

Office and competences of a dean in the Code of Canon Law of 1983 and in the Polish synod legislation

Summary

The resolutions of the II Vatican Church Council with reference to the church office and the canons of the Code of Canon Law of 1983 defined the legal position and competences of a dean in can. 553-555. The legal regulation of common law were fulfilled or defined by the particular law (synodal legislation).

The dissertation presents a correlation of two areas of legal regulations: the office of a dean in the Code of Canon Law of 1983 and in the Polish synodal legislation. The considerations concentrate on the analysis of source material, domestic and foreign literature and the documents of the II Vatican Church Council, the Code of Canon Law of 1983, Papal constitutions and other documents of the Apostolic See, resolutions of the plenary and diocese synods and instructions of particular dioceses and regulations of the diocese bishops. The scientific literature, includes first of all, the comments to the Code of Canon Law of 1983, book publications and articles concerning the offices and church administration.

The topics of the dissertation concentrates around the theological basis of the church office and a genesis of the office and his competences. Such issues were presented as: entrusting and loss of the office a dean, the requirements connected with entrusting the office of a dean, namely appointing a person, granting a title and holding the office. Also broad competences of a dean were presented as: liturgic (taking care for proper functioning of the liturgic life, storing the Blessed Sacrament, liturgic books), pastoral (coordination of the pastoral activity, formation of priests, evangelic attitude of a dean toward presbiterians), administration-control (taking care for church assets, control of the parish office, visitation of the parish, financial issues), coordination towards material issues of the parish and their control and presbiterians (conducting dean's conferences, aid for the sick priests as well as in case of their death to secure the parish and the documents in the *sede vacante* situation of the parish).

The dissertation shows legal regulations, with reference to the dean in Polish synodal legislation and instructions promulgated so far.

The legislative analysis conducted with reference to the office of a dean, his rights and obligations in thirty five Polish post-code particular and diocese synods and three instructions of diocese bishops in which no diocese synods took place, showed evolution of legal standards with reference to the office of a dean. It is visible as to the rights, tasks and obligations of a dean in the light of applicable diocese articles. It emphasises their detailed nature, validity and referring to many places of church and pastoral life.