

Anglická anotace (English annotation)

Main tasks of the pastoral care for seniors

The introductory chapter of the diploma thesis contains definition of ageing. This definition shows that the notion of ageing touches all people of all ages, but the signs of ageing are more visible with old people. This chapter also deals with the question when a man becomes old. The beginning of the senior age cannot be defined exactly though there are various theories and classifications. The growth of the senior population appeals to the society and health, social and pastoral work that they should deal with the issue and provide seniors with sufficient care and support.

The theology of ageing in the second chapter is based primarily on the Bible, which often refers to ageing. Old people have special privileges as well as tasks here. The chapter also deals with the theology of John Paul II. This theology is based primarily on the Letter to the Elderly, in which the former Pope addresses all older people ecumenically, and encourages them to be able to go through their old age in association with the God and other people in the spirit of the Gospel. In this mission, it is important that a senior creates the correct idea of the God.

The old age is not a disease, but it brings diseases. This information, among others, is contained in the third chapter dealing with the health and diseases of older people. The chapter discusses possible diseases of seniors and it also outlines the health prevention among older people. This outline shows that diseases may be prevented in many cases.

For seniors, the family is an irreplaceable institution and also a relational network, where these relations can be deepened. This is shown in the fourth chapter, which deals with the life of seniors in the family as well as intergenerational relations and living in a collective facility. Young people often acquire personal positive approach to seniors directly in the family. The balance of the approach consists in mutual understanding, dialogue and cooperation of generations. A collective facility assumes the task of providing a senior with a new home, necessary care and sufficient support.

The fifth chapter deals with education and professional career of seniors. Nowadays, education of seniors belongs to certain trends in the society and indicates an active old age. Universities and academies of the third age represent the most common educational programmes. The theme of professional careers of seniors points out to the fact that seniors represent a significant part of labour, and may participate in work also as volunteers.

The final, sixth chapter focuses directly on the pastoral care for seniors and its main tasks, which are divided into three parts and/or groups. The first one applies to the pastoral work related to seniors in the family; the second one applies to the pastoral work related to ill seniors, and the third one concentrates on the so-called active seniors and proposes a pastoral programme according to the Austrian example of LIMA. In this chapter (and not only here), the family was considered the basis of the pastoral work related to seniors. For the pastoral care for ill seniors, it is important to help an ill person to accept the truth about their condition with a prospect of the belief. The proposed programme according to the Austrian model of LIMA is directed primarily at doing activities, which deal with the issue of the belief and the meaning of life of older people, memory training, competence training and psychomotor training. These components are required for seniors to go through their old age actively and adequately.

Key words:

Main tasks
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Seniors
Old age
Help