

The identity of the confessor in the documents of the II. Vatican council and the post-conciliar Magisterium.“

The main theme of this thesis is the confessor, primarily from the point of view of his theological identity and its application in the sacrament of reconciliation. The thesis is conceived theologically, ethically and pastoral. The framework consists of conciliar and post-conciliar documents and fundamental contributions concerning the current identity of the confessor. The sections, where it was required, are presented on the basis of their biblical starting-points.

The outline of this thesis is divided into three sections. The first section contains a short description of the historic development of the sacrament of reconciliation (with regard to the contemporary models of the confessor in the respective periods) and a presentation of the renewed conception of the sacrament of reconciliation and of the identity of the hierarchical priesthood.

The second section focuses on the individual theological dimensions of the confessor as a father, physician and teacher conceptually anchored in the framework defined in the first section. The content and formal scheme of the discourse is based on personal theological reflection.

The third section (partly also in the second) elaborates upon the application of acquired theological starting-points in the pastoral practice, also with reference to psychological aspects. Within the framework of this application the spiritual experience of the aforementioned identity is examined including a description of the reality of the current practice of the sacrament of reconciliation and its insufficiencies.

The conclusion contains a summary and the results which emerged from the previous elaboration and personal theological reflection.

Key words:

- confessor
- priest
- sacrament of reconciliation
- sacramental practice
- theology of morality