

Summary

This thesis presents the theological description and evaluation of the cultural and social changes of the 21st century impacting the pluralistic society of the United States. Such phenomena as secularism, globalization, moral relativism, and technological progress have changed the lives of people significantly. There are some positive consequences of these changes, including the improvement of the corporeal well-being of people, opportunities to overcome poverty, using technological advances, freedom, and the emphasis on human dignity, which make the lives of people easier. At the same time, the Catholic Church finds many detrimental and morally corrupt consequences of these trends. Among them are social disintegration, aggravation of poverty, mass migration, unethical use of technology, and the erosion of American society's faith. This theological research is based on the See-Judge-Act methodological paradigm that is commonly used in Pastoral Theology. The description of modern cultural and social trends is followed by the theological evaluation and proposed solution to the problems presented by these changes. This thesis answers three questions: 1) What are the most important manifestations of social and cultural changes in American society at the beginning of the twenty-first century? 2) How are these changes interpreted and evaluated in the official documents of the Church in the United States? 3) What changes should be made in the pastoral ministry so that the Church in the United States can fulfill her saving mission in the current social and cultural conditions? It is possible to conclude that the Catholic Church should concentrate on the balanced integration of positive modern tendencies into pastoral care without betraying Biblical principles and Christian doctrine and timely reaction to unacceptable tendencies.

Key words: pastoral theology, secularism, globalization, moral relativism, technological progress, pastoral care, Catholic Church, salvific mission.

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