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Dissertation abstract

Models of migrant pastoral care in the Catholic Church in Switzerland

– an example of canton Zurich

The topic of the dissertation is Catholic pastoral care for migrants in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland. Because of historical reasons and the political system of direct democracy, the Church in Zurich has very special structure. It's difficult to compare it with church structures in other countries or dioceses. Both migrant pastoral care and the entire Catholic Church in the canton of Zurich operate within the so called „dual system”. Collaboration is required between the canonical structures and the Swiss national structures. The pastoral-legal situation is different in every Swiss canton. Also, the situation of migrant pastoral care looks differently.

The canton of Zurich has the largest number of Catholic migrants and belongs to the diocese of Chur. Migrant pastoral care operates within the regional curia of Zurich. It is a separate department and is led by the Bishop`s Delegate for the Pastoral Care of Migrants (in German: *Bischöflicher Beauftragter für Migrantenseelsorge*).

The so called „foreign speaking Missions” also show a great diversity, especially regarding their organizational structures, history, number of the faithful and how the pastoral care is managed. There are three different types of Catholic Missions: the cantonal, the regional and the minority Missions.

The work presents the organizational models of pastoral care, that are to be found in the canton of Zurich; as well as a proposal for future legal-pastoral solutions. It also presents a wide picture of pastoral care in Zurich, being a sort of a compendium about pastoral care in *Confederatio Helvetica*. The subject matter is kind of a *novum* in Zurich church and fills the information gaps about the pastoral care of Zurich migrants.

The dissertation has six chapters and an annex.

The first chapter shows the foundation of migrant pastoral care from the biblical perspective. It is essential to recall the commandments of the Old Testament to welcome

travellers and the New Testament commandments to love the neighbours. When welcoming the migrants the Church community puts into practice Jesus' commandment of love.

The second chapter analyses the documents of the Catholic Church about migration policy. It presents also the dicastery of the Holy See responsible for promoting human development and the migrants.

In the third chapter it is shown how the pastoral care for migrants in canton of Zurich developed until 2013.

The fourth chapter describes the department of *migratio*, that takes care for the migrants on behalf of the Swiss Episcopal Conference. The most important documents of the department were shown, as well as the most important messages that were proclaimed during the so called „Sunday of the Nations”.

In the fifth chapter is presented the organizational structure of the migrant pastoral care in canton Zurich as well as the (already mentioned) dual system.

Chapter six proposes legal regulations and ways to develop migrant pastoral care in the future. It describes the projects that are run in Zurich, e.g. the intercultural catechesis for migrant children. A traineeship program for priests who will potentially work on behalf of the migrants in German speaking Swiss parishes was suggested.

The annex includes four interviews with people responsible for migrant pastoral care in Switzerland, as well as a proposal of a traineeship program.

The dissertation intends to find answers that exist in migrant pastoral care in canton of Zurich, so that stability for the foreign-speaking Catholics will be possible in the future. The proposed legal solutions offer support to optimize migrant pastoral care in canton Zurich and can be a source of inspiration for the work with migrants in the Church in Poland.

Keywords: migrants, migrant pastoral care, Catholic Church in Zurich, Catholic Mission, double system.