

## **Summary**

### **1. Title of doctoral dissertation**

*Knowledge and acceptance of the Catholic religious and moral values. A catechetical study based on research among high school students of the Diocese of Świdnica*

### **2. Summary of the doctoral dissertation**

The education of the younger generation constitutes a fundamental task of the Catholic Church, which has been at the center of its pastoral and catechetical reflection for many years. This doctoral dissertation is part of the Church's concern for the integral formation of young Christians. It combines a diagnosis of the level of knowledge about Catholic values and their acceptance with an attempt to gain a deeper understanding of Catholic youth living in the Diocese of Świdnica.

In the context of dynamic socio-cultural changes, a clear decline in the level of religiosity among young people in Poland has been observed. This decline is manifested in a number of ways, including limited participation in religious practices and growing contestation of Church teaching, particularly in the area of moral norms. In response to these phenomena, the aim of the dissertation was to empirically examine the level of knowledge and acceptance of Catholic religious and moral values among high school students in the Diocese of Świdnica. The dissertation addresses a significant gap in the existing research by offering a novel perspective on the topic of Catholic youth religiosity in Poland.

The theoretical foundation of the dissertation was an analysis of Catholic Church documents and other documents concerning religious education in Polish schools. The research methodology was based on a theological-pastoral paradigm, utilizing tools appropriate for empirical sciences, particularly quantitative research. To this end, a questionnaire was administered, yielding responses from 1,170 respondents. The results were subjected to statistical analysis, which facilitated a multidimensional examination of the level of knowledge and acceptance of Catholic religious and moral values. The scientific reflection is interdisciplinary in nature and consists of a theoretical and empirical part of the dissertation, which is contained in five chapters.

In the initial chapter of this study, an integrated depiction of a young Catholic is presented. This depiction is informed by the tenets and truths of the Catholic faith (paragraph one), the practices of Catholic liturgy and prayers (paragraph two), and Catholic moral principles (paragraph three). Additionally, it is informed by selected catechetical objectives,

content, and the resulting attitudes of students. This endeavor was undertaken to ascertain the contributions of the Catholic religion to the formation of personal value systems during the critical developmental phase of adolescence.

The second chapter delineates the methodology of empirical research. The initial paragraph of the chapter delineates the characteristics of contemporary youth, thereby establishing the research environment. The second paragraph of this chapter is devoted to the structure and form of the questionnaire used in the research and the selection of the research sample. The final section of this chapter comprises an examination of the empirical research methodology.

The second part of this dissertation presents the empirical research and its analysis. The statistical calculations necessary for understanding the work are presented in the form of graphs and tables. The third chapter presents the findings of research on the knowledge of religious and moral values held by high school students, including the truths of the Catholic faith (first paragraph), the sacraments and prayer formulas (second paragraph), and Catholic moral teaching (third paragraph). Conversely, the data presented in the fourth chapter primarily focused on assessing the acceptance of the Church's teachings among young individuals. This chapter was instrumental in addressing the research question. The findings of the research presented in this chapter elucidate the extent to which young people accept the tenets of the Catholic faith and their disposition toward the Catholic Church (paragraph one), their engagement in sacramental life and prayer (paragraph two), and their acceptance of the moral principles espoused by the Church (paragraph three).

The final chapter of this dissertation puts forth a series of proposals aimed at enhancing the level of religious knowledge among young individuals and fostering their acceptance of religious and moral values.

The dissertation makes a significant contribution to the development of pastoral theology and catechetics as academic disciplines. Furthermore, it provides practical guidelines for the Church's formative activity among young people.

**Keywords:** catechesis, Catholic values, high school students, Diocese of Świdnica, evangelization

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