

# BROTHERS' ORDERS IN IRELAND 2006

This fact sheet outlines the data reported to the Council for Research & Development (CRD) for the number of applicants to and brothers currently in brothers' orders in Ireland for the year October 2005 to September 2006. These data are sourced from the Annual Vocations and Personnel Survey conducted by the CRD. A total of 11 questionnaires were distributed and returned to the Council.

In the year to September 2006, four men applied to brothers' orders. This is up from 1 in the previous year and is the highest number of applicants since 2002. The number of applicants to brothers' orders has been in decline since the 1970s. This marks the general decline in the numbers in these orders over the same time period.

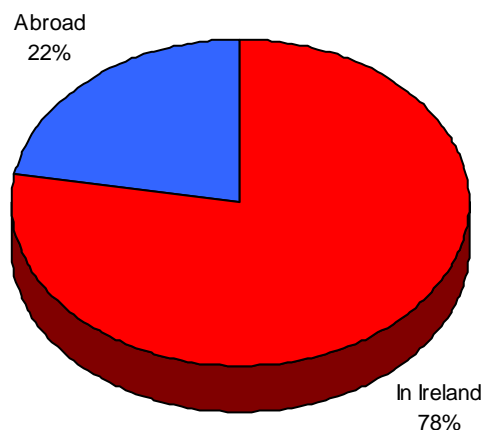
Of those that applied, three applications were not followed through and one was accepted. The numbers being accepted into these

orders has not changed considerably in the time frame where the number of applications has declined. The total number of finally professed brothers in Ireland now stands at 697. This is a decrease of three men from the previous year.

Of this figure of 697, 542 or 78% of the total are enumerated as based in Ireland. For the last seven years or so, the percentage of brothers based in Ireland ranges between 78% and 89%. The remaining 155 (or 22%) men in brothers' orders are enumerated as abroad. In the year to September 2006, there were 2 departures from brothers' orders and there were 28 deaths in total.

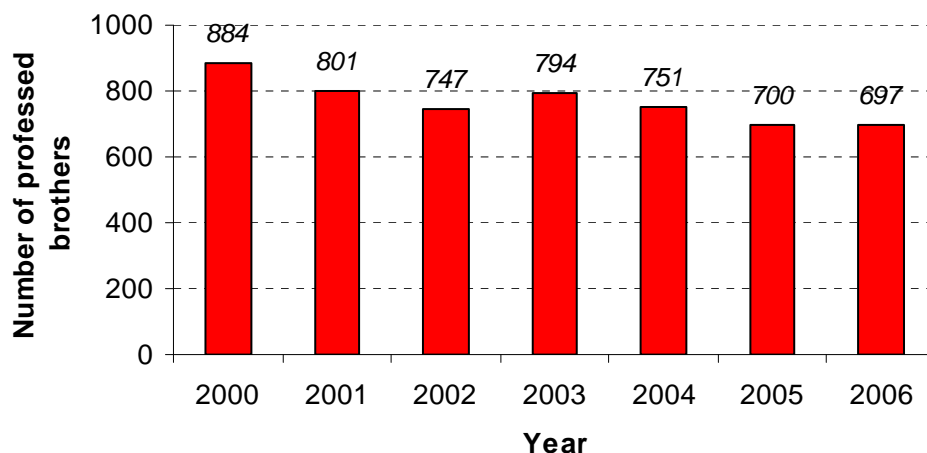
As there were no final professions over the course of the year in brothers' orders, the total loss can be calculated as 30 which is four more than in 2005.

There were 3 postulants for brothers' orders enumerated in 2006, all of whom were based



abroad. There were none recorded in 2005 but 2 in 2004. The number of postulants is not necessarily related to the number of accepted applicants. The average age of finally professed brothers in 2006 is 58 years.

The graph below shows the trend in the number of professed brothers in Ireland for the years 2000 to 2006. The trend over the timescale is downward. With so few men now choosing an order for their vocation and a rising average age, the Brothers' orders have shrunk in numbers to a greater extent than many other parts of the Church.



The table below summarises the departures, deaths, total losses and final professions for brothers' orders in the years 2000 to 2006. As a percentage of total losses, the deaths of brothers is taking a greater proportion as we move from 2000 to the present day. At the beginning of this period, 72% of the total loss was accounted for by the death of brothers. In 2006, this had risen to 93%.

	<i>Departures</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Total Loss</i>	<i>Final professions</i>	<i>Net Balance</i>
<b>2000</b>	9	33	46	0	-46
<b>2001</b>	4	26	30	0	-30
<b>2002</b>	6	31	37	2	-35
<b>2003</b>	4	25	29	0	-29
<b>2004</b>	7	27	34	1	-33
<b>2005</b>	2	24	26	0	-26
<b>2006</b>	2	28	30	0	-30

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