MISSION TO DISTANT LANDS

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The Holy Father was one of the first to understand that the future of the church lies beyond the European borders. Given the demographic growth of Asia and Africa, both territories were a promised land for this new envangelization which he believed vital for the future of the church.
He would visit Africa 58 times during his reign and go on 14 trips to Asia - in other words, both continents made up for a third of his travels outside the Vatican.

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