ABSTRACT

Title: The Question of Liberty and Obedience in the Work of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Abstract: The thesis investigates the question of liberty and obedience in the work of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and offers a basic survey of the literary heritage of the great Spanish mystic. Three of his works (Spiritual Exercises, Autobiography and Constitutions) and two letters dealing with obedience have been used as the sources and analyzed. In conclusion, the obedience and liberty in the interpretation of Saint Ignatius of Loyola are in substantial agreement and compatibility in the sense of inner freedom according to the Christian traditions. Saint Ignatius´ contribution to the mystic literature was the fact that he emphasized one´s own experience as the individual experience of an autonomous personality. Rather than to describe in detail his own ecstatic feeling he aspired to capture a day-to-day mysticism and his intensive pursuit of God´s will.

Key words: Loyola (St. Ignatius of), obedience, liberty, Spiritual Exercises, Autobiography, Constitutions, mystic literature.