

**„Abuse of the authority of the clergy to administer
the sacrament of baptism in current Latin Church law”**

Summary of the dissertation

In the presented dissertation, an attempt has been made to answer the question: what abuses can a clergyman commit when administering baptism? On the basis of the above question, other questions arise: What are the causes of possible abuses and under what circumstances can they occur? What consequences can the unlawful action of clergy have in the lives of the faithful? Finally, one must also ask: Is it not worthwhile to postulate that consequences appropriate to the offence should be drawn against the celebrant of a baptism in violation of the law? The author of the dissertation has created a catalogue of abuses that can be committed by a clergyman when giving baptism. First, he included those that result in the invalidity of the sacrament: 1/ failure to observe the matter and form prescribed by law; 2/ denial of baptism to a person remaining alive; 3/ re-giving baptism; 4/ celebrating it without the intention of doing what the Church does; 5/ disregarding the will of an adult. The abuses causing the unworthy celebration of baptism were then characterized as: 1/ disregarding the consent of the child's parents or legal guardians; 2/ administering this sacrament against the hope of a Catholic upbringing; 3/ inducing acatholics to accept the rite of the Latin Church; 4/ baptising an adult without proper preparation; 5/ celebrating it in a foreign territory without proper permission. Finally, other abuses were analysed: 1/ lack of preparation of parents and godparents; 2/ granting baptism outside the proper place; 3/ failure to notify the diocesan bishop of the baptism of an adult; 4/ admission of godparents who do not meet the legal requirements; 5/ failing to make or making an incorrect entry in the baptismal book.