

## Abstract

The topic of the thesis - Protection of unborn life as element of well-being of descendants in the catholic marriage law – is an interdisciplinary topic. Not only it touches the canon law, but also medicine, psychology and a civil law (Czech law in this case).

In the situations, which are not ultimately determined, is the author open to polemics with even the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The goal is not to undermine trustworthiness of this congregation, but to give answers to practical questions, which young couples may have, but which have not been yet issued by the mentioned congregation. Therefore, validity of conclusions of this thesis, however topical may they be, are temporary only. The temporary frame is determined by the moment when the Congregation comes up with final replies, which can take quite some time. This statement shall not be considered a lack of respect to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, but he historic experience.

The thesis is offering in four chapters complete and complex overview of unborn life, which enlightens the contribution of the thesis to the canon law.

In the first chapter, the thesis is presenting objections/doubts to concept of embryo being a human being and polemics with those objections. Furthermore, this chapter is putting light on the process of pregnancy and its termination either by birth or abortion by both spontaneous and artificial.

The second chapter provides insights to the same topic from the viewpoint of psychiatry and psychology. It gradually treats the mental health aspects, starting from infertility, over the psychical burden connected with assisted reproduction up to the post-abortion syndrome, both for women and men. Rather specific is new area, being recently subject to research, which is psychics of the foetus.

The third chapter offers introduction to the legal aspects of the matter. It provides overview of the current legal framework (valid in 2019) of the Czech republic. It introduces some new directions to the canon law. The goal of the thesis is not overrule the old findings, but to address situations *praeter legem*, i.e. the situations, not having been replied so far, which are however subject to questions of the faithful. The conclusions of the thesis, however legal, are primarily intended to offer to the faithful better orientation in life.

The fourths chapter is mentioning examples of court cases regarding unborn life, again, both from civil law and the ecclesiastical one.

Keywords: well-being of descendants, embryo, canon law, interruption, assisted reproduction.