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DOCTORAL THESIS SUMMARY
THE CHRISTOFORM DIMENSION OF THE SPIRITUALITY
ACCORDING TO STEFAN KUCHARSKI, OCD (1595-1653)

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The subject of the dissertation is spiritual and theological legacy of Stefan Kucharski, Polish Discalced Carmelite who created in the first half of the 17th century.

In his life and writings it is possible to find characteristic for him the christoform dimension of the spirituality. The aim of the research is determined by the question: what is the process of christoformisation according to Father S. Kucharski and how is it carried out.

The christoformisation is the gradual process of becoming like Jesus; it is the imitation of Christ; the transformation of the old man into the new human by the power of God.

In this research were used mainly the following sources: the works of Stefan Kucharski published in two volumes (in 2011 and 2012) and two biographies remaining in manuscripts, or about the life of S. Kucharski by Father Ignacy of St. John Evangelist OCD and about the life of Anna Stobieńska OCD by S. Kucharski.

The purpose, subject of research and sources of the thesis which were used required the implementation of many research methods: historical, analysis and synthesis, descriptive, empathic-sapient, comparative, practical (formative), phenomenological, personalistic, and deductive methods.

The first chapter of the thesis presents the writings of the seventeenth-century Carmelite priest and the wide background of his life and work, which served as the historical and theological context of his teaching on christoformism, which is the subject of the research in the subsequent chapters. Christ and human are the basis of the process of christoformisation, so the next chapter presents the theological and anthropological foundations of this process.



The dynamics of the christoformisation process became the subject of the third chapter, which discusses the central role of God's grace in the development of the spiritual life, the cooperation of man with God necessary for progress and the rules of spiritual development. The next chapter summarizes practical issues: spiritual reception of the sacraments; prayer; the practice of the virtues, the evangelical counsels and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the five secondary means of christoformisation.

As a result of taking the above-mentioned methodological steps, the final conclusions included in the conclusion of the thesis were drawn. One of the achievements of the conducted research is a systematized study of the life and writings of an outstanding Polish mystic, worthy of scientific interest, in terms of the christoformisation process.

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