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DOCTORAL DISSERTATION TITLE

Catechesis in the process of accompanying a Christian family.

Pastoral and catechetical study

SUMMARY

The topic of the doctoral dissertation addressed within a pastoral and catechetical study aimed to identify catechesis as a form of accompanying contemporary Christian families. Nowadays, families encounter hardships and crises on many levels of their existence, therefore, addressing this issue in the hereby dissertation made it possible to highlight the Church's enduring concern for the institution of the family, as well as to indicate catechesis as a multi-dimensional form of implementing the message of salvation.

The fundamental objective of the dissertation was to find answers to the questions included in the research issue: what is the mission of catechesis with regard to the family in the modern world? In search of answers to this issue, the following specific questions proved to be helpful: what are the contemporary contexts of family life? What is the contemporary teaching of the Magisterium of the Church regarding the topic of marriage and family? What ought to be the role of the active agents of catechesis within the family? What are the scopes of the family catechesis?

The processing of the study issues was accomplished by using the pastoral paradigm methodology of "genesis, interpretation, evaluation" and through the method of analysis, the method of synthesis, the method of deduction, the method of induction and the method of critical interpretation of texts. The study issues included in this dissertation were presented in four chapters.

The first chapter provided an analysis of the contemporary contexts of family life. Firstly, the anthropological and cultural context was presented, the diagnosis of which revealed some alarming phenomena aimed at leading to a redefinition of basic concepts related to the human being and, by extension, to marriage and family. This was followed by an outline of the

socio-economic context, its impact on the functioning of the family and the most common problems and hardships in the functioning of the family that result from the aforementioned context. The attention was also drawn to numerous contemporary psychological problems that different family members cope with, which served as a means of promoting awareness of people's emotional sphere.

The second chapter presented God's plan related to marriage and family. Presenting the family throughout salvation history provided an insight into God's thought regarding man's fundamental vocation of living in a sacramental marriage. Furthermore, the attention was drawn to the centuries-old teaching of the Magisterium of the Church pertaining to the qualities of the sacramental marriage. What is more, the continuity of ideas of the Christian doctrine was also highlighted. The Church has always viewed a Christian family as an unquestionable good. Presenting this point in the last paragraph of the second chapter made it possible to notice various forms of ecclesial accompaniment for people living in informal relationships.

The third chapter of this dissertation outlines the roles of the active agents of catechesis. Within the family home, they are virtually the most frequent contributors to the transmission of faith to individual family members. Two separate paragraphs illustrate the roles of a mother and a father in home catechesis. Addressing these issues separately, focusing on the role of a mother and the role of a father in shaping children's personalities and in the process of the transmission of faith, made it possible to demonstrate differences in the ways each parent influences the children from an educational and formative point of view.

The fourth chapter presented the scopes of family catechesis, which led to the presentation of practical areas for its daily implementation. The beginning of the chapter focused on catechesis within the family, identifying the family as the primary and first faith formation community. This was followed by a presentation of catechesis with the family, which gave an insight into the crucial role of the collaboration between the family and the parish in the process of preparing a child to receive the sacraments. The final paragraph of this chapter described family catechesis. Its content and formative aspects of parents and pastoral environments contribute to a holistic understanding of the marriage sacrament preparation process.

Key words: family, marriage, accompanying, family catechesis, parents' role

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