

## Summary

The SSPX is a society of Roman Catholic priests, who aren't organized in any religious order, however, its organization is similar to many religious orders. As its mission the SSPX consider the defense of a catholic priesthood, the Tridentine Mass and the true doctrine of the Church against danger, which supposedly affected the Church after the Second Vatican Council. The SSPX was established in 1970 and its center became Ecône Seminary in Switzerland. Hereafter, a wider informal group of Catholics, who were unsatisfied with an evolution of the Church, formed around the Society. The members of this group attended masses, celebrated by SSPX priests.

This group had united more after a breakup between the SSPX and superiors of the Catholic church, which was caused by an illicit ordinations of a priests and following excommunication of a founder, archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, and his nearest fellows in 1988. From that point, these believers are forming to some kind of congregations similar to parishes, but which are unofficial and improvised. These activities, as well as a sacraments celebrated by SSPX priests, are unacceptable in a catholic canon law system (however, these sacraments are valid, if they were already celebrated!). The ethos of this society is conservative - both in a relation to doctrine and religiousness and in a relation to social issues. But it doesn't mean that the SSPX is a cult - closed to the rest of the world and leaded by any extraordinary religious authority. The members have considerable freedom in forming of opinion. The Church services are opened to the public, except of participation in the sacraments - here it's necessary to be an orthodox Catholic (according to the traditionalist conception). In addition to the church services, the sacraments and other religious services, a voluntary educational and leisure activities are also provided.

Controversies may not only be caused by conservative doctrines, which were abandoned by the contemporary Church. They can also be caused by some individual members' opinions exceeding to xenophobia or antijudaism. The polemics with people of a different opinions is often accompanied by a verbal aggression and denouncing. But this type of opinions definitely shouldn't be generalized and considered to be the movement opinion. The main cause, why some Catholics tends to a radical attitudes, we can consider an anxiety, which is caused by complicated and rapidly changing world.

Currently begins a dialogue between the catholic leaders and the SSPX. It seems that this dialogue could perhaps lead to reintegration of the SSPX and its followers into the canonical church structures. The greatest contribution to this would be an open-mindedness

and empathy on both sides. The similar approach could also be useful in the searching for a mutual understanding with the secular majority.

The aim of the thesis was to provide an opportunity to learn something about the phenomenon of the SSPX and refute some prejudices, which may lead to disinformation and misunderstanding with adverse consequences.