

## **Summary of the Doctor's Thesis**

by Master of Arts Paweł Filipczak under the guidance of prof. Andrzej Filaber entitled 'The Foundation of Singing Groups in the Life of the Catholic Church in the Light of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cecilian Movement, the Documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Documents following the Second Vatican Council.'

The subject of the dissertation was the analysis of the functions of singing groups. The work was divided into four chapters. The first chapter dealt with the terminology connected with singing groups. This chapter also briefly described the history of church music in the period before the Cecilian Movement. The next three parts of the thesis analysed: Cecilianism, the Second Vatican Council and the documents which appeared after the Council. Each of these three chapters mentioned the functions of singing groups.

The terminological analysis associated with schola cantorum, choir and singing band showed that in the church documents readers encounter ambiguity concerning the terminology which lacks the consequence and logic justification for the division of the terms. The probable reasons for this situation were indicated. Instruction of the Polish Episcopate from the year 2017 improved the question of terms and the terminology became clearer. The Instruction also named the functions of schola cantorum and the functions of the choir. In order to understand well the suggestions of the Cecilian Movements (the 19<sup>th</sup> century), the reasons for the crisis of church music in that period should be considered. That process had its sources in the preceding epochs. According to the analysis of the Vatican documents, it could be stated that the liturgical and the church music movements influenced the content of liturgical and musical documents from the time of the Popes Pius X, Pius XI, and Pius XII. The sources proved how important singing groups were for the liturgical and Cecilian Movements in the revival of the church music.

The spread of the Cecilian ideas in parishes was closely connected with establishing and conducting singing groups which practically introduced the church teaching into the life of the local church. Many documents and publications postulated organizing singing groups wherever it was possible. The groups were able to encourage the parish community into singing and activate it in taking part in the liturgy. According to cecilianists, singing groups should fulfil the spiritual formations programme, which could help especially children and young adults in experiencing the liturgy and developing their spiritual life.

The supportive function in relation to God and people seemed to be the essence of the activity of singing groups. The Cecilian sources emphasized the need to spiritually accompany the choirs and schola cantorum. It was an important part of pastoral work for the priests. The priests had to play an essential role in pastoral work. Well-conducted choirs and schola cantorum could cultivate various kinds of church music: Gregorian chant, polyphony, and valuable modern religious music. The comparison of the sources of the Cecilian Renewal and the church documents allowed to state that many ideas accepted by the Cecilianists were included in the church regulations.

The analysis of the sources of the Second Vatican Council showed that the Instruction on Church music and liturgy developed by the congregation of Liturgy in the year 1958 was fundamental for the content of the Second Vatican Council documents. This dissertation widely analysed the above-mentioned Instruction

as other elaborations and articles devote little attention to it. The above Instruction is not only a summary, but it also specifies various questions and, in this way, contributes a lot to the church music. The analysis of the KL and other SWII documents resulted in enumerating and describing the essential functions of a singing group. These tasks of choirs and schola cantorum refer not only to celebrations but also to other important aspects of the church life. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council clearly indicated that singing groups participating in the liturgy can fulfil its purposes practically: worship God through singing and at the same time through religious education and holy rituals sanctify oneself and help in praying. The singing groups are also supposed to contribute to the dignity of the holy rituals. It was noticed that in order to fulfil this task, schola cantorum and choirs have to develop their liturgical and musical skills by their everyday persistent work. The singing groups and choirs can promote the Gospel outside churches. Concerts of religious music can attract not only believers but also those seeking the supernatural reality. It was found that singing groups can also fulfil ecumenical and missionary tasks. The analysis of the process of editing the Musicam Sacram Instruction shows that the attempts to revive liturgical music and the changes in the tasks fulfilled by choirs were not always fully understood by musicians and priests. The dispute mainly concerned the perception of the place singing groups occupy in the liturgical life of the Church.

The documents published after the SWII clearly show that singing groups should be comprehended as many-sided formation, in this dissertation called an integral formation. It contains not only musical and spiritual elements but also liturgical, common, humanistic, and aesthetic ones. The SWII documents encourage singing groups to be present not only during the most important celebrations and church holidays but also in saying hours and church services. In the reality of the Polish church the singing groups were mainly children's and teenage singing groups. In the Polish bishops' opinion these singing groups should be conducted by competent people in accordance with the Church Law and with the repertoire adjusted to the abilities of the singers. It should be especially emphasized because the practice shows that the service provided by children's and teenage singing groups needs some regulations. Within the evangelizing activity the singing groups can cooperate with other communities in parishes. The pastoral tasks of the singing groups can be performed during the conferences for the candidates for christening, confirmation, or matrimony sacraments. Schola cantorum groups and choirs can join the evangelizing service during the parish or school retreat or other pastoral initiatives.

The author of this dissertation hopes that it will contribute to better recognition of the tasks the Church entrusts to singing groups.

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