

## SUMMARY

***Investigatio praeiudicialis seu pastoralis***  
**in the context of the principles of procedural reform**  
**according to *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus***  
**A legal and canonical study**

The dissertation deals with the institution of a pre-judicial, or pastoral, inquiry. By virtue of the reform of canonical procedural law, Pope Francis has made changes to the process of marriage nullity. He has also introduced a new form of assistance and accompaniment for those experiencing a marital crisis in the form of separation or total breakdown of the marriage without the possibility of reconciliation.

The dissertation attempts to analyze the origins of the new institution. The analysis of the context of the reform and the M. P. *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus* emerging therefrom allows for a proper grasp of the intention of the Legislator regarding the application of the institution of pre-judicial, or pastoral, inquiry.

The dissertation is divided into three chapters. The first one deals with the protection of marriage by the Church. The second chapter undertakes an analysis of the procedural reform that had been introduced by the MIDI. The third chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the institution of pre-judicial, or pastoral, investigation.

The understanding of the analyzed institution gains in a new quality based on the criteria of the reform, and the constant concern for the protection of marriage is likely to take the form of a greater commitment and, above all, meet the expectation of proximity of the converting ecclesial structures to the faithful seeking help.