

Abstract (anglicky)

The bachelor thesis is about Opus Dei, the only personal prelature in the Catholic Church. The thesis focuses mainly on the beginnings of the male branch in the Czech Republic. It is based on the analysis of historiographical works and in the last chapter the method of oral history is used. Within the framework of oral history research, the main line of narrative is that of the three founding members of the Prelature in the territory of the Czech Republic. The whole thesis is divided into three parts. The first part describes the life of the founder, the related history of the organisation and its structure based on secondary literature of Czech, German and English provenance. The main source is mainly the three-volume biography of Josemaría Escríva by the Spanish historian Vazquez de Prado. It also describes the legal development and organizational structure of Opus Dei. In the second part of the thesis, the historical context is explained, specifically the situation of the Catholic Church between 1945 and 1989. The somewhat specific background of the situation of the Church in Czechoslovakia before the arrival of Opus Dei is outlined. The third part shows the changes that took place after 1989, when the Velvet Revolution made possible, among other things, the arrival of Opus Dei in Czechoslovakia. The last part contains descriptions of interviews with narrators, which attempts to shed light on the arrival of Opus Dei members in Czechoslovakia. The thesis also makes use of materials from the private archive of Opus Dei in Prague. The image of Opus Dei in the press is briefly outlined. An analysis of a questionnaire of the experiences of former members is also made. Furthermore, the steps taken to spread the message of Opus Dei to the society are described. From the interviews it was clear that an important social stratum that Opus Dei targets is young people, especially university students. The last part of the thesis shows the motivations, experiences and actual actions of the first Opus Dei members in the Czech Republic. The questionnaires with the experiences of two former Opus Dei members are attached.