

Maltese Clergy

Statistics

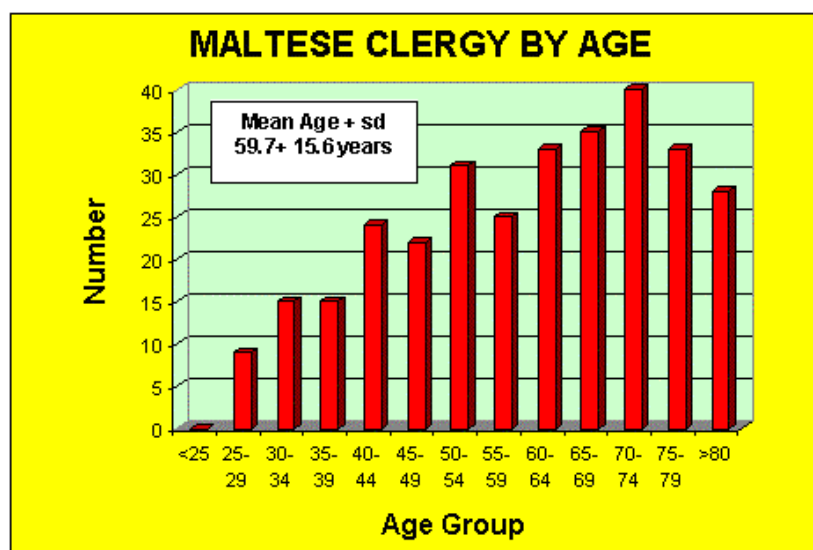
Report prepared by Mr. J. Schembri & Rev. Dr. J. Inguanez,
26/2/2002

The total number of priests in the Maltese Islands has been decreasing progressively since the turn of the twentieth century in spite of the maintained rise in the total Maltese population. The discrepant fall in the number of clergy has seen a dramatic change in the ratios of clergy to total population from 1 priest per 288 population in 1911 to 1 priest per 1220 population in 2002. In contrast there has been a near two-fold rise in the clergy who prefer to join the religious orders, at least until the 1970s. This has contributed towards a clergy to total population rise from 1 priest per 920 population in 1911 to 1 priest per 760 population in 1974 [Table 1].

Year	Priests in the Maltese Is.	Ratio to population	Priests belonging to Religious Orders	Ratio to population
1810	571	1:156		
1851	867	1:142	279	1:443
1911	734	1:288	228	1:928
1963	578	1:564	463	1:704
1974	468	1:675	491	1:760
2002	310	1:1220		

Source for data 1810-1974: A. Bonnici: *History of the Church in Malta. Volume III Period IV - 1800-1975.* Veritas press, Malta, 1975

The majority of Maltese Clergy in 2002 were aged 50 years or more with a mean age of 59.7 ± 15.6 years [Figure 1].



Source: Curia office

Figure 1: Maltese Clergy by Age