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THE TITLE OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS:

Christian Formation of Young People in the Light of the Teaching of Pope Francis. Theological and Pastoral Study.

This dissertation is an attempt to answer the questions concerning the current aims and methods of the Christian formation of young people in the light of the teaching of Pope Francis. In order to answer the questions regarding the research problem, the author of the dissertation carried out the analysis of the teaching of the bishop of Rome, with regard to the formation of young people. The obtained results were systematised with regard to the human, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic formation.

The first chapter of the dissertation contains the issue of the human formation. The analyses of Pope's teaching indicated that a proper development of a young person results from getting to know oneself and getting to know the reality just as it is. Young people who get to know themselves, are able to satisfy their natural needs, to develop their potential and, thanks to that, they can develop their mature personality. The Pope encourages to pay particular attention to the emotional sphere and to the feelings which accompany them in experiencing various events and existential situations, as they are one of the pillars of the human formation and they accompany people throughout their lives. Taking proper care for their development, young people should not avoid difficulties in life because facing them is helpful in learning about one's positive features and predispositions but it also indicates one's spheres which require stronger concern, investment and effort. Pope Francis emphasises the need to teach Christian love and education to such values as: life, the spirit of community work, peace and physical health.

The second chapter of the dissertation regards spiritual formation. The reflection over the Pope's teaching indicated the tools which serve to unite young people with God. The Pope indicated God's Word Which opens young people's hearts to the supernatural reality, showing them the God's perspective of life and acting. According to Pope Francis, this is still current and valid in young people's lives, as it regards their problems and dilemmas in the light of the action of the Holy Spirit. Sacraments are another important means of uniting with God and a tool of formation. Young people who receive sacraments, grow up in their holiness and

perfection. The prayer is "the tool in everyday work" according to Pope Francis, as it allows to build proper balance of life between what is natural and what is supernatural. Conscience formation is very important in the process of the spiritual formation. The Pope teaches that the formation of conscience is helpful in the process of growing up of young people, in their process of learning self-control and the integration of the mental, bodily and spiritual spheres.

The analysis of Francis' teaching which concerns intellectual formation of young people indicates that it constitutes an important part of the Christian formation and lack of this formation results in the emergence of problems in the sphere of moral life. According to the Pope, intellectual formation involves transfer of knowledge and coordination with human activity and his emotional sphere. Thanks to it, young people identify themselves as God's creation brought into being to the image of God, and that they surpass other creatures with their dignity. The formation should teach prospective thinking, predicting the consequences of one's deeds, finding the reasons of them and directing young people towards the good which serves the earthly and eternal life.

The final chapter of the dissertation concerns the apostolic formation of young people. This formation enables young people to fulfil the mission which results from the received sacrament of baptism. It is supposed to help young people to gain the awareness of the vocation which God bestowed upon them and the need for its implementation. Francis teaches that the main aim of the apostolic formation is to make young people the disciples of God, as they are in the ongoing process of learning and acquiring new abilities and, at the same time, they are missionaries who live in the world and who introduce God's order and peace.

The dissertation presents the issue of the Christian formation in the teaching of Pope Francis. It indicates the tools and ways of formation of young people, which are characteristic of the Pope, giving certain clues for those who are responsible for leading the formation.

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