

mgr lic. Malwina Kędracka

## The Recognition of the Validity of Marriages in Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue

### Dissertation abstract

In the presented doctoral dissertation, an attempt was made to present the mutual recognition of the validity of marriages in the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, from the Catholic perspective. This dissertation is part of the current of comparative studies on the institution of marriage, which in this case is not an abandonment of the sacrament. This is due to the fact that, according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, marriage between the baptised has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

The dissertation is composed of four chapters - each preceded by an introduction and culminating in a conclusion. The first chapter characterises the Orthodox Church as a partner in the dialogue, presents the achievements of the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue at the global level, with a particular focus on issues that may affect the mutual recognition of the validity of marriages, and analyses the documents of the local dialogue that directly concern the sacrament of marriage. The second chapter is about the changes initiated by the Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church's perception of the Orthodox Church and the validity of marriages celebrated within it. The third chapter presents the elements of Orthodox matrimonial discipline that must be obligatorily taken into account during the canonical examination of engaged couples prior to Catholic-Orthodox marriage, as well as in a situation when a Catholic tribunal judges the validity of an Orthodox Christian's marriage if, for some reasons, this validity is of interest to the Catholic Church. What is more, this part of the thesis presents the position of the Catholic Church towards the crucial problems related to the recognition of the single status of Orthodox Christians in the legal forum. The fourth chapter is, in turn, a proposal of Catholic procedures that could be applied in the context of a Catholic-Orthodox marriage.