

The Council for Research & Development

A Commission of the Irish Bishops' Conference

Vocations and Church Personnel 2005

The Council for Research & Development
The Columba Centre
Maynooth
Co Kildare

© 2006 Council for Research & Development, IBC

Table of Contents

SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	5
SECTION A: TOTAL CHURCH PERSONNEL	7
SECTION B: VOCATIONS IN THE YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2005	12
SECTION C: DIOCESAN CLERGY	15
SECTION D: CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS	20
SECTION E: SISTERS' ORDERS	24
SECTION F: BROTHERS' ORDERS	28

Table of Figures

TABLE 1: TOTAL NUMBER OF ORDAINED AND FINALLY PROFESSED CHURCH PERSONNEL 1996 – 2005	7
GRAPH 1: TOTAL NUMBER OF ORDAINED AND FINALLY PROFESSED CHURCH PERSONNEL 1996 - 2005	7
TABLE 2: ORDINATIONS AND FINAL PROFESSIONS IN IRELAND 1996 – 2005	8
GRAPH 2: ORDINATIONS AND FINAL PROFESSIONS IN IRELAND 1996 – 2005.....	8
TABLE 3: TOTAL DEATHS AMONG ORDAINED PRIESTS, FINALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS AND FINALLY PROFESSES SISTERS 1996 - 2005	9
TABLE 4: DEPARTURES OF ORDAINED PRIESTS, FINALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS AND FINALLY PROFESSES SISTERS 1996 - 2005	10
TABLE 5: TOTAL APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS IN IRELAND 1996 – 2005	11
GRAPH 3: TOTAL APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS IN IRELAND 1996 – 2005	11
TABLE 6: VOCATIONS IN IRELAND 1996 - 2005	12
TABLE 7 TOTAL DEATHS AMONG SEMINARIANS, SCHOLASTICS, TEMPORARY PROFESSED, NOVICES AND POSTULANTS IN IRELAND 1997 - 2005	13
TABLE 8 DEPARTURES OF SEMINARIANS, SCHOLASTICS, TEMPORARY PROFESSED, NOVICES AND POSTULANTS IN IRELAND 1996 – 2005	14
TABLE 9: NUMBERS OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS 1990 – 2005	15
TABLE 10: NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIESTS 2005.....	15
TABLE 11: AGE DISTRIBUTION (%) OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS IN IRELAND 2001 – 2005	16
TABLE 12: DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD IN IRELAND – DEPARTURES, DEATHS AND ORDINATIONS 1996 – 2005	16
TABLE 13: LOCATION OF CLERICAL STUDENTS FOR THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD 2000 – 2005	16
TABLE 14: NUMBER OF DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD STUDENTS PREPARING FOR DEGREE 2000 - 2005	17
TABLE 15: DIOCESAN STUDENTS IN IRISH SEMINARIES 2000 – 2005	17
TABLE 16: NUMBERS AND APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD 2000 – 2005.....	17
TABLE 17: ENTRANTS TO SEMINARIES BY DIOCESE 2005	18
TABLE 18: AGE OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD 2005	18
TABLE 19: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD, 2003 - 2005.....	19
TABLE 20: DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD – SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS, ENTRANTS, DEATHS AND DEPARTURES 1996 – 2005.....	19
TABLE 21: CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS (BROTHERS AND PRIESTS) IN IRELAND BY LOCATION 2000 - 2005	20
TABLE 22: DEPARTURES, DEATHS, ORDINATIONS AND FINAL PROFESSIONS OF CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 - 2005	20
TABLE 23: DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLASTICS, TEMPORARY PROFESSED, NOVICES AND POSTULANTS IN CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005.....	21
TABLE 24: APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS TO CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	21
TABLE 25: NUMBER OF LATE VOCATIONS FOR CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	21
TABLE 26: AGE OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS 2005.....	22
TABLE 27: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS, 2003 - 2005 ...	22
TABLE 28: CLERICAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS – SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS, ENTRANTS, DEATHS AND DEPARTURES 1996 – 2005.....	23
TABLE 29: FINALLY PROFESSED SISTERS’ IN IRELAND BY LOCATION 2000 - 2005.....	24
TABLE 30: DEPARTURES, DEATHS AND FINAL PROFESSIONS FOR SISTERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005.....	24
TABLE 31: DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPORARY PROFESSED, NOVICES AND POSTULANTS IN SISTERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	25
TABLE 32: APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS TO SISTERS’ ORDER IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	25
TABLE 33: NUMBER OF LATE VOCATIONS FOR SISTERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	25
TABLE 34: AGE OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO SISTERS’ ORDERS 2005	26
TABLE 35: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE SISTERS’ ORDERS 2003 - 2005.....	26
TABLE 36: SISTERS’ ORDERS – SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS, ENTRANTS, DEATHS AND DEPARTURES 1996 – 2005	27
TABLE 37: BROTHERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND BY LOCATION 2000 - 2005	28
TABLE 38: DEPARTURES, DEATHS AND FINAL PROFESSIONS FOR BROTHERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	28
TABLE 39: DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPORARY PROFESSED, NOVICES AND POSTULANTS IN BROTHERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005	29
TABLE 40: APPLICANTS AND ENTRANTS TO BROTHERS’ ORDER IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005.....	29
TABLE 41: NUMBER OF LATE VOCATIONS FOR BROTHERS’ ORDERS IN IRELAND 2000 – 2005.....	29
TABLE 42: AGE OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO BROTHERS’ ORDERS 2005	29
TABLE 43: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE BROTHERS’ ORDERS 2003 - 2005	30
TABLE 44: BROTHERS’ ORDERS – SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS, ENTRANTS, DEATHS AND DEPARTURES 1996 – 2005.....	30

Summary

- The survey involved 179 questionnaires and these were sent to 26 diocesan offices, 39 provincial houses of clerical religious orders as well as 114 houses of sisters' and brothers' orders.
- 19 priests were ordained in 2005, an increase of four on 2004. 14 nuns and brothers were finally professed* in 2005, an increase of six on the previous year.
- The total number of ordained and finally professed personnel in 2005 is 16,322, a drop of 2.6% on the 2004 figure of 16,770.
- In 2005, the largest increase in ordinations and professions is recorded amongst clerical religious orders.
- The total number of departures for 2005 was 43, down from the previous year's figure of 47.
- In 2005, there was a net loss (i.e. departures and death) of 35 diocesan priests. This is the lowest net loss since 1997.
- In 2005, there were 90 applicants to orders and dioceses. 56 of these, or 62%, were accepted as entrants. This is highest percentage of entrants to applicants in the last 10 years.
- In 1995, seminarians accounted for 59% of all departures but they accounted for only 33% in 2005.
- There are 2,439, or 78% of all diocesan priests, in parish ministry.
- The profile of diocesan priesthood is getting older. 43% are aged between 50 and 69 years and there are steady increases in the numbers of those aged 80 and over.
- Amongst those studying for the diocesan priesthood, almost two thirds are studying to degree level.
- There were 3,036 priests and brothers in clerical religious orders in 2005. Of these, 60% of these are based in Ireland and the balance live and work abroad.
- In 2005 there were 15 ordinations and final professions amongst the clerical religious orders.
- There were 9,248 finally professed sisters in 2005, 86% of whom are based in Ireland.
- 65% of applicants to sisters' orders were accepted in 2005.
- There were 700 brothers in 2005, 82% of whom are based in Ireland.
- The declining numbers amongst brothers' orders is primarily due to the low number of entrants and final professions as well as an ageing profile.

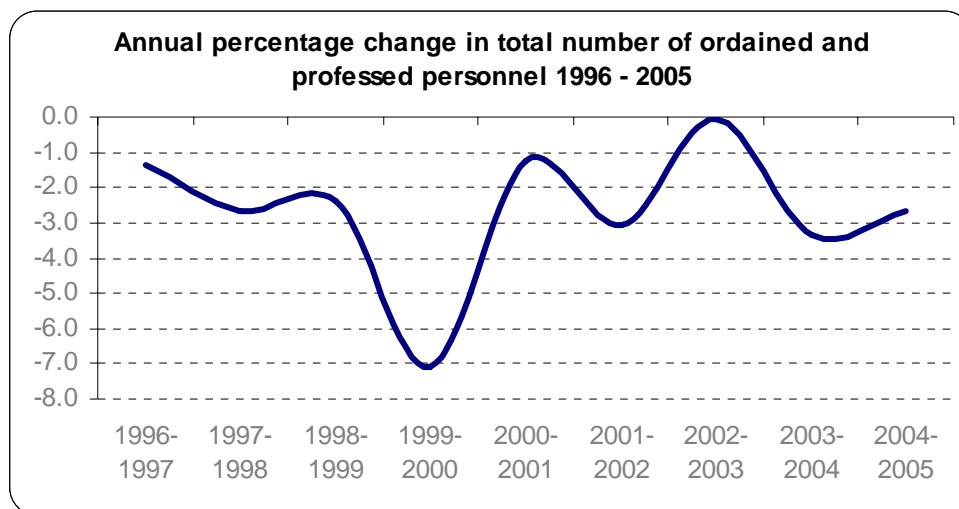
* Finally professed refers to men or women who are definitively incorporated into a religious community. Of the men who are finally professed, some are subsequently ordained priests and some are not.

Introduction

The Church in Ireland carries out an annual survey of its ordained and professed personnel. The survey also requests information on new entrants and applicants to the Diocesan priesthood, clerical religious orders as well as sisters' and brothers' orders. This is the latest in this series of annual reports entitled Vocations and Church Personnel and covers the period October 2004 to September 2005. The survey is carried out by the Council for Research & Development, a commission of the Irish Bishops' Conference. The Council is chaired by the Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, Most Rev. Dermot Clifford, PhD, DD.

The questionnaire used in this survey is administered by post in September of each year. Follow up calls are carried on throughout the later stages of the year. It is sent to 26 Diocesan offices, 39 provincial houses of clerical religious orders as well as 114 houses of sisters' and brothers' orders. Seminaries in Belfast and Maynooth are also sent a more general questionnaire. In effect it is a form of census of the ordained / professed and training Church personnel and thus provides the most definitive snapshot of Ireland's Catholic clergy and orders currently available.

As will be seen from the report, while the numbers of personnel in the Church has declined again in the year to September 2005, the numbers of ordinations and final professions is up on the previous survey by 43%. While there is considerable variation year on year for the overall figures being ordained and professed, it is as yet unclear if 2005 represents a general upturn in the figures. What is clear however is that the rate of change in overall numbers is less prominent than in the latter half of the 1990s, as the graph below implies.



Departures of religious are also declining while the ratio of entrants to applicants is on the increase. Again however it remains to be seen if this is part of a longer term trend. As is evident from the data presented here, the ageing of all congregations and amongst parish personnel in general leads to an overall decrease.

The structure of the report is as follows: Section A examines the total personnel data for the year to September 2005 across all religious groupings. While overall numbers have fallen, the detail demonstrates a slight increase in ordinations. Section B looks in more detail at these professions and ordinations. Section C outlines the numbers of Diocesan clergy there are. Section D outlines the number of personnel in the clerical religious orders while Sections E and F present the data for the sisters' and brothers' orders. Sisters' orders in particular make up the largest proportion of all Church personnel.

This report has been written by Eoin O'Mahony of the Council for Research & Development but the survey was devised, conducted and implemented by Louise McCann, the previous holder of the

researcher post. All data is copyright of the Council for Research & Development. This data may be reproduced subject to acknowledgment of the source as the Council for Research & Development, IBC. If you have any questions or comments arising from this report you can contact the Council by one of the means below:

By post:

Eoin O'Mahony
Council for Research & Development
Columba Centre
Maynooth
Co Kildare

By e-mail:

eoin.omahony@iecon.ie

By telephone:

01 5053000

By fax:

01 6016401

Maynooth, June 5th 2006.

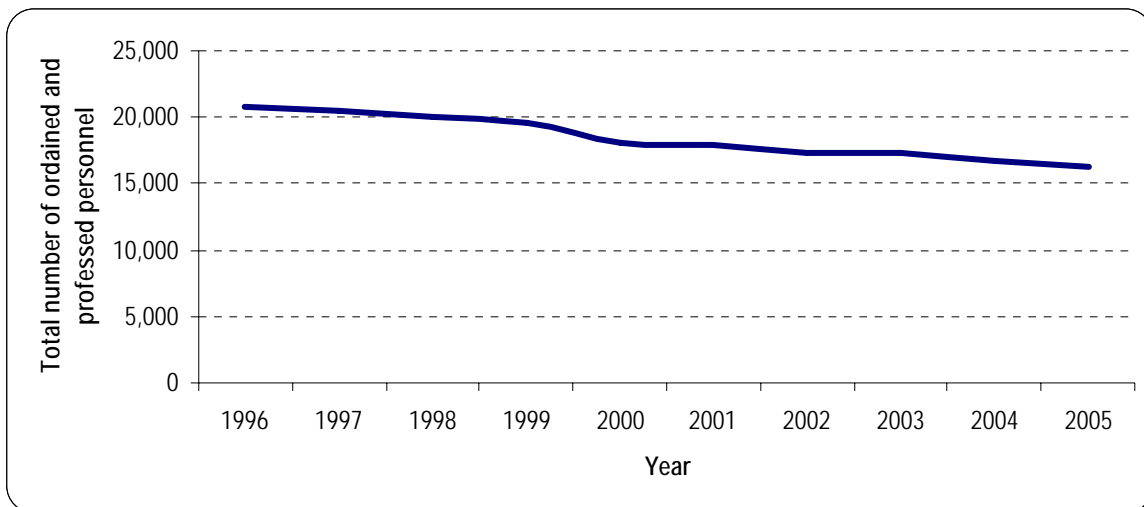
Section A: Total Church Personnel

Table 1 below shows that the total number of ordained and finally professed personnel in 2005 is 16,322, a drop of 2.6% on the 2004 figure. This is approximately equivalent to the number of building contractors, computer programmers or *Garda* as there are in the Republic (Source: CSO). While the numbers of ordained and professed personnel have been in decline over the last decade, this trend has been evident since the middle 1960s. Changing family structure, broader educational opportunities and macro-structural changes to the Irish economy are all factors in this longer term fall.

Table 1: Total number of ordained and finally professed Church personnel 1996 – 2005

	<i>Number</i>
1996	20,824
1997	20,541
1998	19,996
1999	19,517
2000	18,131
2001	17,906
2002	17,361
2003	17,355
2004	16,770
2005	16,322

Graph 1: Total number of ordained and finally professed Church personnel 1996 - 2005

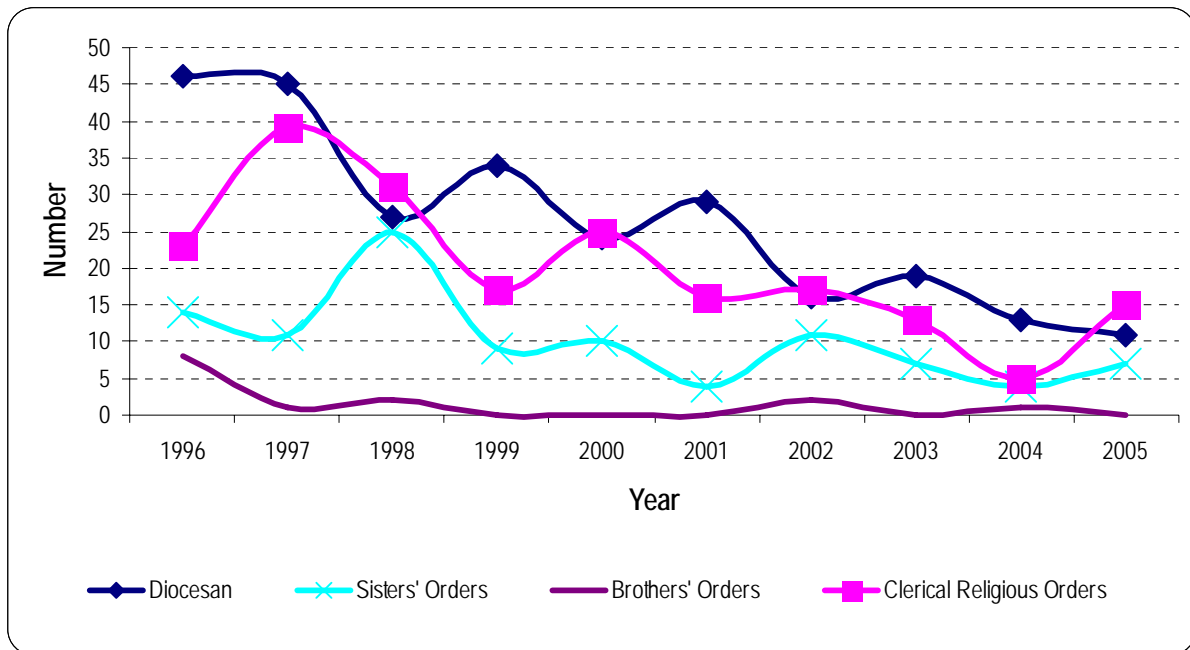


As can be seen from Table 2 below, the numbers being ordained across the religious have been falling over the last decade. In 1996 91 people were ordained / professed and this has declined to 33 in the last year. However, the number of ordinations has increased year on year from 23 to 33. This increase is evident for all groups except the Diocesan priesthood.

Table 2: Ordinations and final professions in Ireland 1996 – 2005

	<i>Diocesan</i>	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>	<i>Sisters' Orders</i>	<i>Brothers' Orders</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	Number Ordained	Number Ordained	Number Professed	Number Professed	Number Professed	
1996	46	17	6	14	8	91
1997	45	18	21	11	1	96
1998	27	17	14	25	2	85
1999	34	9	8	9	0	60
2000	24	14	11	10	0	59
2001	29	10	6	4	0	49
2002	16	10	7	11	2	46
2003	19	11	2	7	0	39
2004	13	2	3	4	1	23
2005	11	8	7	7	0	33

Graph 2: Ordinations and final professions in Ireland 1996 – 2005



Turning to the numbers of deaths across the groups, it can be seen from Table 3 that 438 personnel died in the year to September 2005, an increase of 10 on the previous year and the first time in four years that the number of deaths has increased. All of this increase is made up by the numbers of deaths among sisters' orders.

Table 3: Total deaths among ordained priests, finally professed brothers and finally professes sisters 1996 - 2005

	<i>Diocesan</i>	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>		<i>Sisters' Orders</i>	<i>Brothers' Orders</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Ordained priests	Ordained priests	Finally professed brothers	Finally professed sisters	Finally professed brothers	
1996	60	98	16	249	34	457
1997	58	98	11	252	21	440
1998	73	80	19	279	31	482
1999	64	78	15	294	30	481
2000	75	112	12	297	33	529
2001	68	82	10	303	26	489
2002	73	93	10	285	31	492
2003	56	76	13	266	25	436
2004	48	78	10	265	27	428
2005	38	71	13	292	24	438

A further feature in the decline of the numbers of religious is the number of departures. The total number of departures for 2005 was 43, down from the previous year. Over the last decade the number of people leaving religious life has declined by 42%. Just under half of all departures are accounted for by sisters' orders where 20 women left in 2005.

Table 4: Departures of ordained priests, finally professed brothers and finally professes sisters 1996 - 2005

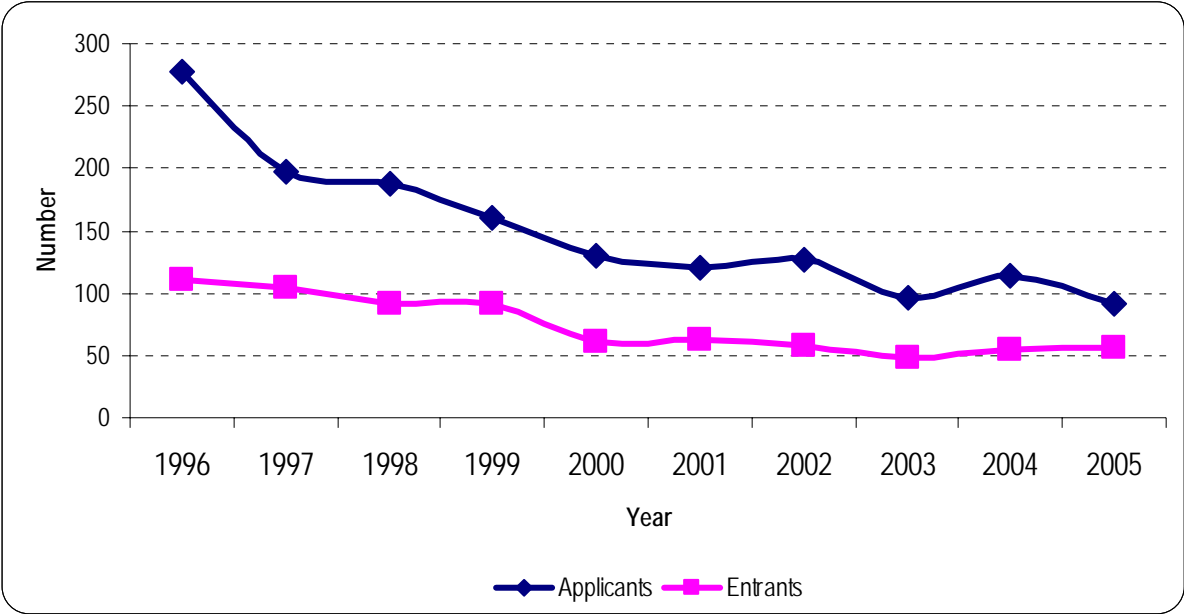
	<i>Diocesan</i>	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>	<i>Sisters' Orders</i>	<i>Brothers' Orders</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	Ordained priests	Ordained priests	Finally professed brothers	Finally professed sisters	Finally professed brothers	
1996	7	17	2	34	14	74
1997	23	8	3	39	8	81
1998	21	13	4	28	11	77
1999	14	15	5	27	17	78
2000	27	8	5	31	9	80
2001	13	6	4	28	4	55
2002	7	20	1	24	6	58
2003	15	15	0	10	4	44
2004	8	14	1	17	7	47
2005	8	11	2	20	2	43

Table 5 below shows the total number of applicants and eventual entrants to the religious life in the year to September 2005. In all there were 56 entrants in 2005, with 62% of all applicants accepted by the orders and Diocesan structures. This is highest percentage of entrants to applicants in the last 10 years.

Table 5: Total applicants and entrants in Ireland 1996 – 2005

	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>Entrants as % of Applicants</i>
1996	278	111	40
1997	198	105	53
1998	187	92	49
1999	160	91	57
2000	130	61	47
2001	120	63	53
2002	126	57	45
2003	97	48	49
2004	114	54	47
2005	91	56	62

Graph 3: Total applicants and entrants in Ireland 1996 – 2005



Section B: Vocations in the year to September 2005

There were 56 vocations in Ireland in 2005. Table 6 below shows that 48% were to the Diocesan priesthood with a further 29% to clerical religious orders. The number of vocations is in line with a recent steady trend between 48 and 57 people annually.

Table 6: Vocations in Ireland 1996 - 2005

	<i>Diocesan priesthood</i>	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>	<i>Sisters' Orders</i>	<i>Brothers' Orders</i>	<i>Total</i>
1996	52	39	19	1	111
1997	53	32	20	0	105
1998	45	28	17	2	92
1999	46	23	21	1	91
2000	29	22	10	0	61
2001	32	16	15	0	63
2002	20	17	19	1	57
2003	19	17	12	0	48
2004	28	13	12	1	54
2005	27	14	13	1	56

Graph 4: Vocations in Ireland 1996 - 2005

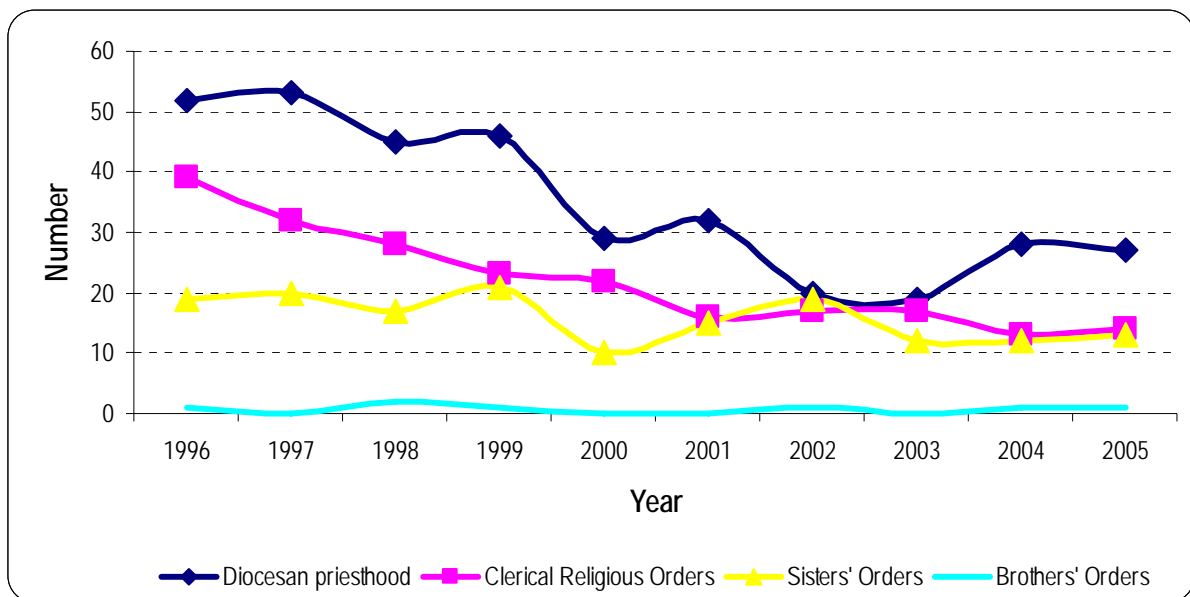


Table 7 below shows the number of deaths among the religious groups that reported one in the last decade. There were no deaths of seminarians, scholastics, temporary professed, novices and postulants in 2005.

Table 7 Total deaths among seminarians, scholastics, temporary professed, novices and postulants in Ireland 1997 - 2005

	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>		<i>Sisters' Orders</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Scholastics	Temporary Professed	Temporary Professed	
1997	0	0	1	1
1998	0	0	2	2
1999	0	1	0	1
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	1	0	0	1
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	1	0	0	1
2005	0	0	0	0

Note: only sub-divisions where deaths have actually occurred in the time frame are tabulated here.

There were 24 departures across all groups last year. One third of this number was from seminarians and a further 10 from the clerical religious orders. 10 years ago, 59% of all departures were from seminarians but in 2005 this dropped to just 33%. The temporary professed in clerical religious orders have seen a large increase in departures over the same time frame, but the numbers, as can be seen, are small anyway. It is among the clerical religious orders in general where the bulk of departures can now be seen, accounting for 41.6% of all departures in 2005.

Table 8 Departures of seminarians, scholastics, temporary professed, novices and postulants in Ireland 1996 – 2005

	<i>Diocesan</i>	<i>Clerical Religious Orders</i>			<i>Sisters' Orders</i>		<i>Brothers' Orders</i>		<i>Total</i>
	Seminarians	Scholastics	Temporary Professed	Novices and Postulants	Temporary Professed	Novices and Postulants	Temporary Professed	Novices and Postulants	
1996	59	21	1	4	7	6	5	0	103
1997	43	24	0	2	15	4	2	2	92
1998	40	27	0	4	0	5	0	0	76
1999	41	21	1	6	6	2	0	0	77
2000	24	12	2	2	3	4	2	2	51
2001	27	13	3	3	2	2	0	0	50
2002	28	12	0	1	5	4	0	0	50
2003	7	5	1	3	2	7	0	0	25
2004	11	0	4	8	0	6	0	1	30
2005	8	0	5	5	3	3	0	0	24

Section C: Diocesan Clergy

Table 9 below shows the numbers of Diocesan priests in Ireland in 2005 as 3,129. This represents a small drop of just 1% year on year. Since 1990, the numbers of Diocesan priests has declined by 17% with the majority of that occurring in the late 1990s.

Table 9: Numbers of Diocesan Priests 1990 – 2005

<i>Number of priests</i>	
1990	3,785
2000	3,403
2001	3,371
2002	3,289
2003	3,238
2004	3,168
2005	3,129

As can be seen from Table 10 below, well over three quarters of all priests are in parish ministry with smaller fractions in the role of pastor emeritus. In the year to 2005, 179 priests or 5.7% of the total annual figure retired due to old age. 39 priests are studying full-time.

Table 10: Number and distribution of priests 2005

	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Parish ministry	2,439	78
Pastor Emeritus	203	6.5
Retired due to ill health	57	1.8
Retired due to old age	179	5.7
Studying full-time	39	1.2
Elsewhere in Ireland	74	2.4
Missions overseas	18	0.6
Elsewhere abroad	56	1.8
On Sick leave	22	0.7
On Temporary leave of absence	40	1.3
Total	3,129	100

As has been specified elsewhere in this report, the age profile of Diocesan priests in Ireland is becoming older. In 2001, 3% of priests were aged between 20 and 29. Last year merely 1% was in this age group. At the same time, those reaching the ages of 40 to 49 increased from 18 to 20%. The percentage aged 80 and above has also increased steadily over the 5 year period. While Irish society as a whole is getting older when compared with the 1970s and 1980s, the older age profile of Diocesan priests may be a cause of concern in the years ahead.

Table 11: Age distribution (%) of Diocesan priests in Ireland 2001 – 2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
20 – 29	3	2	2	1	1
30 – 39	15	14	13	12	12
40 – 49	18	18	19	19	20
50 – 59	21	22	21	21	21
60 – 69	21	22	22	23	22
70 – 79	16	16	17	17	17
80 and above	6	6	6	7	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Among Diocesan priests, there have been 38 deaths in the year to September 2005. This makes up the majority of the total loss to the group as a whole with only 8 departing, fully a third of the figure in 2000. While there were 11 ordinations in 2005, the net balance for the group as a whole was -35 priests. This is the smallest net loss since 1997.

Table 12: Diocesan priesthood in Ireland – departures, deaths and ordinations 1996 – 2005

	<i>Departures of ordained priests</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Total Loss</i>	<i>Ordinations</i>	<i>Net Balance (Ordinations / Losses)</i>
1996	7	60	67	46	-21
1997	23	58	81	45	-36
1998	21	73	94	27	-67
1999	14	64	78	34	-44
2000	27	75	102	24	-78
2001	13	68	81	29	-52
2002	7	73	80	16	-64
2003	15	56	71	19	-52
2004	8	48	56	13	-43
2005	8	38	46	11	-35

Of the 86 clerical students in 2005, 85% of them are in Ireland currently. The number of clerical students has fallen in the last 6 years.

Table 13: Location of clerical students for the Diocesan priesthood 2000 – 2005

	<i>Number of Clerical Students</i>	<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	150	89	11
2001	120	84	16
2002	88	80	20
2003	78	78	22
2004	90	84	16
2005	86	85	15

The survey asks for the number of students and the number of students studying for a degree. As Table 14 shows, 2005 is the first year we see a drop in the percentage of students taking a degree. Up to 2003, 3 in 4 students took a degree; in 2005 this dipped to just under two thirds. It ought to be

remembered that the numbers here are small and so the percentage changes are not representative of significant trends in the data.

Table 14: Number of Diocesan priesthood students preparing for degree 2000 - 2005

	<i>Total Number of Students</i>	<i>Number preparing for the degree</i>	<i>Percentage of total number preparing for the degree</i>
2000	150	95	63
2001	120	75	63
2002	88	67	76
2003	78	58	74
2004	90	63	70
2005	86	53	62

As Table 15 below shows of the total number of students for the Diocesan priesthood on the island, the vast majority are based at Maynooth. With the closure in recent years of other seminaries at Thurles and Carlow, only Belfast and Maynooth remain as destinations.

Table 15: Diocesan Students in Irish Seminaries 2000 – 2005

	<i>Maynooth</i>	<i>Dublin Formation</i>	<i>Thurles & Carlow</i>	<i>Belfast</i>	<i>Total</i>
2000	106	2	18	6	133
2001	83	0	13	4	101
2002	66	-	-	4	70
2003	55	-	-	4	59
2004	65	-	-	5	70
2005	19	-	-	2	21

For the priesthood, 50% of applicants were accepted in 2005. This figure has remained in or about this level for a number of years.

Table 16: Numbers and applicants and entrants to the Diocesan priesthood 2000 – 2005

	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>Entrants as a % of applicants</i>
2000	73	29	40
2001	61	32	52
2002	49	20	41
2003	45	19	42
2004	59	28	47
2005	54	27	50

Table 17 below shows the number of entrants and their Diocese. Dublin predominates with 4 of the clerical students in 2005 and there are two each for the Dioceses of Armagh, Galway, Down & Connor and Killaloe.

Table 17: Entrants to seminaries by Diocese 2005

	<i>Maynooth</i>	<i>Belfast</i>
Achonry	1	0
Ardagh	0	0
Armagh	2	0
Cashel & Emlly	1	0
Clogher	0	0
Clonfert	0	0
Cloyne	1	0
Cork & Ross	1	0
Derry	0	0
Down & Connor	0	2
Dromore	0	0
Dublin	4	0
Elphin	0	0
Ferns	1	0
Galway	2	0
Kerry	0	0
Kildare & Leighlin	1	0
Killala	0	0
Killaloe	2	0
Kilmore	0	0
Limerick	0	0
Meath	1	0
Ossory	0	0
Raphoe	1	0
Tuam	0	0
Waterford	0	0
Not yet chosen	0	0
Diocese outside Ireland	1	0
Transferred from an Order	0	0
Total	19	2

The age profile of accepted entrants is outlined in Table 18. The majority are under the age of 35.

Table 18: Age of accepted applicants to the Diocesan priesthood 2005

	<i>Number</i>
17 – 24	5
25 – 34	5
35 and over	3
Not available	8

Table 19 shows the highest qualification obtained by each of the accepted applicants. A university qualification was obtained by over 40% of the students. This is down on recent years as the table shows when the totals for third level diploma, university degree and postgraduate degree are aggregated.

Table 19: Highest educational qualification of accepted applicants to the Diocesan priesthood, 2003 - 2005

	2003		2004		2005	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Completed primary school	0	-	0	-	0	-
Some years at post-primary	0	-	0	-	2	7
Intermediate / group certificate	1	5	1	4	0	-
At least 5 Leaving Certificate subjects / 5 O Levels in GCE	3	16	4	14	9	33
Matriculation at Leaving Certificate / GCE	2	11	4	14	3	11
Third level diploma	2	11	3	11	2	7
University degree / teacher training	7	37	9	32	9	33
Postgraduate degree	2	10	7	25	1	4
Trade / apprenticeship	1	5	0	-	0	-
Other	1	5	0	-	1	4
Total	19	100	28	100	27	100

In summary then, 50% of applicants to the priesthood were accepted to study, 10 postponed the study and there were 88 departed seminarians in the year to September 2005.

Table 20: Diocesan priesthood – summary of applicants, entrants, deaths and departures 1996 – 2005

	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>% of applicants accepted</i>	<i>Not accepted</i>	<i>Postponed</i>	<i>No follow through</i>	<i>Transferees</i>	<i>Departed seminarians</i>
1996	131	52	40	24	24	31	12	59
1997	95	53	56	20	11	11	6	43
1998	87	45	52	23	15	4	8	40
1999	94	46	49	24	19	5	2	41
2000	73	29	40	30	7	7	7	24
2001	61	32	52	11	13	5	0	27
2002	49	20	41	17	7	5	13	28
2003	45	19	42	12	13	1	8	6
2004	59	28	47	19	10	2	3	11
2005	54	27	50	13	10	3	1	88

Section D: Clerical Religious Orders

Table 21 shows that the number of brothers in clerical religious orders is up on the 2004 figure – making up 11% of all personnel in these orders. In total there are 3,036 people in clerical religious orders in Ireland. 60% of these were based in Ireland in 2005. Overall the number of people in clerical religious orders has declined steadily since 2001.

Table 21: Clerical religious orders (brothers and priests) in Ireland by location 2000 - 2005

	<i>Number of brothers</i>		<i>Number of priests</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	275	8	3,220	92	3,495	100	63	37
2001	363	10	3,311	90	3,674	100	62	38
2002	267	8	3,209	92	3,476	100	64	36
2003	254	8	3,115	92	3,369	100	66	33
2004	239	7	3,059	93	3,298	100	64	36
2005	347	11	2,689	89	3,036	100	60	40

The table below shows the dynamics in the change for these orders between 2004 and 2005. Total departures were 13 people with 91 deaths giving a total loss figure of 104. Taking final professions and ordinations into account there was a net loss of 89 personnel in the year to September 2005.

Table 22: Departures, deaths, ordinations and final professions of clerical religious orders in Ireland 2000 - 2005

	<i>Departures</i>			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Total Loss</i>	<i>Ordinations</i>	<i>Final professions</i>	<i>Net Balance (ordinations / losses)</i>
	<i>Ordained priests</i>	<i>Finally professed brothers</i>	<i>Total departures</i>					
2000	8	5	13	124	137	14	11	-112
2001	6	4	10	92	102	10	6	-86
2002	20	1	21	103	124	10	7	-107
2003	15	0	15	89	104	11	2	-91
2004	14	1	15	88	104	2	3	-99
2005	11	2	13	91	104	8	7	-89

In 2005 there were 13 scholastics and 46 temporary professed, novices and postulants. 61% of these personnel were based in Ireland. There appears to be considerable annual variation in the percentage based at home and abroad. There were 59 scholastics, temporary professed, novices and postulants in clerical religious orders in Ireland in 2005.

Table 23: Distribution of scholastics, temporary professed, novices and postulants in clerical religious orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Number of scholastics</i>		<i>Number of temporary professed, novices and postulants</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	143	63	83	37	226	100	85	15
2001	41	37	70	63	111	100	41	59
2002	63	31	138	69	201	100	30	70
2003	11	8	123	92	134	100	43	57
2004	14	23	46	77	60	100	77	23
2005	13	22	46	78	59	100	61	39

Table 24 shows the percentage of applicants to entrants amongst clerical religious orders in 2005. 88% were accepted as entrants, almost a doubling from the previous year and the highest since the early 1990s. Of 16 applicants, 14 were accepted.

Table 24: Applicants and entrants to clerical religious orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>Entrants as a % of applicants</i>
2000	39	22	56
2001	32	16	50
2002	40	17	42
2003	33	17	52
2004	30	13	43
2005	16	14	88

A late vocation is tabulated by requesting the previous occupation of the accepted applicant if they have not come directly from education. In 2005, there were 16 accepted applicants as late vocations- of those who were accepted. The discrepancy with table 24 arises as some of 2004's intake may be recorded here subsequent to the questionnaire being submitted.

Table 25: Number of late vocations for clerical religious orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

<i>Late vocations</i>	
2000	16
2001	10
2002	12
2003	15
2004	10
2005	16

The age profile of the accepted applicants in 2005 differs from that seen in the Diocesan priesthood. Half of the total is aged between 25 and 34 while a further five are aged 35 and over.

Table 26: Age of accepted applicants to clerical religious orders 2005

	<i>Number</i>
17 – 24	0
25 – 34	8
35 and over	5
Not available	1

Of the 14 accepted applicants for which detail was available, 21% have at least 5 Leaving Certificate subjects and a further 31% have attained a third level diploma. The remaining half have attained a university degree. The percentage receiving this qualification changes annually as can be see from Table 27.

Table 27: Highest educational qualification of accepted applicants to the clerical religious orders, 2003 - 2005

	<i>2003</i>		<i>2004</i>		<i>2005</i>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Completed primary school	-	0	-	0	-	0
Some years at post-primary	-	0	1	8	-	0
Intermediate / group certificate	-	0	-	0	-	0
At least 5 Leaving Certificate subjects / 5 O Levels in GCE	3	18	1	8	3	21
Matriculation at Leaving Certificate / GCE	3	18	1	8	-	0
Third level diploma	2	11	3	23	3	21
University degree / teacher training	7	41	4	30	7	50
Postgraduate degree	1	6	3	23	1	7
Trade / apprenticeship	1	6	-	0	-	0
Other	-	0	-	0	-	0
Total	17	100	13	100	14	100

In summary for the clerical religious orders, 88% of applicants were accepted, 2 applicants were not accepted and 3 have postponed. In total 10 students departed in the year to September 2005 which is lower than in previous years.

Table 28: Clerical religious orders – summary of applicants, entrants, deaths and departures 1996 – 2005

	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>% of applicants accepted</i>	<i>Not accepted</i>	<i>Postponed</i>	<i>No follow through</i>	<i>Departed scholastics, temporary professed novices / postulants</i>	<i>Deaths of scholastics, temporary professed novices / postulants</i>
1996	88	39	44	25	20	4	26	0
1997	53	32	60	12	7	2	26	0
1998	56	28	50	16	10	2	31	0
1999	38	23	61	4	8	3	28	0
2000	39	22	56	6	7	4	16	0
2001	32	16	50	13	1	2	19	0
2002	40	17	43	12	8	3	13	1
2003	33	17	52	6	5	5	9	0
2004	30	13	43	7	6	4	12	1
2005	16	14	88	2	3	8	10	0

Section E: Sisters' Orders

This section of the report tabulates the data from the 104 questionnaires sent to the sisters' orders in 2005. This section represents the largest proportion of all personnel in the Church in Ireland. Of the 16,322 ordained and professed people in the Church, 57% are in sisters' orders. As Table 29 shows, of the 9,248 women in sisters' orders, over 8 in 10 are resident in Ireland. This proportion has not changed to any significant extent in recent years.

Table 29: Finally professed sisters' in Ireland by location 2000 - 2005

	<i>Number of professed sisters</i>	<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	10,349	86	14
2001	10,059	86	14
2002	9,849	86	14
2003	9,954	82	18
2004	9,553	84	16
2005	9,248	86	14

Table 30 below shows the 20 departures and 292 deaths that made up the 312 total loss figure for 2005. Year on year, there was a net loss of 305 women in 2005. There were 7 final professions in sisters' orders in 2005.

Table 30: Departures, deaths and final professions for sisters' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Departures</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Total Loss</i>	<i>Final professions</i>	<i>Net Balance (Ordinations / Losses)</i>
2000	38	297	335	10	-325
2001	28	303	331	4	-327
2002	24	285	309	11	-298
2003	10	266	276	7	-269
2004	17	265	282	4	-278
2005	20	292	312	7	-305

In 2005, 93 of the temporary professed, novices and postulants were based in Ireland which reflects the balance of recent years. The one aberration tabulated below is the imbalance in the 2003 reported data.

Table 31: Distribution of temporary professed, novices and postulants in sisters' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Number of temporary professed, novices and postulants</i>	<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	50	92	8
2001	48	77	23
2002	37	92	8
2003	56	48	52
2004	30	93	7
2005	28	93	7

Table 32 shows the percentage of applicants to entrants in 2005: 65%. This is up on the previous year's figure but broadly consistent with the longer term trend. Of the 20 applicants to sisters' orders in 2005, 13 were accepted.

Table 32: Applicants and entrants to sisters' order in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>Entrants as a % of applicants</i>
2000	17	10	59
2001	24	15	63
2002	33	19	57
2003	19	12	63
2004	24	12	50
2005	20	13	65

8 of the 13 accepted entrants did not come directly from school. This pattern is broadly consistent with previous years.

Table 33: Number of late vocations for sisters' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Late vocations</i>
2000	8
2001	10
2002	14
2003	9
2004	11
2005	8

The age profile of accepted applicants is generally greater among sisters' orders than for the other groupings as can be seen from Table 34 below.

Table 34: Age of accepted applicants to sisters' orders 2005

	<i>Number</i>
17 – 24	1
25 – 34	6
35 and over	3
Not available	3

Table 35 shows the highest educational qualification attained for the accepted entrants to sisters' orders in 2005. Of the ten accepted entrants with information available, 80% have a university degree or teacher training, representing a higher proportion than either Diocesan priests or members of clerical religious orders. This also represents an increase on both the 2003 and 2004 figures.

Table 35: Highest educational qualification of accepted applicants to the sisters' orders 2003 - 2005

	<i>2003</i>		<i>2004</i>		<i>2005</i>	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Completed primary school	-	0	-	0	-	0
Some years at post-primary	1	8	-	0	-	0
Intermediate / group certificate	-	0	-	0	-	0
At least 5 Leaving Certificate subjects / 5 O Levels in GCE	1	8	-	0	1	10
Matriculation at Leaving Certificate / GCE	1	8	2	17	1	10
Third level diploma	3	25	3	25	-	0
University degree / teacher training	4	34	5	42	8	80
Postgraduate degree	2	17	1	8	-	0
Trade / apprenticeship	-	0	1	8	-	0
Other	-	0	-	0	-	0
Total	12	100	12	100	10	100

Table 36 is a summary of the applicants, entrants, deaths and departures for the period 1996 to 2005. As can be seen, the number of applications has declined over the time frame from 48 in 1996 to 20 a decade later. The percentage of the applicants who have been accepted has varied considerably over the last number of years but now averages at 59%. In total 6 trainees departed in the year to September 2005.

Table 36: Sisters' orders – summary of applicants, entrants, deaths and departures 1996 – 2005

	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>% of applicants accepted</i>	<i>Not accepted</i>	<i>Postponed</i>	<i>No follow through</i>	<i>Departed temporary professed novices / postulants</i>	<i>Deaths of temporary professed novices / postulants</i>
1996	48	19	40	10	9	10	13	0
1997	46	20	43	10	12	4	19	1
1998	36	17	47	10	5	4	5	2
1999	25	21	84	4	0	0	8	0
2000	17	10	59	3	4	0	7	0
2001	24	15	63	6	1	2	4	0
2002	33	19	57	6	5	3	9	0
2003	19	12	63	1	5	4	9	0
2004	24	12	50	0	6	4	6	0
2005	20	13	65	2	2	2	6	0

Section F: Brothers' Orders

In this final section, we examine the data from the 10 provincial houses of brothers' surveyed. There are 700 professed brothers in Ireland of whom 82% are resident in Ireland which is broadly in line with previous years' data. In the last three years, the numbers of professed brothers has declined by 12%.

Table 37: Brothers' orders in Ireland by location 2000 - 2005

	<i>Number of professed brothers</i>	<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	884	81	19
2001	801	89	11
2002	747	86	14
2003	794	81	19
2004	751	78	22
2005	700	82	18

In accounting for this decline in numbers, Table 38 outlines the deaths, departures and net balance for the year to September 2005. There were 2 departures and 24 deaths in this time and with no final professions, the net loss to the brothers' orders was 26 people.

Table 38: Departures, deaths and final professions for brothers' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

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

There are a small number of temporary professed, novices and postulants in brothers' orders in Ireland. There were none at all in the period under examination here as Table 39 shows.

Table 39: Distribution of temporary professed, novices and postulants in brothers' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Number of temporary professed, novices and postulants</i>	<i>% at home</i>	<i>% abroad</i>
2000	1	100	0
2001	1	100	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	2	100	0
2004	2	100	0
2005	0	0	0

There was 1 accepted application to the brothers' orders in 2005. The following four tables outline the characteristics of this applicant and the trend for previous years.

Table 40: Applicants and entrants to brothers' order in Ireland 2000 – 2005

	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Entrants</i>	<i>Entrants as a percentage of applicants</i>
2000	1	0	0
2001	3	0	0
2002	4	1	25
2003	0	0	0
2004	1	1	100
2005	1	1	100

Table 41: Number of late vocations for brothers' orders in Ireland 2000 – 2005

<i>Late vocations</i>	
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	1
2005	1

Table 42: Age of accepted applicants to brothers' orders 2005

	<i>Number</i>
17 – 24	0
25 – 34	1
35 and over	0
Not available	0

Table 43: Highest educational qualification of accepted applicants to the brothers' orders 2003 - 2005

	2003		2004		2005	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Completed primary school	-	0	-	0	-	0
Some years at post-primary	-	0	-	0	-	0
Intermediate / group certificate	-	0	-	0	-	0
At least 5 Leaving Certificate subjects / 5 O Levels in GCE	-	0	-	0	-	0
Matriculation at Leaving Certificate / GCE	-	0	-	0	-	0
Third level diploma	-	0	-	0	-	0
University degree / teacher training	-	0	1	100	1	100
Postgraduate degree	-	0	-	0	-	0
Trade / apprenticeship	-	0	-	0	-	0
Other	-	0	-	0	-	0
Total	-	0	-	0	-	0

To conclude, Table 44 outlines the numbers of applicants, entrants, deaths and departures over the time 1996 to 2005. Both applications and general enquiries for brothers' orders have declined substantially in the most recent decade.

Table 44: Brothers' orders – summary of applicants, entrants, deaths and departures 1996 – 2005

	<i>Applied</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>% of applicants accepted</i>	<i>Not accepted</i>	<i>Postponed</i>	<i>No follow through</i>	<i>Departed temporary professed novices / postulants</i>	<i>Deaths of temporary professed novices / postulants</i>
1996	11	1	9	4	2	4	5	1
1997	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
1998	8	2	25	0	0	6	0	0
1999	3	1	33	1	0	1	0	0
2000	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0
2001	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
2002	4	1	25	3	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	1	1	100	0	0	0	1	0
2005	1	1	100	0	0	0	0	0