

**Abstract:**

The initial part of the thesis deals with the term of the ecclesiastical office in general. An ecclesiastical office is any function constituted in a stable manner by divine or ecclesiastical ordinance to be exercised for a spiritual purpose. An ecclesiastical office is conferred to a suitable person with canonical provision. An office might be lost due to natural causes, due to the will of its holder or due to the will of the competent authority.

The following parts of the thesis deal with its proper topic, i.e. the office of the vicar general. Firstly, a brief history of this office is mentioned: the origins of the office of the vicar general go back to the administrative organisation of the Roman Empire, and the office itself was developed in the Middle Ages after the papal seat had been removed to Avignon. There is also a reference to vicars general in the Czech history and to the probably most famous holder of this office, to St John of Nepomuk.

Secondly, the qualities of the office of the vicar general are analysed, i.e. the nature of the power, its exclusivity and uniqueness in the diocese, its relation to the diocesan bishop and to other authorities of the diocese and competences of the vicar general.

Finally, the thesis deals with limits related to the office of the vicar general and with ways of its loss; when the power of the diocesan bishop ceases, the vicar general loses his office because the vicar general as bishop's "alter ego" fully depends on the bishop.