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Summary

Priestly formation in the light of the teaching of Pope Francis. Theological and pastoral study.

The issue of priest formation in the light of the teachings of Pope Francis has a large-aspect dimension. It refers to all dimensions of the formation of priests: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. Upon receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders, they are required to participate in ongoing formation. It is an indispensable tool for a priest to achieve the goal of his vocation, which is generous service to God and his people.

This dissertation is part of the Church's concern for the formation of clergy and students. It is essential that those responsible for priest formation draw on the extensive teaching of Pope Francis. It is contained in encyclicals, exhortations, apostolic letters, homilies, speeches during audiences and meetings with clergy, which have been analysed in this dissertation.

The first chapter presents the areas to which Pope Francis pays special attention in the development of human formation. In the area of shaping emotional maturity, he emphasizes the importance of integral development. Another important dimension of priest formation is the improvement in the attitude of tenderness and compassion. As part of shaping mature freedom, Pope Francis emphasizes that as part of ongoing formation, clergy should develop an attitude of openness to changes that result from the implementation of their vocation. He devotes a lot of space in his teachings to the attitude of service, which he considers essential in the priesthood. As part of the formation of clerical consciences, Pope Francis encourages the practice of the Ignatian examination of conscience. The awareness of one's own sinfulness among priests encourages the development of an attitude of vigilance against threats in the implementation of the vocation to the exclusive service of God. He also sees the need to improve in the attitude of meekness in pastoral commitment.

In the second chapter on spiritual formation, The Pope devotes much attention to shaping a personal relationship with Christ through prayer. It is at the heart of their pastoral commitment. It results in striving for union with Christ and influences zeal in the missionary work of evangelization. Perfecting the art of prayer leads priests to realize the attitude of selfless service and to strengthen their desire to bear witness. As part of the improvement of clergy in the practice of the evangelical virtues, The Pope emphasizes the importance of shaping poverty in ongoing formation, which is visible through a modest life. It is the imitation of Christ, who became poor for us (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). The everyday life of priests should be characterized by the ability to sacrifice and asceticism, and not seeking church privileges. Francis emphasizes the implementation of the attitude of modesty among the clergy. It encourages you to avoid greed and focus on material possessions. Perfecting the virtue of obedience is to lead the clergyman to care for building a filial relationship with his bishop. This is a necessary condition for the effectiveness of pastoral ministry. Perfecting the attitude of readiness to serve the community of the Church brings the intended pastoral effects. Practicing the virtue of chastity, which Pope Francis encourages, is educating one's interior to the mature love of God's people. Shaping the attitude of mercy in priestly formation occupies a significant part in Francis' teachings. Clergy, by practicing the works of mercy towards soul and body, contribute to increasing care for the neediest. Humanitarian activities, together with the proclamation of the message of forgiveness given by God, develop the culture of mercy that Pope Francis proposes to the clergy.

Priests in ongoing formation are required to improve their intellectual knowledge. The Pope encourages the development of qualifications in theological fields, but he warns against the risk of focusing too much on the intellectual sphere at the expense of other dimensions of development. Study and academic development express one aspect of holistic formation. By expanding philosophical knowledge, clergy develop a culture of dialogue and build relationships with non-believers. The Pope paid special attention to issues related to ecology.

In the field of pastoral formation, clergy improve their skills in preaching the word of God. Priests have the responsibility to help God's people understand the message of Scripture. Priests continue Christ's work of sanctification of believers by improving their skills in administering the sacraments and introducing them to prayer. Priest formation obliges priests to shape the skills of building and leading Christian communities. The Pope points out to the clergy the issues of missionary conversion and the development of pastoral creativity.

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