

Abstract:

The aim of this diploma thesis is to map the form and development of funeral customs in the southern part of the Roman Catholic parish Český Dub – in the collature of the church of St. Jakub Major in Letařovice from the middle of the 19th century to the second half of the 20th century. The focus is on the local village community, its experience of the death of its own member and the form of the funeral rite, which allowed the deceased to pass from the world of the living to the world of the dead. The work analyzes funeral rituals and their development through the prism of the theory of rites of passage, specifically through the perspective of Victor Turner and the analysis of the liminal phase. It also shows the reason for ritual behavior and its performative parts. The work reflects the modernization and secularization of society and tries to reveal their influence on the rituality of burials in Letařovice. It analyzes with bureaucratization and sanitation of funeral homes. The first part of this diploma thesis presents the development of burial in the Czech lands and regional historical context. Furthermore, the traditional rural funeral in the Letařovice cemetery, its spiritual and secular part, is depicted and analyzed, as it looked for the entire period – farewell in the mourning house, funeral procession and escort of the deceased to the church for mass, the way to the grave, and finally the launch of the coffin into the grave, followed by a funeral feast. Finally, the work provides an analysis of the cremation era and the more dynamic changes that occurred after World War II. The reporting period was chosen because the middle of the 19th century was the time of the beginning of dynamic societal changes associated with modernization, and in the early 1970s the transformation of funeral rituals was completed.