

The object of the work is an empirical-theoretical analysis of the relation between institutionalized religious faith and the female role in the given context. There are several fundamental topics we have focused on in this comparative research: divorce, contraception, interruption, AIDS and preservative, assisted reproduction, the potential promotion of women in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and duty of celibacy. The project is composed of two relatively independent parts. The concept of the first part forms a theoretical base, which should map the historical changes of the family institution, the phenomenon of gender as a cultural construct and the role of the Catholic Church as a significant sociocultural imperative. Second, the empirical part of the project requires survey-based research among Czech and Italian women. So far the questionnaire has been distributed in Italy (March – May 2005; the number of collected questionnaires from Italian respondents is 411) and in the Czech Republic (May - July 2006; the number of collected questionnaires from Czech respondents is 411). The next country where the research will be worked out is Slovakia (in the year 2007/2008).