

Abstract

Master thesis "The transformation of the life of Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo in Bohemia in the context of the 20th century: a reflection of changes in the experience of charisma and spirituality of the Congregation" is based on the assumption that a significant feature of the religious life as an organic part of the church is its historical character, which leads again and again to the transformation of the own charisma into the specific spirituality. The thesis is devoted to the Bohemian branch of the Sisters of Mercy in the course of the 20th century. The general constitutive elements of the religious life and the specific features of the Congregation are described in the first chapter. The second chapter offers an overview of the most significant events and trends of the 20th century from the perspective of the society and of the church in Europe, followed by the third chapter focusing on the situation of the catholic church and Congregation of Sisters of Mercy in Bohemia during the 20th century. The final chapter discusses the essential elements of the religious life (the identity of the consecrated life, the community, the mission) from two points of view (the mercy, the sisterhood) and it describes the transformation of the life of the Bohemian Sisters of Mercy in the course of the 20th century. The aim of the thesis is to point out the similar trends in the transformation of the spirituality of a specific religious community and in the development of understanding the religious life as well as the church in general, above all the importance of the topics ‚communio‘ and ‚identity‘. This reflection should help the sisters with the discernment, facilitate their understanding of the signs of the times and their openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in specific situations of the Congregation.

Keywords

charisma, spirituality, transformation of the religious life, Congregation of Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo, history of the 20th century, church, communio, identity