

The thesis deals with the crisis of the Roman-Catholic priesthood within the Czech Church and society. It aims to provide evidence of this crisis, to describe it and document its appearance, identifying possible sources of its present form. The study aims to answer the crucial question: Why is the contemporary priesthood in our country in this crisis?

A historical discussion sets the context in which the priesthood was formed during the key periods of the world history of the Roman-Catholic Church, and later also the Czech church. It traces the formation of the clerical role in direct relation to historical events, up to the contemporary conception of the priesthood and the form it takes in this country. Using quantitative data and empirical research by research agencies as well as original qualitative investigation, the thesis analyses the levels that play a key role in the form of this crisis. Based on these methods, the thesis suggests sources or reasons for this crisis and answers the question of why this crisis is felt by priests and many other members of the Roman-Catholic Church.

The thesis's main contribution lies in its mapping of the original aspects of the Roman-Catholic conception of the Christian priesthood which seeks its fulfilment in the history of the Church. The study offers an insight into these problems discussed through an examination of the available literature and reflected experience of diocesan and monastic priests. The deductions of the study are closely connected with its Czech setting and the specific conditions of the Czech Church, particularly on social, organisational, psychological and theological levels. There is no one cause for this crisis, but on the basis of acquired scientific knowledge the study profiles a number of sources which offer meaningful answers to the research question. Conclusions are demonstrated and complemented by similar researches on the subject.