

Abstract of the doctoral thesis of Robert Bińkowski, Dea., M.A.

**"Direct preparation of youth for the sacrament of Confirmation in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. A Pastoral Theological Study.",**

written under the supervision of Grzegorz Grochowski, Ph.D.

Preparing young people for Confirmation is a particularly difficult and responsible area of pastoral activity. It provides an opportunity for young people to broaden their religious knowledge and, most importantly, deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ in order to sacramentally receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit at the end of their formation. This preparation is a sensitive period in the formation of young Christians, strongly affecting their religious life. Due to its sensitive nature, the issue of preparing young people for Confirmation is addressed in many publications. Among them, however, there is no study that would have covered in detail and exhaustively the direct preparation of young people for the sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Warsaw.

Given that, the discussed doctoral thesis is an attempt to add new facts to the knowledge on the topic presented above. The main research issues of this dissertation are how the direct preparation of young people for the sacrament of Confirmation is currently carried out in the Archdiocese of Warsaw and what changes should be introduced in the preparation process for Confirmation, so that it would be more effective, correspond to the tradition of the Church, and help young people find their place in it.

In order to find an answer to the aforementioned research problem, reference was made to various sources and publications in the literature on the subject matter. Two surveys were also conducted using the questionnaire survey technique concerning the direct preparation of young people for Confirmation in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Warsaw.

The first chapter of this thesis identifies the impact of the sacrament of Confirmation on particular aspects of the Christian congregation.

The second chapter of this dissertation discusses the preparation of candidates for Confirmation and the celebration of this sacrament in the history of the Church.

The final section of the chapter discusses the Church's documents on the preparation of the youth for Confirmation, currently in force in the Archdiocese of Warsaw.

The third chapter details the actual course of direct preparation of young people for Confirmation in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. The final part of the third chapter presents Postcresima's formation and discusses its activities in the Archdiocese.

The fourth chapter determines the degree of conformity for the process of direct preparation in young people for Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Warsaw with the Church documents in force in this regard. The chapter evaluates a direct preparation of young people for Confirmation in the Archdiocese, suggests pastoral proposals for this preparation and proposes a new method of shaping candidates for Confirmation.

The analysis of research findings, contained in this dissertation, has led me to the conclusion that the actual state of the process of preparing young people for Confirmation in the parishes of the Warsaw Archdiocese differs significantly from that recommended in the binding documents of the Church. It may be concluded from the above that there is a need to bring the formation of young people for Confirmation into line with the recommended status.

Moreover, the results of my study revealed a high efficacy of the Postcresima pastoral method, as few young participants abandon this formation even after they have received confirmation. The young people spoke highly of the Postcresima formation, admitting that there was a family atmosphere at the meetings, freedom of expression and the young people felt being listened to.

27.02.2024 Robert Biniowski