

Title: The socio-cultural identity of women belonging to the Catholic community

Keywords: identity, women, Catholicism, religious community, The Work of New Millennium Foundation

Summary: The subject of this study is the socio-cultural identity of women belonging to the Catholic community. Therefore, based on a qualitative strategy, a biographical method, and using in-depth interview techniques, 48 interviews were conducted via instant messaging with respondents aged 18-35, who were scholarship holders and graduates of The Work of New Millennium Foundation. The researcher has also been associated with this organization for many years, which equalizes educational opportunities for talented, underprivileged youth and, in addition to awarding social and academic scholarships, also offers spiritual formation and a space for integration. The structure of the work is as follows: the first chapter is devoted to the category of identity, which is key to this research, while the second chapter deals with gender as one of the factors determining the development of identity. The third chapter focuses on the presence of women in society, both in the public and private spheres, while the fourth chapter provides information on the place and role of women in the Roman Catholic Church. The fifth chapter contains methodological information, while the sixth chapter presents an analysis and interpretation of the author's own research relating to the research questions posed, concluding with a summary of the empirical part. This made it possible to achieve the main research objectives, which were (I) to understand how the identity of women involved in religious community activities develops, (II) to identify the structural and cultural factors shaping the identity of women involved in Catholic communities, and (III) to identify the opportunities and threats associated with women's membership in religious communities in the context of their identity development.