

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to differentiate what the converts consider before the official baptism to the Roman Catholic Church. The thesis focuses mainly on the actual experience of religious conversion of young people who have registered in the course of preparation for baptism. The data are thus obtained in the course of the year and a half of the course and the data consists of interviews, field notes from the course and discussions. The theoretical part of the thesis is focused on the definition of the concept of religious conversion, describing the views of the psychology of religion and the presentation of models of religious conversion with a more detailed analysis of the model of Lewis R. Rambo. The empirical part of the thesis consists of data analysis, which includes qualitative method of interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). Data are compartmentalized into overarching categories related to the objectives of the thesis. Throughout the data analysis, the process of religious conversion of respondents is compared with the aim of L. R. Rambo.

The results of the thesis support an attitude that religious conversion is a long-term process, not one sudden event. Various models can be used for the process of religious conversion – the model of L. R. Rambo (1993), with which the obtained data were compared, approaches to religious conversion comprehensively. The analysis of the data showed that the process of religious conversion correspond with the model, but some phases or rather themes should be more elaborated. This is, for example, an area of relationship with the church that L. R. Rambo (1993) does not elaborate too much, although data analysis shows that this topic is for the converts very important and the thesis develops the progression from a distant attitude to the church – to wish to be part of the church, cause they would like to "change the church from within". The Rambo's model shows the importance of the context in which religious conversion takes place. His approach focuses on describing those strategies that seek to separate the converts from the external circumstances. However, the results of the data analysis show that for the respondents the attitude of the parish was rather that which facilitate dialogue and feeling of freedom. It seems to be going to see the converts as an active seeker rather than passive, as L. R. Rambo recommends, and the respondents also support Rambo's description of the converts, who „want more from their life”.