Abstract

This thesis aims to discuss the History of Science in the Modern Age. It is a historical-philosophical reflection on the relationship between Science and Religion in the seventeenth century through the trip, works and life of the Czech mathematician, astronomer and Jesuit priest Valentin Stancel in Moravia, Bohemia, Italy, Portugal and Brazil. This study seeks to redimension the participation of the priests of the Society of Jesus in the development of the modern era by highlighting the activity of the Jesuit priests in the political-religious and scientific transformations that occurred in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Europe, in the Orient and in Portuguese America. The present study aims to reflect on the scientific discoveries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, especially in the fields of mathematics and astronomy; the new conception of man and world that springs from the political and religious transformations of reformist thought and cultural renaissance; the shock of the new scientific theories and experiences with the Sacred Scriptures and consequently with Christian-Aristotelian scholastic theology; besides contesting the lack of participation of priests, or even religion, in contributing for the development of science. The timeframe of the work takes place primarily between the late fifteenth century and the dawn of the eighteenth century, focusing on the troubled and controversial seventeenth century. Therefore, this long period makes it possible to verify the significant processes of the tense relationship between science and religion, allowing to contribute to an expanded historical view of the advances in modern science and the contribution of the Order of the Society of Jesus in these developments. The issues addressed in the chapters appear in a spiral and transdisciplinary manner, so that the themes emerge and reappear throughout the work. Therefore, this thesis deals with history of the Order of the Society of Jesus; the history of science in Colonial Brazil; the history of the Czech Republic; Ibero-American history, tightly connected by the life and scientific and missionary work of Father Valentin Estancel, who had some of his works recognized by the scientific intelligence of his century. Another contribution of this study is to understand the fundamental need for dialogue, interaction, respect and collaboration among religious and scientific institutions. Finally, it aims to mingle science and religion and their systems of interpretation of the realities through an honest journey in which both are participants in the creation of a new ethos that the dawning twenty-first century demands.