

SUMMARY

The Church always shown interest in the world of sick and those suffering. In its activities it was inspired by opinions and example of Jesus Christ. Help to those in need was considered as integral part of Churches mission. It responded to this challenge by organising help and care.

Middle Ages were hard period afflicted by famine, epidemics or wars. Many due to these adverse conditions therefore found themselves in need of Churches care and cried for its help.

The first part of the thesis was tasked with defining the term charity and focuses on the problematic of charity in period of early Christian Church. It briefly elaborates on Christian charity as a history of love, with Jesus Christ in its beginning as an impulse for apostles, first Christian communities, Christians living in age of persecution and later in times of free Church.

The second part is dedicated to Middle Ages. It attempts to provide intellectual and social frame in which charity in this time found itself. In sub-chapters it determines the historical period of Middle Ages, characterises living conditions in that period with focus on social and economical aspects. Also a short excursion into Middle Age man's mind is taken.

The last and the largest part of the thesis consists of description of charity work in the Middle Ages. It's attention is focused on care for others, care for the sick and other charity services. In all cases the problematic is considered from the both perspectives, the charity carers as well as the care recipients. In more detail is than described the care for sick, mentioning medieval diseases, medicine and certain institutions providing care in medieval Prague.