

**Diagnosis of the condition of the contemporary family  
through the prism of canonical annulment of marriage**  
(description for the general public)

The problem of diagnosing the contemporary condition of the institution of marriage is one of the most important problems requiring a real integration of theological and social perspectives. It is obvious that the modern institution of marriage is a reflection of both religious and secular concept of the axiological order, which can be expressed, for example, by the fact that married couples can be celebrated in the Church with the simultaneous civil legal effect. But as a consequence of this, it is also necessary to carefully consider any disturbances in the functioning of this institution.

The general objective of the project is to deepen the description and analysis of the situation and the religious and social motivations of those who initiate the process of annulment of marriage before the diocesan tribunal in the Roman Catholic Church. The focus on the process of declaring marriage null and void before the tribunal in question arises from the fact that the Catholic religion is professed by the majority of Polish society. Therefore, the problem of declaring marriage annulled is important not only from the point of view of the religious life of the Catholics, but also it has a significant impact on the understanding of social processes that shape the conditions of life of families in Poland.

The mentioned above aim of research will be implemented in four interrelated areas. The first area will focus on the formal and legal context of actions aimed at declaring nullity of marriage. The second area will allow for the analysis of the problem in question by referring to the image of the phenomenon constructed on the basis of data from social statistics. In the third area, the actions of persons leading to the annulment of marriage will be considered in connection with social variables, which can be one of the most important groups of variables, responsible for the breakdown of the emotional bond in the annulled family structure. The fourth problem area will focus on the specificity of the attitudes of those who take action to declare their marriage null and void. It should be stressed that the motivations to undertake such a procedure are not the same in everyone, and dilemmas and fears related to the launch of the procedure for declaring the marriage invalid also develop in different ways.

The general objective will be achieved by using two empirical studies: one based on the methodology of the quantitative survey and the other based on the methodology of the qualitative survey. The research questionnaire - in the quantitative approach - will allow to collect information concerning not only facts and attitudes related to the examined persons, but also their environment, i.e. relations with parents, parents-in-law and other persons who could have influenced the development of the examined person's marital life. The collection of empirical material will be based on the in-depth interview technique in the case of qualitative approach. The aim of the analyses within this approach will be the deeper look at the mental characteristics of people who are willing to initiate the trial for declaring annulment of marriage - what were their motives and attitudes towards the legal procedure of annulment of marriage.

The innovation of the research project results from the fact that the diagnosis of the condition of Polish families is made by analyzing the situation of marriages, which seek to declare the marriage null and void before Catholic church courts. It is worth emphasizing that so far no research has been carried out, both in Poland and abroad, of the condition of families through the prism of judgments for the annulment of marriage. Looking from this perspective, the presented project is very innovative. It also has international value, as it is a new proposal to study phenomena that we encounter all over the world.