

NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE UNIVERSITY

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**Possible Patterns of How the Catholic Pastoral Care Addresses
Moral and Psychological Problems of Policemen**

Presentation of the doctoral (PhD) thesis

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Formulation of a Scientific Problem

In globalizing world, more and more space is devoted to the creation of societal and individual security. A prominent place the religion occupies in the security complex can be increasingly perceived. This is true for both the community level and the individual level. The security of democratic social systems is guaranteed by the efficient operation of the state bodies established for this purpose. In this respect, it is also important that the staff of these organizations be balanced from moral and ethical viewpoints and receive assistance from the institutional framework.

The organization of pastoral care in the police force is considered as an interdisciplinary area in the sense that several scientific disciplines are involved. The formation of the pastoral care service formulates and presents certain issues. On the one hand, these should be examined one by one and, on the other hand, a synthesis should be made between the several scientific disciplines.

Legal Issues in the Context of Pastoral Care in the Police Force

All organizations whether operating within the legal framework of the state or churches have operating budgets. The operational framework raises structural and legal issues. When establishing an organization it is important to formulate those legal rules that will facilitate and regulate its operation. These legal rules must be harmonized with other legislation, in particular with the Basic Law and other major legislation clusters, in particular with the Police Act. The same can be said of the Canon law. The Canon law system does not include such a uniform legal rule cluster that would regulate the provision of pastoral care exclusively to policemen.

Addressing the Moral and Ethical Issues

Although the national police stations have internal moral and ethical codes that are similar to legal rules, but those are guidelines with no dissuasive effect for the reason that these codes have no legal relevance. The codes do not have a dissuasive effect on police officers. Responses to the moral and ethical issues remain hidden inside the organization as only cases receiving greater media coverage are processed as case studies.

Outlining State Government and Public Administration Issues

The police force is an armed body integrated in the state public administration. Changes in the organization affect the public administration system as well. Therefore, the legislative formation of a newly emerging pastoral care service will affect the entire system of public administration. Each new institution, which appears in the public administration, yields a reverse effect on the entire system of public administration. Therefore, the position of the police pastoral institution must be accurately defined.

Psychological Issues

The discipline of psychological science takes care to manage the moral and emotional problems of policemen within the institutional framework. The legislature considered it important to integrate this in the police legislation, as the psychological problems of policemen can be measured using certain methods of psychology. However, psychology is not able to establish and apply fully effective methodological structure for the policemen facing emotional, moral and psychological problems, given that the majority of problems and cases

arising from the provision of special armed service and entailing significant emotional strain remain unaddressed. As compared to psychology, religion is not a therapeutic method, however it can help prevent the development of psychological problems in policemen through providing an opportunity to develop a structure of care focusing more strongly on people, differently to psychology.

Theological and Pastoral Issues

In the scientific discipline of theology, the idea of so called stratified pastoral care has emerged many years ago. This was due to the fact that according to many people the everyday church had disappeared. Thus, the Catholic Church had to develop a new pastoral strategy, the best known model of which is the so-called stratified pastoral care, which deals with pastoral care of various social strata. Conversely to this, such stratified pastoral care has not, or has only to a limited extent, come into being in relation to police officers. Thus, not only civil law and canon law aspects, but the theological and pastoral care aspects of the methodology have to be laid down and clarified with respect to providing pastoral care to police officers.

Issues Interrelated with the Law Enforcement and Military Science Aspects

Neither law enforcement nor the military science addresses in depth the possibility of pastoral care for police officers. Within the military science, the military history and the social sciences have the competence for examining this issue. As throughout history there have been initiatives specifically targeted to the pastoral care of police officers, there is a *raison d'être* for the historical review and transposition of these models to the today's legal system.

Research Objectives

1. Creating the Methods to Provide the Catholic Pastoral Care for Police Officers and Designing its Operational Structure

My aim is to examine the legal and structural capacities of the Catholic Church with respect to the type of pastoral care concerned. To create the legal and structural framework that makes the pastoral care designed for the police force available for the police personnel. My further aim is to incorporate the pastoral toolbox of the Catholic Church into the structure of the pastoral care. My goal is to create a *personal model* for the police pastor performing pastoral services within the police.

2. Preparation of Statistical Questionnaire Survey among Police Personnel

My goal is **to prove**, through the statistical questionnaire survey extended to the police personnel, that the members of the police force consider important the institutional presence of religion and the opportunities, which may be offered by the Catholic Church in crisis situations affecting an individual. Further goal is **to examine** who and under what conditions would apply for help to this pastoral care service.

3. Formulating the Alternatives for Training and Legal Status of Pastors to Take Part in the Pastoral Care for Catholic Policemen

My goal is to take into account the legal framework applying to the training of Catholic priests and, on the basis of this, devise a possible alternative training for the priests to be involved in this specific pastoral mission. My goal is to formulate proposals to the

governmental decision-makers concerning the training of the participants in pastoral work for the police force. My goal is to examine the potential applicability of the various religious services in the police harmonizing this with the state legislation. I will work out proposals on what are the legal options to be acceptable for both parties - for the church and the state. Here I examine the challenges arising in relation of clergy and prove that the employment of Catholic Church priests and clergymen poses no national security risk. I examine the framework of tables of organization and the financial possibilities at the national and regional levels.

4. Historical Review of the Initiatives for Provision of Pastoral Care in Law Enforcement Bodies

My goal is to prove that the provision of pastoral care to law enforcement officers is not without precedent in the history of the Hungarian police. Through the presentation of the historical background, concrete examples and case studies I would like to prove that such pastoral care initiatives have had caused no tension in the church or secular boards. The presence of pastors promoted a more effective functioning of the organization.

5. Research on the Operating Rules and Structure of Pastoral Care for Catholic Policemen

My goal is to find the right place for the police pastoral institution as a canonical unit within the legal and structural framework provided by the Catholic Church and the Hungarian government.

6. Examination of Psychological Aspects

My aim is to show that there are psychological problems existing within the police force, and that the pastoral care service added to the discipline of psychological science can provide the necessary assistance. I am willing to demonstrate that the religion and legitimate intermediaries of the religion can help in the crisis prevention and management. I prove that the legitimate and institutional presence of religion as a helping alternative, together with the psychology, could be helpful.

Research Methods

During the research, I use a qualitative method in accordance with the researched area. Since this is an interdisciplinary area, I apply the historical, sociological, law enforcement science, theological, religion studies, law, canon law, psychological, psychiatry and specific research methods. I use the quantitative method through the questionnaire survey.

A Brief Summary of the Conducted Studies, by Chapters

My thesis drawn up during the scientific research work is divided into five chapters.

In the **first chapter**, the relations between the law enforcement agencies (city police, gendarmerie) and the Catholic Church during the 1861-1945 period are examined through the presentation of local history implications and case studies. I analyze the individual initiatives and institutional relations systems, which have contributed to the resolution of religious and moral issues formulated by law enforcement officers in the presented historical period.

The **second chapter** presents the international outlook of Catholic pastoral care provided to law enforcement officers. I examine the pastoral care of police officers on the basis of the Apostolic constitution, the first words of which are “*Spirituali Militum Curae*”, and the bilateral agreements concluded between the featured states and the Apostolic See. Through the examination of individual countries I prove that the Catholic Church did not create a unified pastoral institution for the provision of pastoral care to police officers, however, sought to extend the pastoral care within the institutional framework of military ordinariate.

In the **third chapter**, I examine the possible structure of the pastoral care provision for law enforcement officers. It is demonstrated that the Catholic Church is in possession of those canonical and structural frameworks, which enable that pastoral care designed for the police force becomes available for police personnel. I develop a personal model for the police pastor performing pastoral services within the police. Those historic traditions are presented that continue to live on in the today police. The church ceremonies connected with police officers who died in the line of duty, the cemeteries and the burial order are reviewed.

In the **fourth chapter** I examine the *raison d’être* for the provision of pastoral care to police officers with respect to psychological challenges. I examine those major psychological challenges that may arise in police work and thereby demonstrate that there are psychological problems existing within the police force, and that the pastoral care service added to the discipline of psychological science can provide the necessary assistance. I demonstrate that the religion and legitimate intermediaries of the religion can help in the crisis prevention and management.

The **fifth chapter** shows the data collected by me under the framework of social scientific research covering the total staff of the police. Through the statistical questionnaire survey I have proved that the members of the police force consider important the institutional presence of religion and the opportunities, which may be offered by the Catholic Church in crisis situations affecting police officers. I demonstrate that the institutional - possible - presence of religion in the police enables a more complete way of experiencing the police vocation. Based on the analyzed data I prove that the police officers feel the need to live the religious life in the line of duty.

Summary of Conclusions:

The institutional structure of pastoral care in the police force:

A variety of canonical options prove that the Catholic Church has alternatives in respect of the formation of a pastoral care service for the police force. The Catholic Church has institutions with different legal and structural framework. These institutions are able to meet the spiritual needs of believers in Christ in a variety of ways. At national level, the Bishops' Conference and the individual diocesan bishops are the negotiating partners of the given state. In addition to the general forms of pastoral care including the Holy Mass, the sacraments, sacramental preparations, religious education, these institutions will also accommodate special forms that are typical for the police. These may include celebrations connected with special patron saints, the cultic veneration, other forms of worship, such as awards bearing the names of the saints and memorabilia donations. Otherwise, sacred sites will be created specifically for the police, as police cemeteries, prayer rooms or chapels, in order to facilitate the pastoral care. As the pastoral care within the police differs from the traditional pastoral care, therefore this should be considered both in the appointment and training of pastors. The training should incorporate the elements to prepare pastors to perform

the specific pastoral ministry. The armed bodies are considered as special and sensitive areas in each country. The reliability on national security in the case of persons working in the armed bodies is deemed as a self-evident matter. The personnel of the pastoral care service may not pose an exception of this.

The international outlook and historical aspects of the pastoral care:

The Catholic Church did not create a unified pastoral institution for the provision of pastoral care to police officers. However, there is some distinct trend in relation to the pastoral care of police officers. The most common is, and this can as well be observed in many South American countries, that the military ordinariate provides for the pastoral care of police officers. In such cases, the legislature takes as basis the similarity between two or more armed bodies, most notably the fact of the armed service. However, there is a difference in these countries as well, with respect to which interior body is covered by the military ordinariate's jurisdiction and which remains under the local church body providing the pastoral care. The details are often unclear even in the bilateral international agreements and in the internal regulations of the ordinariate. The advantage of this solution is that the pastoral care of policemen takes place under the operational framework specified in the existing international agreement. This also means an easier way in the provision of financial resources. Whereas the disadvantage of this institutional approach is that it does not take into account that police officers are faced with different psychological effects and challenges in comparison to soldiers. Therefore, it would be reasonable to set up for them a separate pastoral institution. In Hungary, in the historical period under review neither the city police nor the gendarmerie was provided pastoral care in organized manner. This does not mean that there were neither personal relationships nor individual initiatives to partially or fully establish the provision of pastoral care. The examples, which are presented and analyzed, all show that a significant demand for pastoral support was formulated on the part of law enforcement agencies, similarly to the army. Professional and religious editions published between the two world wars also confirm that, on the one hand, law enforcement workers were handling religious and moral issues themselves and, on the other hand, they were waiting the answers from the religious communities to moral dilemmas affecting their lives. However, the life of then contemporary gendarmes and urban police was highly adapted to the religious and moral orientation of that period.

Psychological challenges encountered by police officers:

Physical and psychical abilities of a police officer change in the result of intensive police work. A person who is burnt-out and thinks his profession boring, primarily shows the symptoms of lacking self-esteem, constant guilt, grief and anxiety. Currently the Hungarian police does not have a method or institutional structure to jointly manage these above listed symptoms. The weakness of the psychological service of the police is that using the methods of psychology it can handle only the problems brought by police officers to the surface. Unlike the psychological service of the police, the pastoral service of the police, in the course of spiritual conversations, yet before the problem would have emerged, is able to help the police officers applying to it. The research conducted so far was primarily focused on the work of the armed bodies examining specifically the problems resulting from the performance of services. Researchers consider the presence of individual stressors arising from the supply of the service and the individual's coping factor as one of the most important problems. It is necessary to distinguish between problems caused by the stressors and problems caused by emotional and moral impacts.

New Scientific Results

1. In relation to pastoral service for the police force, taking into account the international experience, I have proposed the creation of a single, coherent institutional structure and proved the need for a uniform regulation.
2. Taking into account the expectations of the church and the state, I have devised the institutional framework for the pastoral care service in the police force and demonstrated that its operational framework shall be determined by the set of rules based on the agreement between the church and the state.
3. Through the examination of international examples and relevant publications I have developed the alternatives in relation to the management of the police institution of pastoral care, training and legal status of pastors.
4. I have formulated the security viewpoints in the context of operation of the pastoral care service within the police.

Recommendations

Some ethical issues have arisen in relation to the provision of pastoral care in the police. As in this paper I was striving to develop the basic structure and regulatory framework, the more thorough elaboration of these problems, including the use of weapons, the dual dependence, the freedom of conscience and police instructions, may represent a further area of research.

During the communist dictatorship the cooperation of law enforcement agencies with some of the members of the Catholic Church was basically judged negatively. This is understandable given that the police was using ecclesiastical persons to strengthen the dictatorship and to weaken the religious community. The cooperation of religious communities and law enforcement agencies may happen not only this way. The examination of those issues, where the members of law enforcement agencies suitable for this task and religious communities can work together in analyzing and evaluating certain social issues and promoting the interests of the state and society, may be a subsequent research area.

A separate research area is the upgrading of training system. Another area of research could be to examine what training would enable police pastors to meet their task of pastoral care in the police in a most perfect way. There are seminaries in a few countries, but this is not typical. In addition to general training in theology, philosophy and Canon law it is worthwhile to develop alternatives, at least at the national level, for the acquisition of knowledge.

Another area of research shall be to determine the correct staff ratio for the pastoral care service within the police, which, in line with the service structure, shall be presented in persons of consecrated priests, laity staff, permanent deacons and such police officers, who want to take part in the operation of pastoral care in the police.

The use of deacons and pastoral assistant service working in dioceses within the framework of providing pastoral care to the police may be a further field of research. In the case of increasing the police personnel, I also consider the further clarification of attaching a reserve chaplain service to the military pastoral care service as an area suitable for further research.

Significant area is an examination of judicial administration of justice from the viewpoint of police officers. Further analysis can contribute to the judicial administration of justice, and thus to promote the pastoral care in the law enforcement bodies.

Important area of research could be the formation of the framework for pastoral care service, in addition to the police, for other law enforcement bodies and civil national security services. Although the model I have described is not always applicable to other law enforcement agencies and the civil national security services, but it can be a starting point for developing their own pastoral institution.

I suggest the material of the thesis be used:

As teaching aids at the Military Science and Army Officer Training Faculty of the National Public Service University.

By the church and the state legislature in the case of creating a bilateral agreement concerning the pastoral care for catholic police officers.

The Chapter on the psychological research of the doctoral thesis - as a methodological teaching aid for the psychological service of the police.

As teaching aids in theological colleges and universities.

The parts concerning the establishment of the pastoral care for catholic police officers - be integrated in the legal rules and internal regulations of the police.

List of Publications

My publications related to the research:

Csaba Szabó

A katolikus lelkipásztori szolgálat rendészeti aspektusának kutatása I. (*Research on Aspects of Catholic Pastoral Care in the Police Force I.*)

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE (MILITARY SCIENCE REVIEW) 7:(1) pp. 121-134. (2014)

(ISBN 2060-0437)

Journal Article / Professional Article / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

Petra Kiss (editor)

A rendészeti dolgozók katolikus lelkipásztori gondozása Európában (*Catholic pastoral care for the law enforcement officers in Europe*)

Conference venue, time: Budapest, Hungary, from 13 February 2014 thru 14 February 2014.

Budapest: Doktoranduszok Országos Szövetsége (National Association of PhD's), 2014. pp. 243-258.

THE MILITARY SCIENCE AND THE 21ST CENTURY

(ISBN:978-963-89560-4-0)

Other conference proceedings // Scientific

Csaba Szabó

Research on the role the Catholic Church undertakes in Hungarian police forces

CEPOL 8.: pp. 27-29. (2013)

Journal Article / Professional Article / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

Historical aspects of the Catholic Church's role in the police forces in Hungary
ACADEMIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN MILITARY SCIENCE 12:(2) pp. 281-287.
(2013)
(ISBN 1588 8789)
Journal Article / Professional Article / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

A magyar rendvédelem vallástörténeti koncepciójának elemzése (*The analysis of the religious history concept of the Hungarian law enforcement*).
In: András Lóránt Orosz Lóránd Ujházi (editor)
A Katolikus Egyház biztonsági helyzete a huszonegyedik században. (*The security situation of the Catholic Church in the twenty-first century.*) p. 253
Conference venue, time: Budapest, Hungary, 29 November 2012 Budapest: L'Harmattan - Sapientia College of Theology, 2013 year
SAPIENTIA IURIS; 5.
(ISBN:978-963-236-732-3)
Book Excerpt / Conference Report / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

A lelkipásztori ellátás nemzetbiztonsági kockázatának vizsgálata (*National Security Risk Assessment of the Pastoral Care*)
In: Gábor Keresztes (editor)
Tavaszi Szél = Spring Wind: XVIth Conference "Tavaszi Szél" p. 659
Conference venue, time: Sopron, Hungary, from 31 May 2013 thru 02 June 2013 Budapest: *DOKTORANDUSZOK ORSZÁGOS SZÖVETSÉGE (National Association of PhD's)*, 2013.
pp. 653-661.
Volumes 1,2
(ISBN:978-963895-602-6)
Book Excerpt / Book Chapter / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

A vallás szerepe az egységes rendészeti struktúra formálódásában Magyarországon (*The role of religion in the formation of a single law enforcement structure in Hungary*)
FELDERÍTŐ SZEMLE 9:(2) pp. 231-243. (2012)
Journal Article / Professional Article / Scientific

Csaba Szabó

A szélsőséges vallási csoportok térnyerésének kockázatai (*The risks of expansion of religious-extremist groups*)
PÉCSI HATÁRŐR TUDOMÁNYOS KÖZLEMÉNYEK 2013:(13) pp. 169-176. (2012)
A szélsőséges vallási csoportok térnyerésének kockázatai (*The risks of expansion of religious-extremist groups*) Pecs, Hungary:
Journal Article / Conference Report/ Scientific