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Tytuł rozprawy doktorskiej

The School of Catechists of the Archdiocese of Poznań and Its Significance for the Development of Adult Catechesis. A Theoretical and Empirical Study

The Second Vatican Council, recognizing the centuries-long neglect of adult catechesis, emphasized its primary significance and initiated a process of renewal that continues to this day. The most recent manifestation of this direction is Pope Francis' motu proprio *Antiquum Ministerium*, which established the ministry of the catechist. However, even earlier, at the local level in the Archdiocese of Poznań, concrete actions were taken in support of the formation of lay catechists, exemplified by the establishment of the School of Catechists.

The aim of this doctoral dissertation is to analyze the activities of this School of Catechists and its impact on adult catechesis in the Archdiocese of Poznań. The study incorporates theoretical, empirical, and praxeological perspectives. The theoretical section discusses the significance of adult catechesis in the teaching of the Church, the concept of adulthood in various contexts, and the historical development of adult catechesis. The genesis and structure of the School of Catechists are also presented. The empirical section is based on research conducted in the Archdiocese of Poznań among catechists, parish priests, participants in adult catechesis, and candidates for the catechist ministry. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were applied, including surveys and interviews. The findings indicate the significant role of lay catechists as authentic witnesses to the faith, while also emphasizing the need for support provided by parish priests to ensure the effectiveness of their ministry and the ongoing adaptation of the formation program. The praxeological section focuses on formulating recommendations for the further development of adult catechesis in the Archdiocese of Poznań. The need for greater involvement of the laity in this form of catechesis, the adaptation of the formation content to contemporary challenges, the automation of the organizational structures of the School of Catechists, and the intensification of catechists' activities in parishes were emphasized. Attention was also drawn to the necessity of a "pastoral conversion" among parish priests and the need for the enrichment of adult catechesis with new forms of engagement. The conclusions derived from the conducted research confirm that the activities of the School of Catechists of the Archdiocese of Poznań significantly enhance the quality and effectiveness of adult catechesis, providing a model solution for other dioceses in Poland.

Keywords: adult catechesis, catechist, laity, School of Catechists, Archdiocese of Poznań







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