

## **Abstract**

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as an Integral Part of the Priestly Spirituality [manuscript]: Diploma thesis / Josef Mudra; tutor: Karel Sládek. -- Prague, 2013. -- 91 pg.

The submitted thesis aims to define the topic of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as an integral part of the identity and spirituality of a diocesan priest. The essence of the priestly vocation lies in the continuation of the presence of Christ, the only High Priest, Head of the Church. Through the Sacrament of Orders, the ordained presbyter with the grace of the Holy Spirit likens Christ – the Priest, the Master and the Shepherd and thereby he participates in the mission of Christ as the Head without refraining from being a limb of the Mystical Body. Being an apostle, he continues to be a disciple. On the contrary, his apostolate has been growing from a permanent position of discipleship. Only in the position of a constant docile listening to the Lord, the priest can be a teacher; only as a sheep which commits itself to the Good Shepherd, he could be a shepherd to the flock entrusted to him; only when being lively aware of the fact that Christ loved him and brought himself as a sacrifice, he is able to offer the daily Sacrifice together with the Lord. The priest's activity is based on the union with Christ, on the acceptance of a gift. His activity is based on contemplation, his apostolate on the dwelling with Jesus. This is the foundation of priestly spirituality and the basis for the formation to the priesthood. A priestly mission cannot succeed without the priest's devotion to the Heart of the High Priest of the New Testament – therefore, this thesis presents the theological aspects of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, depicts significant rooting of this theme in the Scriptures as well as throughout the living history of the Church from early times through the medieval mystics, key revelation to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the following period of asceticism prevailing over mysticism, the devotion has gradually extended to the entire Church, there arose numerous congregations and orders, etc. In this situation, it has been waiting for a renewal based on the last Council. The bond between the theme of the Heart of Christ and the priesthood, is no doubt the Eucharist, Christ in his sacrifice and oblation.

## **Keywords**

Priesthood, Priestly Identity and Spirituality, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Eucharist