

Summary

This Bachelor thesis entitled Holy Mass and small children is aimed at families with children taking part in Mass and it also outlines some possibilities how to bring the Mass effectively to small children and how to get them involved. When writing about small children I mean the children up to the age of six.

First, this thesis deals with liturgy in general, the Eucharist, Mass and its structure, highlights celebration of Sundays in families including participation in Mass. It also deals with various ways of celebrating Mass and mainly Mass with small children and forms of children's active participation in the Eucharist. From the point of view of developmental psychology the thesis specifies children's abilities in different ages.

Next part of the thesis evaluates questionnaires filled in by parents and priests in Litoměřice diocese. The questions can be divided into several categories: an ideal place, an ideal parish, an ideal priest and an ideal form of celebrating Mass. All interviewed people could think about their idea of an ideal Mass with small children. The answers are divided according to the age of the interviewees, the number of people in the parish, and priests' versus parents' answers are compared and also mothers' versus fathers' answers.

Finally, all pieces of information got from the questionnaires are summarised and some specific ideas how to involve children in liturgy are highlighted. These ideas are compared with the possibilities mentioned in the first, theoretical part of the thesis. And it also outlines possible ways of implementation of these ideas according to the types of parishes.

Keywords

Holy Mas

Small children

Eucharist

Church service

Questionnaire