Office of Listening
and Assistance

Final Report on Reparations in the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae

From May 2016 to April 2025

Listening and Support Office

Following the guidance of Irish expert Ian Elliott, the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae (SCV) established the Listening and Support Office in May 2016. This was the official and permanent body responsible for receiving reports of physical, psychological, sexual, and other forms of serious abuse committed by members or former members of our institution (while they were part of it). In addition to providing a safe and welcoming space for listening, the Office was also responsible for proposing a reparation process to the affected person, which included a range of measures for reparation, including financial compensation.

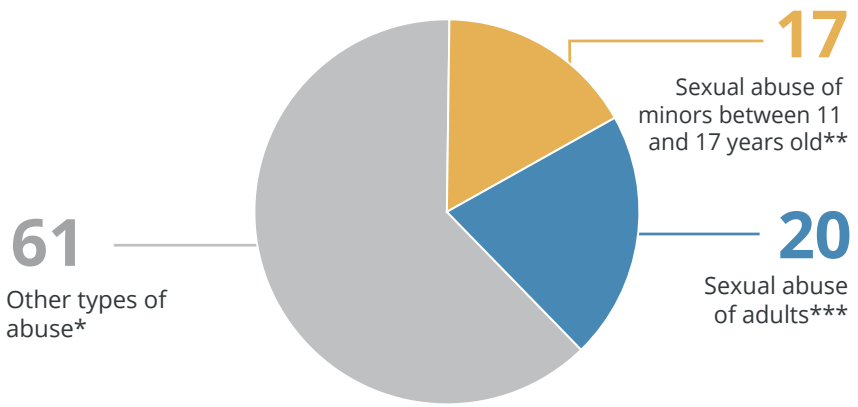
On April 30th, 2016, the Ethics Commission for Justice and Reconciliation (ECJR) delivered to the Superior General of the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae 32 individual reports, each containing specific recommendations for actions to be taken for each person the Commission had identified as a victim. In some cases, the Commission recommended granting financial compensation as part of the reparation, but without specifying a particular amount.

After the contracted services of Mr. Ian Elliott concluded in January 2017, the Listening and Support Office was placed under the direction of Dr. Silvia Matuk.

On January 17th, 2025, the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae was informed of the decision by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life specifically approved by Pope Francis to suppress the Sodalitium. In this new context, and with greater clarity regarding the responsibilities and competencies of the General Government, it was determined that the Listening and Support Office would conclude its functions on April 11th, 2025.

Through this Office, as of April 11th, 2025, **the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae carried out 98 reparation processes.** Among these, the 36 cases presented by the ECJR were addressed, resulting in agreements with 25 individuals. These were included among the 98 reparations mentioned previously. In accordance with the principles established at the beginning of the process, these 98 reparations were carried out through out-of-court settlements.

Chart 1: Types of Abuses Repaired



** Situations considered here are those that caused serious harm, such as physical abuse, psychological abuse, abuse of authority, serious violations of the internal code of conduct, among other similar behaviors.*
*** Five perpetrators were identified.*
**** Nine perpetrators were identified, four of whom were also among the five responsible for the abuse of minors.*

The work carried out over those years, the listening to the testimonies presented, internal reflection, dialogue with victims by some members of the Sodalitium, the recommendations of various prevention professionals, the experience of other communities, and the guidance of the Church all contributed to the continuous improvement and updating of the reparation process.

Purpose of the Reparations

Abuse is a deeply painful reality that can cause serious physical, psychological, and/or spiritual harm. In some cases, this harm is irreparable and its consequences difficult to measure. Driven by an awareness of the damage caused by some of its members or former members, the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae issued an institutional apology, expressed both through personal letters from the Superior General and through the Message of Forgiveness and Reconciliation formulated by all perpetual members gathered at the 5th General Assembly of the SCV in January 2019.

We considered it an institutional duty to take concrete actions to repair the harm caused, beyond what might be determined by civil or canonical justice. For this reason, the reparation process aimed to be an act of justice that sought to contribute to the comprehensive improvement of the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of the affected person, and in some cases, included members of their family.

Types of Reparation

We understand that the reparation process for each individual must be addressed in a personalized manner. Therefore, we sought to implement various actions to contribute as effectively as possible to each person's healing journey. To that end, in addition to an acknowledgment and an apology, three specific forms of reparation were established:

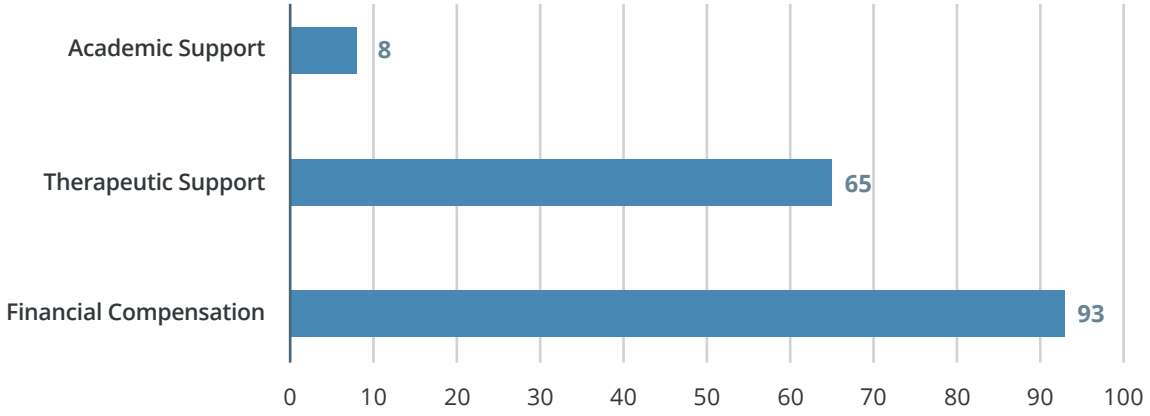
1. **Academic Support:** Specific assistance for undergraduate or postgraduate studies, as well as other academic or professional training aimed at improving employment opportunities and supporting the individual's life project.

2. **Therapeutic Support:** Specific assistance for psychological therapy, psychiatric care, or other medical treatments for a defined period. Support was also provided in obtaining medical insurance, with the aim of contributing to the comprehensive improvement of the affected person's physical, psychological, and emotional well-being.

3. **Financial Compensation:** Provision of a financial amount as compensation for the harm suffered, based on referential amounts established according to the guidelines provided by Mr. Ian Elliott.

Several individuals received more than one type of support. The following chart shows the distribution of these types of support which were not mutually exclusive provided to the 98 victims who received reparations:

Chart 2: Types of Support Provided in the 98 Reparation Cases



Scope of the Reparations

The following considerations were established to provide clarity on the scope of what could be included in a reparation process:

SCOPE	DETAIL
Regarding the Perpetrator	It was considered whether the person identified as responsible for the abuse was an active member or a former member who had committed the abuse while belonging to the Sodalitium.
Regarding the Timeframe	All abuse committed since the founding of the institution in December 1971 was taken into consideration.
Regarding the Circumstances	All abuse committed within Sodalitium communities or during any apostolic activity organized by the Sodalitium was taken into consideration.
Regarding the Type of Abuse	Situations considered included those classified as canonical crimes, as well as circumstances that caused harm to the person, such as physical abuse, psychological abuse, or sexual abuse of adults.
Regarding the Evidence	In cases of abuse involving minors, no probatory evidence was required; however, an investigation was conducted to assess the credibility of the allegations or to rule out the possibility of contradictory evidence.

Graduality Criteria Used for Reparations

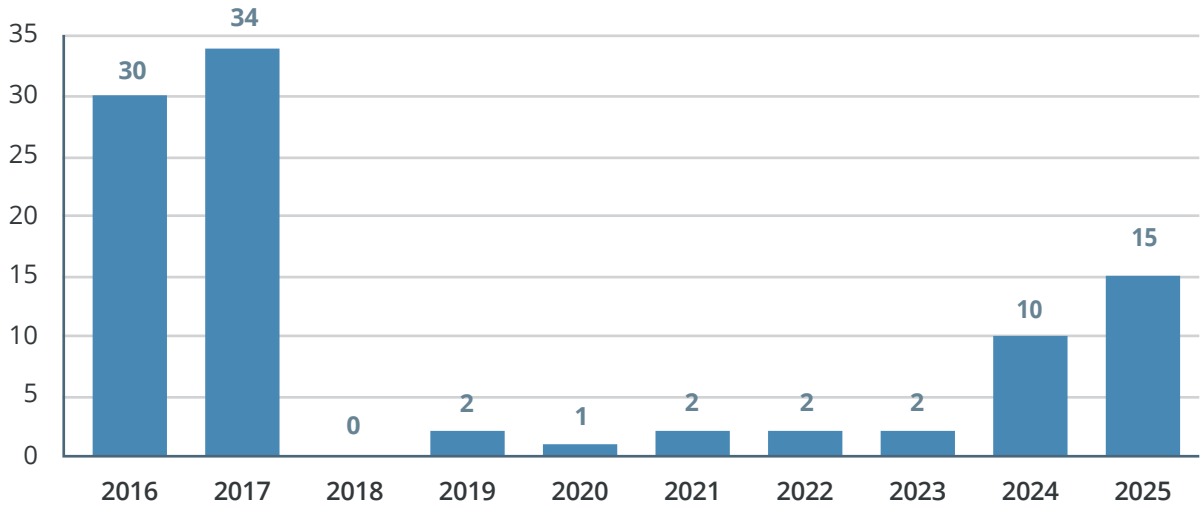
Recognizing the diversity of situations that may have occurred, efforts were made to address each case individually, applying a principle of proportionality and graduality in order to establish fair and equitable parameters whenever possible. To this end, several criteria were established to determine the level of severity in each case:

SCOPE	DETAIL
The Degree of Physical Contact	Sexual abuse was considered more serious when it involved physical contact than when it did not.
The Age of the Victim	The abuse was considered more serious the younger the age of the person who suffered it.
The Duration of the Abuse	The abuse was considered more serious the longer it continued over time.
The Victim's Situation of Vulnerability	The abuse was considered more serious when the person was in a situation or context of greater fragility or vulnerability whether it was psychological, physical, emotional, or of another nature.
The Relationship with the Perpetrator	The abuse was considered more serious when the relationship with the perpetrator involved a higher level of trust.
The Harm Caused	The abuse was considered more serious the greater its impact on the person whether on their physical, psychological, and/or spiritual health.
Based on the Nature of the Abuse	The abuse was considered more serious when it was classified as a civil or canonical crime.

Signed Reparation Agreements

Based on the dates the out-of-court agreements were signed, the distribution of the reparations over time was as follows:

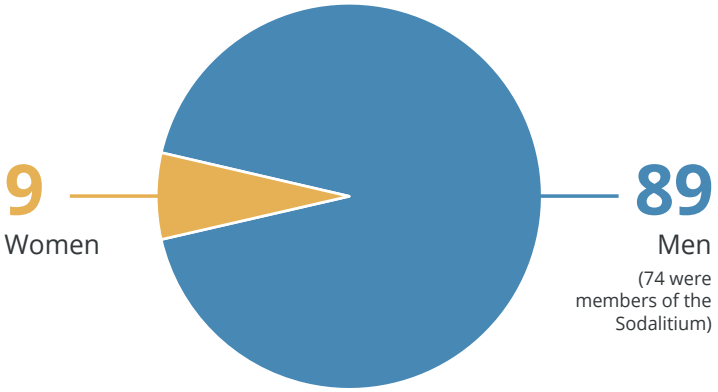
Chart 3: Signed Reparation Agreements as of April 11th, 2025



Reparations by Sex of the Person Who Was a Victim of the Different Types of Abuse

According to the information available to the Listening and Support Office, the 98 reparations carried out were provided to 9 women and 89 men.

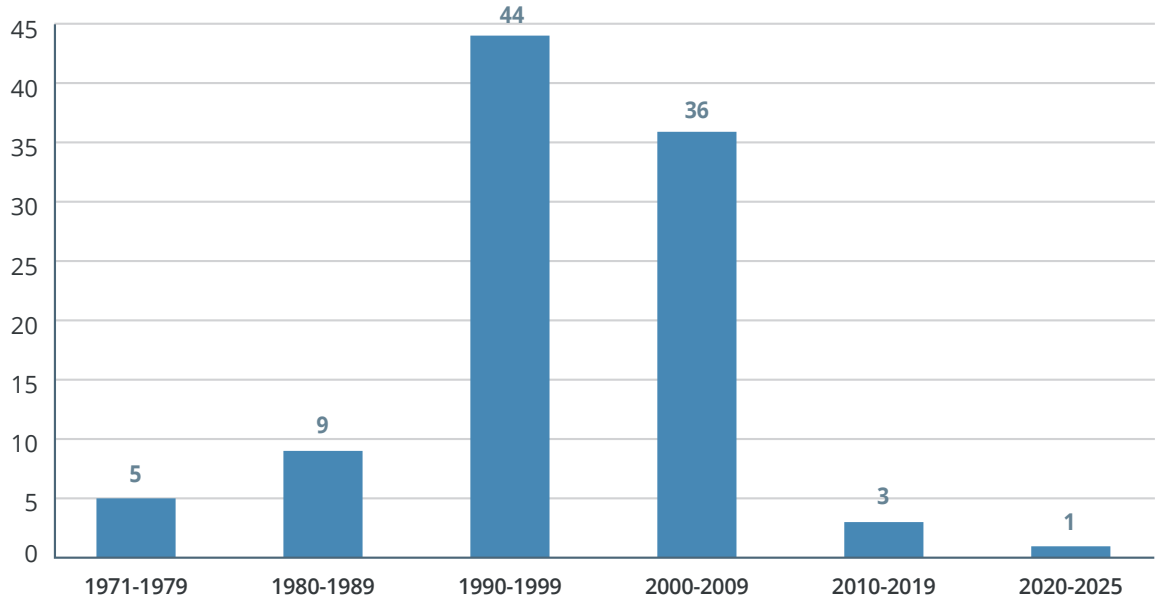
Chart 4: Reparations by Gender of the Victim



Time Period During Which the Abuses Occurred in the 98 Reparation Agreements

According to the information available to the Listening and Support Office, of the 98 testimonies that resulted in reparations, the abuses occurred over time as follows:

Chart 5: Decade in Which the Abuses Occurred in the Reparation Agreements



Circumstances of Non-Reparation

The Listening and Support Office evaluated each of the allegations found within every testimony submitted. In some cases, a single testimony included multiple types of allegations, each of which was assessed and investigated independently. Therefore, while certain allegations within a testimony may not have resulted in reparation, others from the same testimony could have been considered and led to a Reparation Agreement.

The following circumstances were not considered grounds for reparation according to the objectives of the Office:

- Employment-related claims in institutions over which the Sodalitium had no authority or functional involvement.
- Difficulties with no demonstrated connection to the individual's experience or relationship with the SCV.
- Situations that caused real harm, but for which no individual or institutional responsibility on the part of the Sodalitium could be determined.
- Inappropriate behavior that occurred once or very infrequently and that does not constitute a civil or canonical offense, nor an abusive act against the person, but is instead understood as a minor infraction.
- Accusations for which, during the investigation process and/or upon review of responses from those involved, evidence was found that contradicted the submitted testimony.

A total of 13 individuals approached the Listening and Support Office with testimonies that fell under the circumstances described above. As a result, they were not recognized as victims and therefore did not receive financial compensation.

Solidarity Assistance

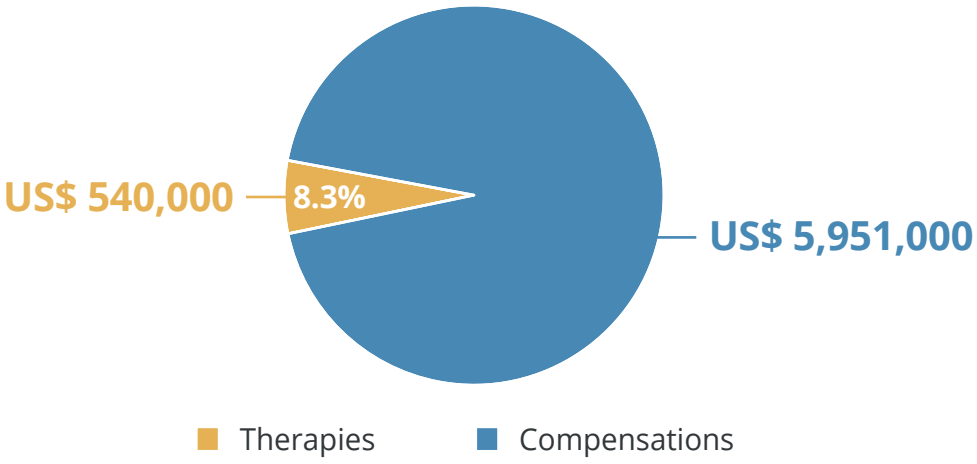
Some individuals who, according to the criteria mentioned, were not recognized as victims of abuse were offered solidarity assistance. This support was extended based on the principle of Christian charity, taking into account each person's particular situation of difficulty. These cases were not included in the statistical data presented in this report. In total, solidarity assistance was provided to 12 individuals.

External Consultancy

Since September 2021, the Office received advisory support from Eshmá, a Spanish institution specialized in caring for victims of abuse within the Catholic Church. Their recognized experience in accompanying victims, along with their professionalism and independence, supported the General Government of the Sodalitium in making the best possible decisions in the abuse cases presented to the Listening and Support Office.

Amount of Money Allocated to Reparations

From the creation of the Office in 2016 until April 2025, the total amount allocated for victim reparations was **US$ 6,491,000.00.**



The Sodalitium also made the following additional payments on behalf of the victims: payments for legal and canonical counsel, notarial expenses, travel expenses related to notarial signings and/or the presentation of testimony, among other related costs.

Legal Process in Peru Initiated by 5 Former Members of the Sodalitium

In October 2015, the 26th Provincial Criminal Prosecutor's Office of Lima initiated an ex officio investigation for the crime of sexual abuse of minors against one sodalit and two former sodalits. The investigation was opened following the release of the book "Half Monks, Half Soldiers", in which three of the thirty published testimonies described episodes of sexual abuse that occurred during the 1980s.

In January 2016, the 26th Provincial Criminal Prosecutor's Office of Lima closed the investigation due to the absence of any victim willing to testify regarding the sexual abuse allegations.

In May 2016, five former members of the Sodalitium filed an expanded criminal complaint alleging the following crimes: (a) mental kidnapping, (b) severe psychological harm, and (c) criminal conspiracy. The complaint named seven current members and three former members of the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae as the accused.

After the preparatory investigation began, in October 2016 the Prosecutor's Office carried out proceedings in Rome (Italy) to obtain the testimony of Luis Fernando Figari, who at that time was residing in Italy under a directive from the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

In January 2017, the 26th Provincial Prosecutor's Office declared the three reported crimes (mental kidnapping, criminal conspiracy, and severe psychological harm) as non-existent. In March 2017, the 6th Superior Prosecutor's Office annulled the closure of the investigation.

In November 2017, the 18th Provincial Prosecutor's Office filed formal charges against some of the individuals under investigation and excluded others. It also requested pre-trial detention for Luis Fernando Figari and former sodalites Virgilio Levaggi, Daniel Murguía, and Jeffery Daniels.

In October 2019, on appeal, the 6th Superior Prosecutor's Office confirmed the exclusion of some of the accused and definitively closed the case against four sodalites.

In December 2019, the alleged crime of organized criminal activity (criminal conspiracy) was transferred to the 1st Supraprovincial Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime. As a result of this decision, the request for pre-trial detention was annulled.

After five decisions to close the investigation and five appeals that resulted in their annulment, in June 2024, the Prosecutor's Office issued a sixth and final decision to **definitively close** the preliminary investigation. Consequently, the preparatory investigation did not proceed or become formalized against those accused of mental kidnapping and severe psychological harm.

Finally, in September 2024, the 2nd National Superior Prosecutor's Office Specialized in Organized Crime dismissed the appeal filed by the complainants against the Prosecutor's decision to close the criminal conspiracy case. As a result, the **definitive closure** of the preparatory investigation was confirmed.