

Work summary:

The concept of the common good in the approach of Mieczysław Albert Krąpiec.

Study on philosophical anthropology.

In every human community there is the problem of unity and harmony of actions of individuals. The question then arises is: how to solve correctly a conflict of interest? What is important for building harmony in the life and operation of the community? What is the basis for essentials the community? Both Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas indicate that when there is a community, or a group of people, the essence of their unity, even the *raison d'être* for of the community, is something that has the nature of a goal. And what has the nature of the goal is goodness and it unifies people - and if that good disappears, then also the reason of the community disappears.

People naturally merge into groups. They are groups of various types. Some result from direct natural needs - like family. Others result from other needs, for which different technical, production and economic groups are created. There are groups that reflect even deeper features of human life - for example, social (organizational, administrative) institutions, cultural institutions - artistic, scientific, ethical, legal, pedagogical and recreational institutions of a psychological nature.

There are communities that are even larger, such as the nation or the state. In all these communities we ask about the goal. We are not just talking about a goal that is an immediate goal. We are looking for a ultimate and final goal that fundamentally influences and determines the style of making individual decisions and actions. This goal unifies people and is also a criterion for solving disputes on problems. The thesis of this doctoral thesis concerns the search for the ultimate goal of the existence of the community, especially of such groups as: family, nation and state. This goal is the common good as the *raison d'être* of the human community, as a basic value, as a source of activities, as a principle of mutual relations among all people living in the community.

So the basic question of a doctoral thesis is: what is the common good? As an additional question we ask about the criterion of an adequate understanding of the common good, thanks to which we will be able to choose from among the various concepts of the common good the most appropriate, which forms the essence and principle of social life. As follows, it is important to realize that the concepts of the common good are associated with various concepts of philosophy, and in a strict sense with various concepts of political philosophy. These are connected with the concepts of man, society and politics. Because these

issues are closely related to each other, it is no wonder that a small mistake in the concept of a human being on the beginning implies an error in understanding society as well as politics itself in final term.

For this reason, in order to correctly understand the common good, it is important to recognize the concept of man, human action (matter of ethics) and social life itself. These in turn are built on the understanding of reality, or being. Hence, metaphysics provides us with an understanding of being, an anthropology of understanding man, and the understanding of human action and social life depends on it. The concept of social life grows up from the understanding of man, because he is a being that interacts with other people and creates a community. However, the question remains about the goal of social life. And here comes the problem of the common good and its understanding.

In this topic, we can find many suggestions for understanding the common good. And so the common good can be understood materialistically (as a product of work), naturalistically (as natural sources), collectively (as the good of a higher whole, ie. the collective), individualistically (as a community of goods), economically (as resources produced and available on the market) and so on. Each of these understandings reflects a certain anthropology, as well as metaphysics, which is the basis of these considerations.

The concept of a common good in the approach of Mieczysław A. Krąpiec will be presented in a special way. In which one the basis for forming the understanding of the common good is the concept of man as a person. At the same time with discovering of the fact of transcendence of human existence in relation to both nature and society. The state of the common good is one that guarantees the full development of man as a person, both in the material and spiritual realms. Proper understanding of the common good is the basis for creating a concept of social life that is friendly to the full personal development of all citizens.