

Every year the Vatican Agency Fides publishes a complete report of all pastoral agents and missionaries assassinated in the last 12 months. According to the report, in 2009 there were 30 priests, 2 religious, 2 seminarians and three lay-missionaries were assassinated. A total of 37 pastoral agents, almost double that in 2008 and the highest registered number in the past 10 years.

America is the continent with the majority of assassinations, with 23 pastoral agents that lost their lives violently. Following is the continent of Africa where 9 priests, 2 seminarians a religious and a lay-missionary were assassinated. South Africa is the African country that had the most martyrs this past year. The violence this African country faces ended the life of 4 priests.

The published report by Fides contains an extensive explanation by continent and country and ends with a short biography of each of the pastoral agents assassinated along with the circumstances of their deaths. There is also a list of their names, country of origin, diocese or religious institute they belonged to, the place and date of their death.