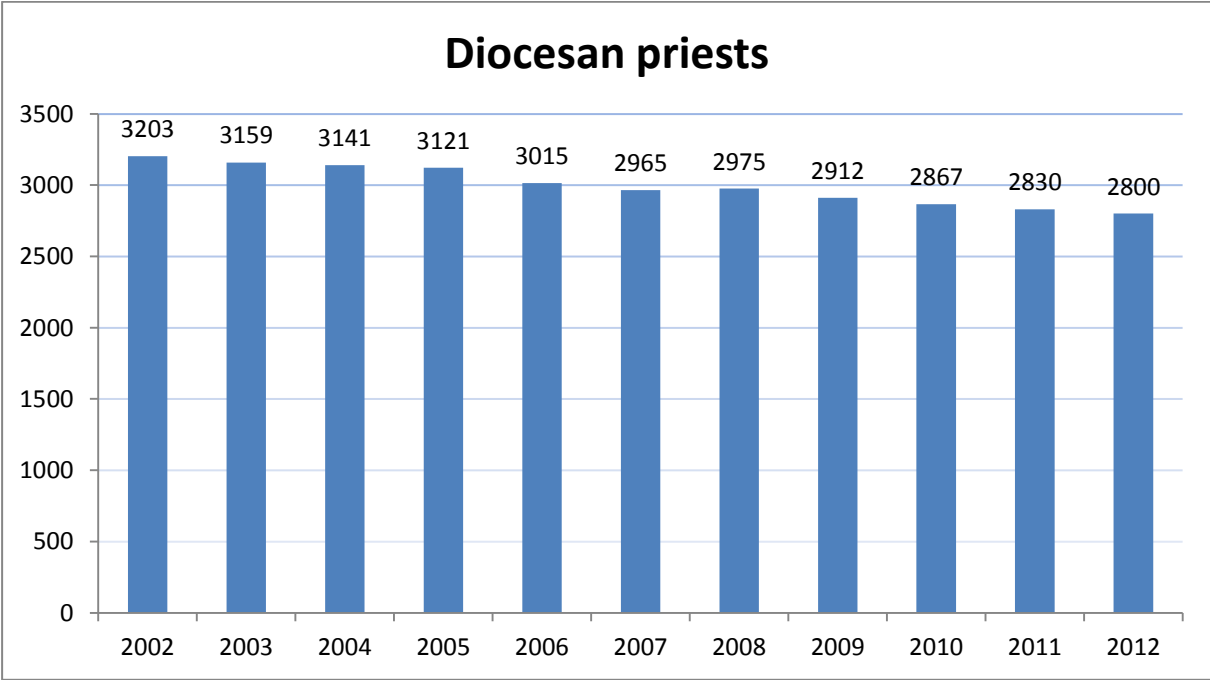


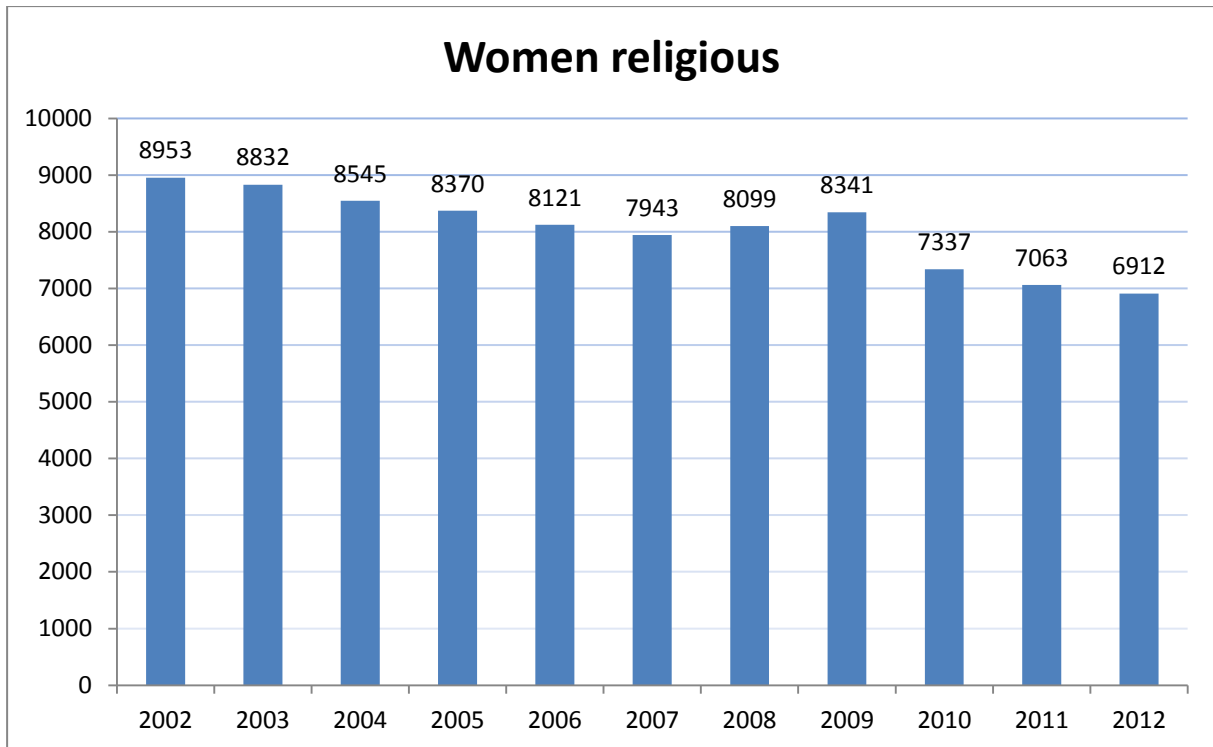
Recent trends in ordained and professed people in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

These data are compiled from the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, an annual Vatican Library publication. The definitions, categories and terms used are based on the questionnaire sent to the chancery offices of ecclesiastical jurisdictions across the world. The data are derived from a report prepared by Msgr. Francis Bonnici on behalf of priestlyvocations.com.

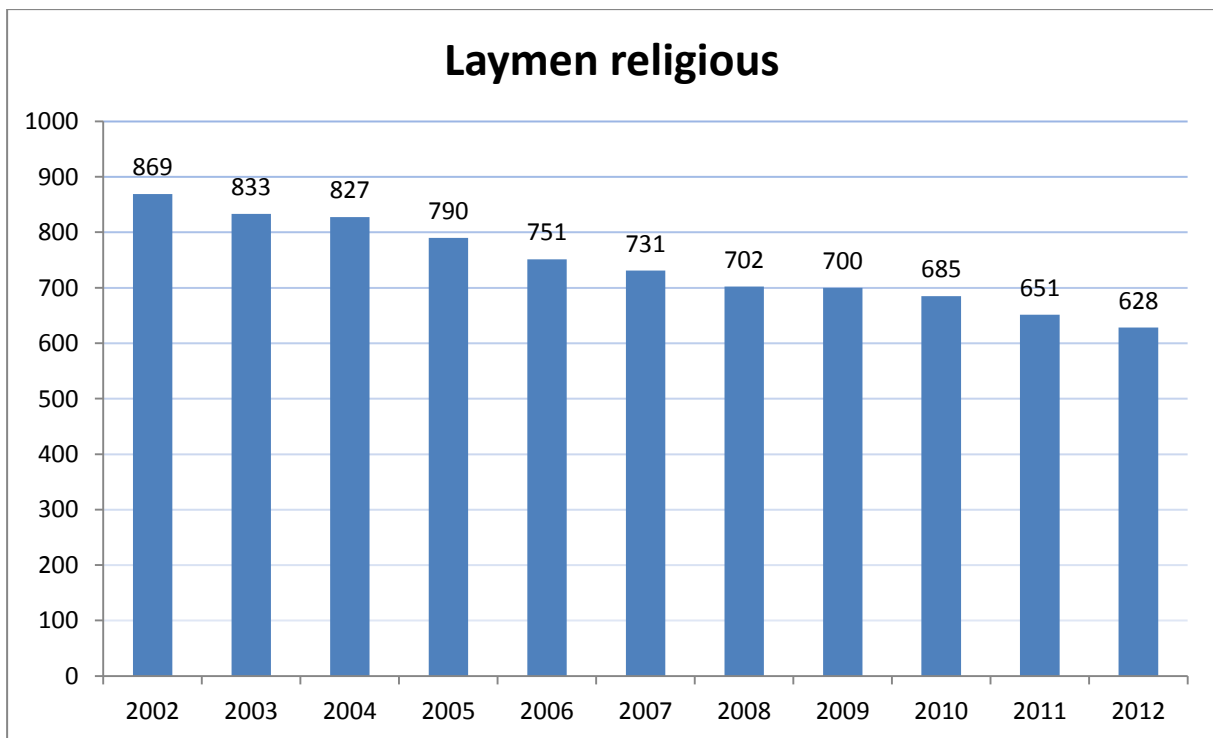
This series of graphs shows this numbers of diocesan priests and other groups of ordained and professed people in Ireland. The number of diocesan priests in Ireland has been declining for some years. In the graph below, we can see this trend confirmed with a 13% decadal decline between 2002 and 2012. The overall number of diocesan priests enumerated in the Yearbook currently stands at 2,800 men. This is a reduction in just over 400 men in a decade.



The number of women religious in Ireland is also declining over the same period. In 2002, there were 8,953 women religious in Ireland and there are currently 6,912. This represents a 23% decadal drop in the numbers. The graph below illustrates these data over the time frame.

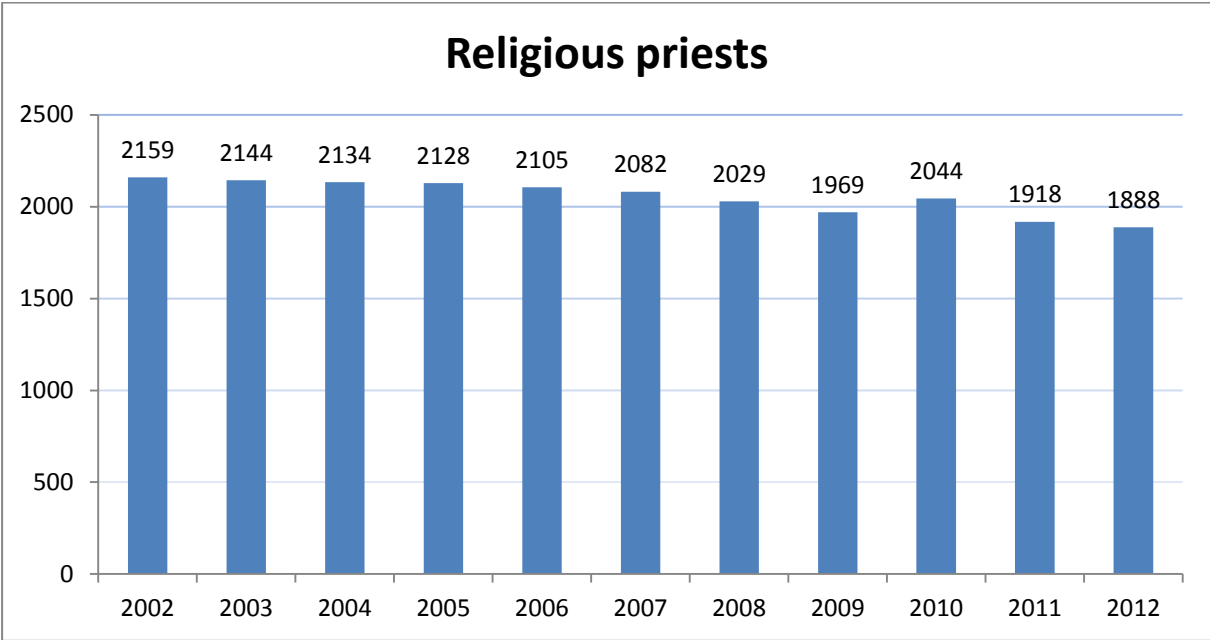


Turning to the numbers of laymen religious (with temporary and perpetual vows), we can see that the overall numbers are considerably smaller than for the diocesan priesthood. There are currently 628 men among the religious orders, down from 869 in 2002. This represents a 28% decadal decline. The graph below shows these data over the time frame under consideration.

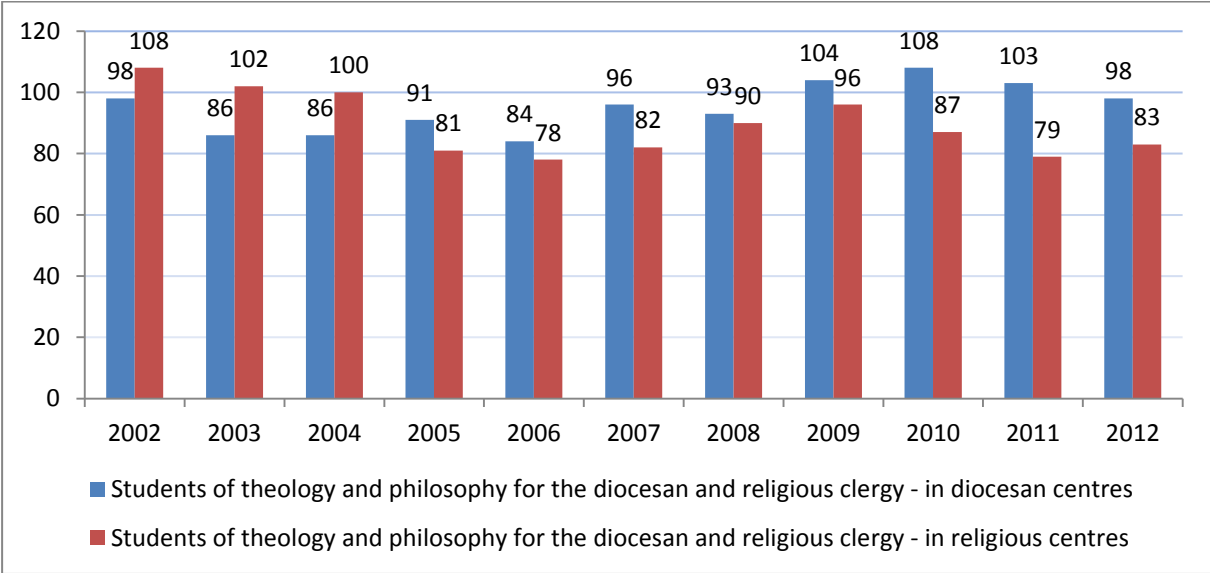


The numbers of priests in religious orders has historically been greater although the overall numbers are declining. The numbers enumerated by the Yearbook are represented in the

graph that follows. The seeming aberration in 2010 is due to a number of unknown factors but may be explained simply by higher enumerated numbers in that year.



The final graph from the data compiled and presented by Msgr. Bonnici is of the numbers of students of theology and philosophy in diocesan and religious centres in Ireland. The graph shows how the numbers vary considerably from year to year although the total number of students has only declined slightly, from 206 in 2002 to 181 in 2012.



Maynooth, July 2014