Ks. mgr lic. Jaroslaw Furtan

Merciful love at the core of renewing community

Abstract of Th.D. dissertation

This dissertation aims to answer the question about the role of merciful love in renewing communities.

The understanding of merciful love inspired by the Revelation and the Church's Magisterium as a social principle and its social and individual applications renewing community life required the use of the method of Catholic social teaching that served as a basis for reflection about the presence of God's mercy in doings of men in social life.

The principle of merciful love understood here as instauration and revival of the truth about inalienable dignity of the human person is the greatest personal strength of community renewal. The actualisation of personal dignity can be only achieved within a community that thrives on this truth and attests to it. It is not possible without transcendent references to the human reality.

Basic aspects presented and clarified in this dissertation refer to three major issues.

Part A of the dissertation contains answers to questions about the theological and social origins of merciful love.
The study presents an original definition of the principle of merciful love and specifies its mutual relation with other principles of Catholic social teaching such as the principle of truth, justice, personalism, common good, subsidiarity and solidarity.

Part B presents practical applications of the principle of merciful love in three basic forms of social life: family, Church and public and legal communities. Part C considers mercy in terms of general individual and community actions: communication, transformation and participation. At this point of the dissertation

the reader will find answers to questions about conditions and ways of forming internal attitudes that enable men to undertake merciful acts. It is also demonstrated how mechanisms of merciful love condition the development of individual, social, economic, intercultural and interreligious *communio*.