Pastoral Preparation for Marriage (Preparation for Love), by Alexandros Stavropoulos

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The author of this thesis is Assistant at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) for questions of Orthodox Family Ethics.

He graduated in Theology at the University of Athens in 1959 and received the diploma in "Sciences Familiales et Socio-logiques" at the Catholic University of Louvain in 1967, and the diploma in Psychology there in 1970. Since 1961 he has been specialising in Practical Theology, and more precisely the Pastoralia of Marriage and the Family at the Universities of Erlangen and Bochum in Germany, and at Louvain.

In 1963-4 he was appointed social worker to the Greek working community in and around Aachen, and in 1966-7 academic assistant at the Ecumenical Institute of the Ruhr-Universität, Bochum. He has taken part in many conferences on Pastoral Care and Marriage and Family-Counselling in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland. He is a member of the American National Council on Family Relations, and special research correspondent of The National Centre of Social Research in Athens.

Dr. Stavropoulos' book «Pastoral Preparation for Marriage» has two parts.

In the first, the author undertakes a special investigation of the presuppositions on which the practice of Marriage Preparation is to be based. Thus he examines first the theological foundation of the task, and provides the basic principles of the pastoral care of marriages (Chapter One). Next he carefully outlines the psychological factors involved for those about to marry, especially certain problems related to engagement and the structure of marriage today (Chapter Two). Clearly, as far as Theology is concerned the subject is treated with a practical emphasis, that is to say, it is not so much a question of giving a systematic exposition of all the points that might be covered by a Theology of Marriage, but more of indicating a method for formulating such a Theology. As for the psychological and sociological aspects, certain topics and problems especially concerning the engaged couple are touched upon, but no attempt is made to give a detailed account of sexual anthropology, which would require a separate study.

The second part consists of an examination of the practical questions related to the pastoral preparation on the engaged couple. Thus, in Chapter Three the author concentrates on the organisation, means, content and aims of pastoral preparation for marriage. Chapter Four is devoted to the theme of the Team as the means of presenting marriage preparation, and to an analysis of its composition and responsibilities, the qualities required for membership and the role it has to play. In Chapter Five the methodology of pastoral preparation for marriage is described.

Finally, in the conclusion, the results of this investigation appear in relation to the special problems affecting this important area of pastoral concern.

p. 143 Conclusion

We sum up the whole investigation of Pastoral Preparation for Marriage and indicate the principal conclusions of the present work.

Special attention has been paid to the theological foundation of the Church's activity in preparing a couple for marriage and a family. Thus, those features able to provide theological support for the work of marriage preparation as a whole have been studied. The lack at the present time of any complete Theology of Marriage—indispensable basis, as it is, of the pastoral preparation for marriage—was noticed from the beginning. Consequently an attempt was made to define a method for constructing such a Theology, and the need for a synthesis demonstrated, comprising the so-called human sciences and the experience of Christian couples. Next, it was shown how the liturgy may provide a source for formulating an overall Theology of Marriage, and an attempt was made to define a method for constructing such a Theology. An analysis of the concept «attitude» is made, on the basis of the findings of social psychology brought to bear here for the first time on marriage preparation. We paid particular attention to defining the attitude of love in an empirical-sociological sense, and to showing its correlation with the attitude of acceptance the notion proposed in social anthropology. Furthermore we referred to the valu-
La Répartition du Revenu National: Les modèles modernes et leur dépassement. ("Η Κατανόηση του Έθνιστικού Κέφαλα"

των: Τα μικτά μοντέλα και το «έρευνα»


Έκδοσης τοτέρων τόμου της "Κατανόηση του Έθνιστικού Κέφαλα"

διαρθρωτικής οικονομίας... Οι δύο εκλέκτοι συγγραφείς δέν περιο

αί όποίαι έκτίθενται είς τό πρώτον κεφά

λίκον τοις, τόμοι, οί δύο έπιφανείς συγγραφείς

ήμετρον του μοντέλου της κατανόησης, οίκτεροι μέρος των τόμων της έρευνας,

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