



University of Zagreb  
**CATHOLIC FACULTY OF THEOLOGY**



# **The Strategic Programme of Scientific-Research Work 2015. - 2020.**

## **Chapter 5**

**The Strategic Emphases of Scientific-Research Work with the Main Topics, Aims,  
and Expected Outcome of Scientific Research**

Zagreb, September, 2015.

## **5. The Strategic Emphases of Scientific-Research Work with the Main Topics, Aims, and Expected Outcome of Scientific Research**

On the basis of the vision and mission of the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb, the structure of employees in scientific-teaching and associate grades, scientific productivity from 2009 until 2014, defended licentiate and doctoral theses from 2009 until 2014, the SWOT analysis, and taking into consideration the whole activity of the Faculty, in the continuation the strategic areas of scientific research are going to be specified. Within these, strategic topics with the description of main aims, contents, and expected results of scientific research will be defined.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Area: *Contemporary Perspectives of the Relation between Philosophy and Theology***

#### ***The Title of the Topic (1): Contemporary Philosophy and Religion***

##### ***The Aim and Contents of Research:***

It is not entirely known when the systematic philosophical reflection on religion began, but it is certain that it has been present since the very beginning of philosophy. From Greek and Medieval philosophy to Modern philosophy and especially Kant's criticism, religion has been not only a legitimate but also an unavoidable topic of philosophy. The same is true for contemporary philosophy of either "continental" or "analytical" tradition.

In that sense, the intention of this research is to determine how individual "schools" of contemporary philosophy understand religion. The emphasis will be put, however, on phenomenology, hermeneutics, various existential philosophies, as well as on analytic philosophy. Another focus of research will be on what religion and theology have to say about philosophy.

The research is conceptualised in an integral manner; the relationship between philosophy and religion (theology), as well as the explicit "philosophy of religion" are only one focus of research (albeit, in a certain sense, central). An integral part of the topic are also *ethical problems* (due to the close relation between ethical issues and religious traditions) and *anthropological topics* (due to the fact that one of the constitutive elements of being human is precisely religiosity).

This kind of research is necessary in the context of current postmodern "spiritual situation" in order to be able to offer an integral philosophical interpretation of religious phenomenon and, in that sense, to offer certain insights that might prove useful for systematic and practical theology that is sensitive to the contemporary human being and his/her religious inquiry.

Practically speaking, the research would start with the work on original texts of relevant contemporary philosophers and theologians (mainly those who treat some aspect of the relation between philosophy and theology explicitly). This would be followed by presenting research results at an international symposium and, finally, by publishing a collection of papers. Results of research that will not be contained in this collection of papers (due to their topics), would be published in relevant journals.

The way this topic has been postulated makes the research equally relevant for philosophy and systematic theology. Thus, a close cooperation with Chairs of Fundamental, Dogmatic, and Moral Theology is anticipated.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

The main contribution of research is a more thorough knowledge and understanding. This contribution will be realised through the following activities:

- ❖ organisation of an international symposium
- ❖ publication of a collection of papers (delivered at the international symposium)
- ❖ publication of other research results in the form of articles in philosophical and theological journals.

*The Title of the Topic (2): **Philosophy of Education***

*The Aim and Contents of Research*

A special trait that differentiates the human being from other beings is – among others – her/his trait of *educability*. The educability makes the human being the only true social being because s/he does not gain her/his nature, i.e., culture and purpose of existence, only through being born, but also through life and upbringing in a community. The systematic philosophical reflection on education is, therefore, directed to research on upbringing-educational procedures and approaches. Within a certain culture, these procedures and approaches try to develop the human being's creative power freely. Through her/his creative power, the human being becomes capable to preserve and develop her/his culture as her/his own spiritual – and as such the only true – human environment.

Within that context, this research will try to determine the extent to which two different approaches to education – *functional* and *personal* – through their own various “schools of education”, help or hinder the further development of values, knowledge, and activity that specify the human being's behaviour in a social community. Similarly – since human communities need to educate in order to survive as cultural and human communities – the research will analyse the extent to which certain social-cultural environment and factors help or hinder the free and integral development of the human being, i.e., her/his physical-spiritual constitution.

In that sense, the research presupposes and includes *anthropological issues* as the framework for determining fundamental presuppositions of specific human traits - that need to be determined for the purpose of evaluation of models of education that are aimed at the integral human development – as well as *(bio)ethical issues*, due to the fact that model of education might be the key factor in making hard and responsible decisions of individuals and community related to increasingly complex problems and questions of human life and death and due to the fact that the concrete integral model of education can make an exceptional contribution to the search for the best model of living together in a community of related persons. The research also incorporates *religious-pedagogical issues* in the sense of determining the particular contribution of religious experience (faith) to acquisition of values that allow an individual to develop into a cultural-creative and free being and person, and the community to be able to renew itself permanently and to advance in being humane.

This research is equally relevant for philosophy and religious-pedagogical and pastoral-catechetical theory and practice and, thus, a close collaboration with the Chair of Religious Pedagogy and Catechetics is anticipated.

In correlation with aforementioned complementary areas, the research will include work on original texts of relevant philosophers of education and culture for the purpose of an integral philosophical understanding and interpretation of the upbringing-educational phenomenon.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ a comparative evaluation of various models of education within the framework of two basic approaches to education through history: *functional* and *personal*
- ❖ an insight into the value and significance of those models of education that take into account free and integral development of an individual that makes them valuable for the permanent renewal and advancement of the community in cultural, moral, economic, political, and overall humane view
- ❖ publication of results of research in the form of articles in philosophical and theological journals.

*The Title of the Topic (3): **The Scopes and Perspectives of Croatian Neo-Scholastics***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The aim of this research is to study the heritage of Neo-Scholastic philosophical thought in the Croatian context. Neo-Scholastics (especially in its Neo-Thomistic variant, as proscribed by the encyclical “Aeterni Patris” of Leo XIII in 1879) was for a long time the fundamental modus of philosophising (and theologising) in Catholic theological institutions of higher learning. Even today its significance is not negligent. In that sense, there were significant Neo-Scholastic philosophers also in the Croatian spiritual-cultural area. These philosophers had a decisive influence on not only distinctively Catholic philosophical and theological movements, but they also had a wider impact on, for instance, the formation of Croatian philosophical terminology and through composing first philosophical handbooks in the Croatian language.

Nevertheless, the emphasis in this research will be on those professors of philosophy (and theology) whose activity was tied to the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb, such as Josip Stadler, Antun Bauer, Frano Barca, Stjepan Zimmermann, Wilhelm Keilbach, Ivan Kozelja, Vjekoslav Bajsić, Josip Ćurić, and others.

The research will be focused on original contributions of the aforementioned Neo-Scholastic philosophers and theologians and on their relevancy in contemporary times.

The research will consist of work on original texts of these authors and publication of results in the form of articles in journals or monographs. Furthermore, round-table discussions have been planned to take place, during which individual authors or specific relevant topic would be discussed. Publication of unpublished works of individual philosophers or theologians has also been planned.

This research is relevant not only for philosophy but also for systematic theology and Church history. Because of that, in the course of this research cooperation with Chairs of Church History, Fundamental Theology, and Moral Theology is anticipated.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

The primary contribution of this research will be more thorough knowledge of Croatian Neo-Scholastic philosophical heritage and a critical evaluation of the scope of insights of individual philosophers. This contribution will be achieved mainly through:

- ❖ publication of more relevant but until now unpublished original works of Croatian Neo-Scholastic authors and
- ❖ publication of monographic works on individual significant Croatian Neo-Scholastic philosophers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Area: ***Conciliar Research and the Renewal of the Church***

*The Title of the Topic (1):* **Christian Faith and Practice in the Contemporary World**

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

As a specific systematic-theological discipline, fundamental theology aims at a rational explanation of the fundamentals of Christian faith, the meaning of Christian existence, and the authenticity of the Christ's Church. This task is especially important in the contemporary world marked by secularisation, pluralism of cultures and worldviews, but also by the crisis of metaphysics, humanism, and values. This research will focus on relevancy of Christian faith and practice in today's world, on ways in which Christianity can respond to fundamental existential questions of the human being, and on what Christians and the Church can offer to the contemporary culture and society. The research will mainly be carried out within the main courses that are taught on the Chair of Fundamental Theology, such as *Christian Revelation*, *Fundamental-Theological Ecclesiology*, *Theological Epistemology*, and elective courses *Missiology* and *The Logic of Witnessing in the Church*. The research will emphasise not only the speculative dimension of Christian faith but also the practical one. It will encourage creative inculturation of the Christian discourse and living of faith in the contemporary world. The research includes interdisciplinarity, i.e., a cooperation between fundamental theology and related scientific disciplines, such as philosophy, dogmatic theology, biblical theology, pastoral theology, and religious pedagogy and catechetics.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ from the theological point of view, the research will foster rational reflection on Christian faith in co-relation with other theological disciplines for the purpose of deepening and clarifying the theological discourse and Christian message
- ❖ from the pastoral-catechetical point of view, the research will contribute to the development of discourse of faith in preaching and in catechetical practice in school and parish
- ❖ from the social point of view, the research will show that Christian thought and practice can be a constructive element in contemporary culture and social-political community.

*The Title of the Topic (2):* **Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue**

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

In the globalised world the meeting of cultures and civilisations, as well as the dialogue between religions, have become an unavoidable "sign of the times" that raises many

theological and practical challenges for Christianity and the Church. This topic is very current in today's Europe as it becomes progressively marked by multiculturalism. It is especially important for the area of South-Eastern Europe, where various nations, religions, and cultures have been living next to each other for centuries, sometimes in conflict and sometimes in good neighbourly relations. The aim of this research is to study, on the theological and practical level, in which way interreligious and intercultural dialogue can contribute to living together, knowing each other better, and to joint advocacy for peace and justice in the contemporary world, especially in our region. On the theoretical level, the research will be carried out within the course *Science on Religions* and the elective courses *Interreligious Dialogue*, *Contemporary Understanding of Islam and the Message of Koran*, and *Missiology* that are being taught at the Chair of Fundamental Theology. For the purpose of complementarity and common aims, an attempt will be made to cooperate with the Chair of Ecumenical Theology and the Chair of Religious Pedagogy and Catechetics. On the practical level, visits to and exchanges with representatives of religious communities, such as the Jewish Community and Islamic Centre in Zagreb, have been planned.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ research in the area of interreligious and intercultural dialogue will facilitate a better understanding of the religious image of Croatia and neighbouring countries, as well as their position in Europe; this will open Christian theology to the horizons of intellectual and spiritual values of other religious traditions
- ❖ an awareness of the importance of interreligious dialogue will be raised and a contribution to respect and possible cooperation between various religious communities in the Republic of Croatia and in the neighbouring countries will be made.

3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Area: ***Systematic Theology Faced with the Signs of the Times***

*The Title of the Topic (1):* **The History of Theology among Croatsians**

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of this research is: to get familiarised with and to evaluate, through scientific and documented study, the contribution of those Croatian theologians who remained unknown not only to the wider public but also within scientific circles. Namely, little has been written about Croatian theological heritage and so today, we still do not have a more systematic study of the development of Croatian theology and theological contributions of Croatian theologians of the last few centuries, which constitutes a serious shortcoming in the Croatian theological horizon. This shortcoming is also evident in the absence of basic facts of our theological history in foreign publications (encyclopaedias and lexicons) that are often brief when it comes to information on Croatian theological heritage, although Croatian theologians often had a significant impact on the national and international development of theology and theological reflection.

A scientific-research programme with numerous projects could be fitted within this frame in order to encourage and open a possibility for interdisciplinarity of scientific-research work on this topic. Such research demands the organisation of scientific conferences and the publication of scientific works.

Associate chairs and institutions for the realisation of scientific research are: Chair of Philosophy, Chair of the Holy Scripture of the Old and the New Testament, Chair of Fundamental Theology, Chair of the History of Christian Literature and Christian Teachings, Chair of Ecumenical Theology, Chair of Church History, Conference of Professors of Dogmatic, Fundamental, Patristic, and Ecumenical Theology.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ an acquisition of an insight into the actual contribution of Croatian theologians in comparison with European and global theology
- ❖ the correct interpretation and evaluation of the contribution of Croatian theologians to not only the theological development, but also to the development and strengthening of Croatian culture and science in general.

### *The Title of the Topic (2):* **The Lexicon of Croatian Theologians**

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of this research is to present in one place numerous Croatian theologians, from the beginning of the development of theological sciences in Croatia until today. Since this covers a large time period (Croatian “theological literacy” started in the eleventh and the twelfth century) and large number of theologians (and philosophers), it will be necessary to begin with a kind of “index” of Croatian theologians. After that, a deeper and more systematic study of individual theologians could begin (main biographical data, areas of work, published works) in order to gain an insight into their significance and to present these theologians to national and international public in one (or more) lexicographical volumes.

Since this would be an enormous scientific-research project, it will be necessary to plan the research on the level of inter-faculty institutional programme in which all theological faculties and institutions in Croatia would be involved. Apart from that, the nature of this research demands publication for which the support of scientific and political institutions will be asked and a preliminary contract with a publishing house will be signed.

Associate institutions and chairs for the realisation of this project are theological faculties in Croatia, the Conference of Professors of Dogmatic, Fundamental, Patristic, and Ecumenical Theology, the Croatian Mariological Institute, the Biblical Institute, all chairs at the KBF of the University of Zagreb.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ a scientific contribution of such research is *de facto* immeasurable, since almost all civilised nations have lexicographical or encyclopaedia editions of their theologians, philosophers, and scientists in general
- ❖ by carrying out this research Croatian (and international) public would gain an insight into life and work of theologians who enriched scientific, religious, and cultural heritage through their theological-philosophical reflection.

### *The Title of the Topic (3):* **The Mariological-Marian Croatian Tradition**

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

Although in its cultural aspect Croatia is a part of European culture, it also has its specificities in theology. The Croatian theological tradition has been marked, among

other things, by reflection on, deepening of, and piety towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is witnessed by voluminous manuscript and printed material in archives and libraries that has largely not been researched until now. Croatian theologians have often studied abroad and followed spiritual-cultural movements in European Christianity, not lagging behind in the power of expression and the purity of teaching. This is true not only of their general works of philosophical-theological nature, but also of their specific reflections on the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the mystery of salvation.

A part of the research on the aforementioned topic has been published (mostly in collections of papers), especially in the last decades, but the larger part of Mariological-Marian heritage is still largely unknown not only to the wider audience, but also within the scientific circles. Therefore, this research would fit in with the previous research and expand it, especially through presenting results of research of international and national conferences and publishing collections of papers, scientific articles, and monographies. These would expand scientific insights in theology, history, history of literature and art, comparative studies, and at the studies of Mariology of the Pontifical International Mariological Academy in Rome (PAMI).

Associate chairs and institutions for the realisation of this scientific research are the Chair of the Holy Scripture of the Old and the New Testament, the Chair of the History of Christian Literature and Christian Teachings, the Chair of Church History, the Chair of Pastoral Theology, the Chair of Liturgics, the Croatian Mariological Institute.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ scientifically documented, objective, analytical, and critical evaluation of the Mariological-Marian Croatian tradition and its contribution to Croatian and European theology; in regard to bibliographical, archival, and analytical research, the results of the scientific-research work will offer a more integral insight in so far insufficiently researched genre
- ❖ a critical evaluation of the Mariological-Marian heritage within the corpus of Croatian history and theology and the European influence on its development
- ❖ the acquisition of a more reliable insight into the development of Croatian culture (theology) as a part of European culture (theology)

4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: ***Ethical-Moral and Social Relevancy of Theology and the Church***

***The Title of the Topic (1): Christian Ethics and Bioethics in the Context of Contemporary Cultural Dynamics***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of this research is to critically analyse and reflect on value and moral challenges of the scientific-technical progress and the new legislative paradigm. The scientific-technical progress has shown itself especially revolutionary in the field of biomedical research and its biotechnical application; that fact has had a profound influence on the understanding of moral values and on civil legislation that is regularly expected to legalise new biotechnical practices without much consideration for the basic moral and human values. In that sense, it suffices to mention biotechnical practices in the fields of medically assisted fertilisation, cloning, genetic engineering in medicine, in the production of drugs and food, and in agriculture and forestry. All these examples bring to mind numerous well-known (and less well-known) ethical and bioethical

challenges that the modern society and the Church are facing. Ethical and bioethical challenges of biomedical progress reveal their problematic nature precisely in the context of legislation of biotechnical practices. In that context, a new legislative paradigm is emerging and this paradigm does not care about objective value and moral basis of legislation. Instead, it is mostly guided by the principle of satisfying subjective demands of individuals and groups, recognising only the right to freedom of choice of individuals, while disregarding the value and moral structure of free human activity that demands critical congruence with the demands of the objective moral law and moral norms. The new legislative paradigm is, therefore, far more than just one legislative paradigm. It touches upon all spheres of human activity and human life, creating numerous value and moral challenges in the area of political, social, educational, health care, family, and cultural activity. In all those areas, deep value changes are taking place and they demand a critical analysis for the purpose of protecting and preserving fundamental Christian and human principles and values, among which a special importance has to be given to the absolute dignity of the human person and inalienable human rights and freedoms, based on that dignity. This research is, thus, directed at a critical analysis of ethical and bioethical challenges of the scientific-technical progress with a special emphasis on the biomedical progress and on a critical analysis of value and moral foundations of law and all other areas of human activity in the light of the basic principles and values of Christian ethics and bioethics.

The research will be carried out in a close cooperation with the Chair of the Social Teaching of the Church and other chairs and scientific- research institutes.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ on the basis of research of ethical and bioethical challenges of the scientific-technical progress and its influence on the new legislative paradigm and on all other areas of human activity, these challenges will be systematically and critically analysed in the light of principles and values of Christian ethics
- ❖ the creation of presuppositions for publishing scientific works and monographies, for organising scientific and professional gatherings, for participation in national and international scientific gatherings, and for getting involved in public debates on ethical and bioethical challenges.

***The Title of the Topic (2): Christian Social Ethics and Its Relevancy for Events that Are Taking Place in the Church and Society in Croatia***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

There are two aims of this research. The first aim is to contribute to the interdisciplinary approach in studying, analysing, and critically evaluating events in society in general and especially in the Croatian society. The research begins with the theoretical presupposition that the social teaching of the Church „*Caritas in veritate in re sociali*“ – love in truth in social issues (Benedict XVI., *Caritas in veritate. Love in Truth*, no. 5). Love is the “*logos that creates dia-log(os)*, and, therefore, also communication and communion. By helping people to get beyond their subjective opinions and impressions, the truth summons them to get beyond their cultural and historical conditioning and to meet each other in evaluating values and essence of things” (*Ibid.* no 4). In relation to events in society, the social teaching of the Church “possesses an important interdisciplinary dimension... It makes it possible for faith, theology, metaphysics, and

various sciences to find their place within the cooperation that is in service to the human being. Precisely in that aspect the social teaching of the Church realises its sapiential dimension" (*Ibid.*, no 31). In terms of contents, this research is a continuation of previous scientific research on poverty (2002-2005), solidarity (2002-2006), and subsidiarity (2007-2013). Apart from an analysis of results obtained in those previous studies, especially the empirical study on subsidiarity (2009), a special emphasis will be put on the interdisciplinary study of the topic of *bonum commune* – the common good. In Croatia, this remains *practically unexplored* area in both its theoretical and empirical aspect. If it will be financially possible, the scientific-research work would also incorporate empirical research of the common good in Croatia.

The second aim of the research is to study and analyse the social teaching of the Church theoretically and to try to apply it practically to ecclesial and social life in Croatia. This would incorporate a historical study (into individual authors), a study of possibilities of subsidiarity in ecclesial and social life in Croatia, and a study of topics such as the role of women in ecclesial and social life.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ to offer argumentative answers on various ecclesial-social and social-economic-political issues on the basis of data acquired by individuals and through an interdisciplinary approach
- ❖ to establish presuppositions for publishing scientific works and monographies, for organising scientific and professional symposia and public debates, and for participating in national and international scientific conferences.

5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: ***Ecumenical Theology and Dialogue of Religions, Worldviews, and Cultures***

*The Title of the Topic (1): Croatia as a Locus Oecumenismi*

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

Starting from the fact that Croatia is a meeting point of Eastern and Western Churches, the main aim is to study interdisciplinary, to identify, record, systematically analyse, and evaluate a wide spectrum of bilateral and multilateral inter-ecclesial relations in our region in the past and today.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ apart from its contribution on the scientific-theoretical level, this research has value on the practical level, since the determined characteristics, quality, and intensity of inter-ecclesial relations represent the basis and the starting point for the application of principles, methods, and directives for inter-Christian understanding and accepting other persons in their specificity and differences. Hence, these can contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts and the harmonisation of society.

*The Title of the Topic (2): Interreligious Dialogue of Christians with Muslims and Jews in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The presence of Jews and especially Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and their co-existence with Christians is the starting point of research into the near and more distant history of interreligious dialogue between members of the three religions in the aforementioned regions. The main aim is to study, detect, register, and analyse their previous common initiatives and to evaluate their individual contributions to interreligious dialogue in a substantiated and objective way.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ a systematic analysis of interreligious dialogue in the concrete areas of the two countries by using scientific methods
- ❖ a contribution to recognising and clarifying the influence of religious factors on interpersonal relations

*The Title of the Topic (3): **Old-Slavic and Old-Croatian Biblical-Liturgical Heritage***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The aim of the research is to complete the mosaic of so-far insufficiently studied area of Old-Slavic and Old-Croatian Biblical-liturgical heritage, especially the Glagolitic one, by using systematic scientific research methods and the contemporary multi-disciplinary analysis and evaluation.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ by employing a scientific analysis of so-far insufficiently studied material and new research and insights into already partially analysed Biblical-liturgical material, this research contributes to completing, understanding, and presenting this extremely important segment of Croatian ecclesial and national heritage.

*6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: **Practical-Theological Theory and Church Practice of Faith in the Whirlpool of Current Ideological-Social, Moral-Ethical, and Social Confusions and Challenges***

Fifty years after the closure of the Second Vatican Council, among the four main theological areas: *biblical theology, patrology, systematic and practical theology*, the most current and engaged area is *practical theology*, i.e., *pastoral theology*. In the area of systematic theology, the most controversial is moral theology. There is also a significant interest in the social teaching of the Church. In other words, practical theology (pastoral theology, religious pedagogy and catechetics, and canon law) is faced with the greatest issues of faith and unbelief, morality and immorality, sacraments; with anthropological-theological positioning of faith (religion) in current technical and manipulated societies all continents of the planet Earth.

Apart from *personal, family, and ecclesial* dimension of faith and ecclesiality, the *social* dimension of the Church and ecclesiality is facing not only a new challenge, but also an undeniable responsibility for the current historical moment. There are three fundamental characteristics and responsibilities of practical or pastoral theology. The first is the authentic gospel proclamation or Jesus's characteristic. The second is the authentic witnessing of those who are baptised, today's Christians. The third is

convincingly influential on social happenings of scientific-research character, on ideological polarisations, on pragmatic market competition that does not tolerate any corrective, and on moral-ethical relativism of any kind.

In accordance with aforementioned, the Chair of Pastoral Theology recognises the need to interpret (proclaim) Jesus's-gospel's reality of theory and practice. This has bearing for current members of the Church and all people of good will in the current historical moment in relation to God, in relation to individual human being, in relation to historical Jesus's Church, and in relation to each individual society.

*The Titles of the Topics (1), (2), (3): An Analysis and a Study of Dimensions of Ecclesiality (Faith) of Nominal Members of the Christ's Historical Church. (Re)Positioning of the Church in the Croatian Democratic Society. Evangelisation of the Public. The Position and Role of Presbyters, Caretakers of Souls, and Proclaimers in the Current Church in the Croatian Society.*

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of the research is to determine the extent and degree to which some members of the Church are able to relate to the authentic Christianity, inspired by Jesus and the Gospel, or, alternatively, if they relate more to the traditional and post-modern Christianity, that has more to do with secular and less with Gospel trends and imperatives. This would express itself the most through the ritual dimension of ecclesiality, i.e., through the rituals of baptism, church wedding, and church funeral. After that, the research will focus on the extent to which members of the Church compare their current living of Christian values with Gospel values, as opposed to the extent to which they redefine and adapt them to current contemporary non-Christian and non-religious interpretations and movements, i.e., to which extent is their Christian identity recognisable and effective.

Further, it needs to be investigated whether the Catholic Church in Croatia managed to leave behind its pastoral model that was more appropriate for the Communist- socialist environment in which it previously operated, and whether it managed to (re)position itself in the new democratic environment on the basis of new pastoral models. For instance, in the new environment the Church gained new contracts between the Croatian state and Vatican. Religious education has been introduced into schools. The Church can have its own Church media and found its own kindergartens, schools, etc. At the same time, the Catholic Church has been ghettoised in various ways in Croatia in the last few years by media and a majority of politicians.

Given the fact that the Population Census carried out in 2011 showed that the majority of Croatian citizens (86,28%) belongs to the Catholic Church, that same Church has the right and duty to evangelise the public. This evangelisation is primarily directed towards the members of the Church and, secondarily, to all people of good will.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ to try to re-define the current pastoral-theological practice on the basis of empirical indicators and to offer appropriate pastoral-theological models that are faithful to the Gospel and the contemporary human being

- ❖ to (re)position the Church in the Croatian society and the contribution of the Church to interpersonal relations in Croatia and to permanently re-define caretakers of souls according to the guidelines of the Second Vatican Council
- ❖ associate chairs can be, primarily, the Chair of Religious Pedagogy and Catechetics, the Chair of Liturgics, the Chair of Moral Theology, and the Chair of the Social Teaching of the Church; other chairs at the Faculty could also take part in the research.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: ***The Church and Theology throughout History***

##### ***The Title of the Topic (1): Activity of Catholic Priests in the Civil Croatian Parliament (the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century)***

###### *The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The participation of Catholic Priests in the work of the Croatian Parliament in the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was not uncommon, especially when it comes to members of the higher ecclesial structures, who participated in the work of the Parliament as representatives of the first class since the medieval times. Priests participated in the Parliament as elected representatives, since the first civil Parliament of 1848, or on the basis of their right given to them by the virile legislation. They were able to acquire that right either through the dignity of their office or through high taxes that they paid as landowners. The main intention of the research is to find out which members of the Parliament were Catholic priests and this can be determined by using the analytical method on the study of journals that were being published at that time (*Novi Pozor – Zatočnik, Narodne novine, Hrvatske novine, Katolički list*). Another intention of the research is to determine their positions (political, economic, on modernisation processes) on the basis of their speeches that will be studied by using the critical-analytical and interpretative methods. The backbone of the research will be published *Dnevnici sabora* (Parliamentary Diaries) and *Saborski spisi* (Parliamentary Records), as well as unpublished material in Zagreb, in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Science and Art in Zagreb, and in the Archive of the Archdiocese of Zagreb, and published journals of that time.

###### *Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

Given the fact that Croatian historiography does not contain a study on Parliamentary activity of Catholic priests, the outcomes will be:

- ❖ filling the aforementioned gap with a critical interpretation of results of research
- ❖ the research will largely deal with Parliamentary speeches of priests on the basis of which an insight into their positions on political, economic, cultural, and modernisation issues will be gained; at that time, modernisation processes have already swept over Europe and the research will, therefore, allow us to undertake further comparative studies; because of this, the topic is relevant for wider, international circles and opens a possibility of re-evaluating previous insights of Croatian historiography
- ❖ finding evidence of interconnectedness of ecclesial and state relations and determining the contribution of the Catholic Church in the creation of the modern Croatian nation.

## *The Title of the Topic (2):* **The Reform Movement and the Croatian Old-Catholic Church 1919-1929**

### *The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of this research is to demonstrate the causes, emergence, and development of the reform movement among lower Catholic clergy after the First World War and to offer an integral insight into the movement itself, including its religious and social-political components. What follows is monitoring the movement during its transition to a religious community in its own right, i.e., to the Croatian Old-Catholic Church. The research will study its founding, organising, and spreading, with an emphasis on the religious-ideological component and the social-political reality of its emergence and spreading. Research on topics will be divided into two parts that are thematically tightly linked and mutually complementary. The study will utilise mostly the critical-analytical method in its approach to sources. This will be complemented with elements of interpretative, descriptive, and synthetical-critical method of a large number of sources and a relatively small number of publications.

### *Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

On the basis of the critical-analytical research approach to sources and their appropriate presentation for the aim of an integral overview of the Reform Movement and the Croatian Old-Catholic Church from 1919 until 1929, the research will offer:

- ❖ an integral insight into the period of Croatian ecclesial and social-political history that has remained so far unexplored. This research will, therefore, contribute to one segment of national and Church history that has made a deep impact on the Croatian social reality of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has marked, in many ways, all areas of social, political, and religious life.

## *The Title of the Topic (3):* **Catholic Priests Rectors of the University of Zagreb**

Catholic priests were extremely engaged in scientific work. Seventeen Catholic priests held the office of the Rector of the University of Zagreb. Apart from the Catholic Faculty of Theology, they have also taught at other constituents of the University. On most of these priests who will be studied within this research there are no systematically written biographies, nor a collective biography. Hence, the aim of this research is to determine, by employing the critical-analytical and comparative method, which priests were rectors and to put together a prosopography. In order to achieve this aim, the research needs to focus on individual biographies on the basis on relevant literature and archival material and by using the comparative-compilation method.

### *Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ to interpret activity of Catholic priests in science by using a comparative approach to complete biographies of those priests who were Rectors of the University of Zagreb

- ❖ by utilising interpretation and compilation, the research will offer new insights into the development of theological thought via an analysis of scientific work of priests-rectors

*The total scientific contribution of all proposed research within this scientific area:*

- ❖ evaluation of teaching plans and programmes in terms of new scientific insights
- ❖ presentation of new scientific insights on symposia, publication of scientific works, and popularisation of church history

### **8<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: *Religious-Pedagogical and Catechetical Theory and Practice Faced with Challenges of the Times***

#### ***The Title of the Topic (1): A Study of Religiosity of Adolescents (Secondary School Pupils) in the City of Zagreb***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The main aim of this research is to monitor tendencies in the area of religiosity of Zagreb's adolescents (secondary school pupils) in the context of the transitional Croatian society. Monitoring and noticing changes in expressing and living of adolescent religiosity will be realised by comparing new results with results of research that has been carried out in 1997 and published in the book titled "Religiozni identitet zagrebačkih adolescenata" (The Religious Identity of Zagreb's Adolescents) in 2000. The differences will be analysed and perhaps new tendencies in the area of religiosity in the last twenty years will be revealed. By using the empirical method, five dimensions of religiosity of Zagreb's adolescents will be studied: beliefs, religious practice, religious affiliation, religious experience, moral dimension. The research will especially focus on two groups of adolescents: those who are attending religious education in school and those who do not attend it – in order to study correlation between the two variables. The object of research will also be the correlation between religiosity and adoption of basic values among adolescents.

The research will also include a comparison with relevant European research in order to notice tendencies in religiosity in relation to religiosity of adolescents in some European countries.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ on the basis of a comparative approach, to interpret results and to offer argumentative answers to pastoral-catechetical questions for the purpose of developing new religious-pedagogical and pastoral-catechetical strategies in the work with adolescents.

#### ***The Title of the Topic (2): The Contribution of Religious Education in School to the Promotion of Values in the Educational-Upbringing System***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The issue of evaluating the presence of religious education in the school system and its contribution to educational-upbringing aims of the school is one of the key topics of scientific-research activities within the frame of this scientific topic. Religious education

teaching contributes to the upbringing activity of the school in a special way. The upbringing dimension of religious education teaching is expressed in the contribution of this course to the integral development of the pupil. The integral development cannot be imagined without religious education and upbringing.

Religious education teaching is the object of research and analysis in the majority of European countries, carried out in order to improve the existing models of this teaching. Twenty years have passed since the re-introduction of religious education in the school system in the Republic of Croatia. In that period, only partial studies have been carried out. In the next five-year period, religious education teaching should be especially studied under two aspects: first, religious education teaching in the context of European movements and changes in relation to religious education; second, the contribution of religious education to educational-upbringing values. In that context, educational-upbringing reforms in the Republic of Croatia will be studied, with a special emphasis on the role and contribution of religion and religious education to the integral education and upbringing.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ evaluation of teaching plans and programmes in terms of education for fundamental values and defining of proposals of curricular changes for the purpose of a more meaningful and quality integration of religious education into the complete system of education and upbringing.

9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Area: ***A Study of Sacral Music from the Artistic Perspective***

***The Title of the Topic (1): The Influence of Sacral Musical Tradition on Contemporary Organ Music***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

Contemporary organ music is largely based on sacral musical tradition that comes from the rich liturgical heritage. This research will emphasise, analyse, and present the use of Christian symbolic, Biblical themes, Gregorian monody, and the order of mass that inspire contemporary composers in the large number of works intended for organ – a specific instrument of the sacral-musical profile.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ to redefine awareness of the significance of sacral tradition in relation to contemporary compositional idiom by gathering, analysing, and evaluating researched material
- ❖ to help with understanding and to contribute to successful interpretation of compositions for organ of contemporary composers

***The Title of the Topic (2): Researching, Editing, and Publishing the Organ Opus of Academician A. Klobučar***

*The Aim and Contents of Research:*

The aim of this project is to research, find, edit, and publish the organ opus of academician Anđelko Klobučar, who is, by right, considered to be the most distinguished contemporary Croatian author, whose compositional opus consists largely of compositions for organ.

*Expected Outcomes of Scientific Research:*

- ❖ systematising and publishing the opus of A. Klobučar will be a major contribution to the preservation of cultural heritage of our country
- ❖ those students who will be engaged in the project will be encouraged to study the Croatian musical heritage and will be offered assistance in the practical acquisition of skills of contemporary notography
- ❖ professors, students, and future generations of musicians will be at their disposal authentic educational material of an exceptional artistic value.