

3a Abstracts

1. "Closing down the church on the block – The process of closing down the parish satellite church."

The main issue in this study are the motives and hinders there was for closing down three parishes satellite churches, and motive and hinders for not closing down the forth parish satellite church when the other three parishes did.

The aim of this study is to, in a comparative way; illustrate similarities and differences in the four parishes' process of alterations.

This is a kind of case study, in which information mostly have been collected through semi structured interviews with three vicars and one clergyman from the four parishes who narrated the process of closing down, respectively keeping, the four satellite churches.

The four interviews have been compared in; motives, formal – informal elements, context and process. The study shows, among other things, the importance of succeeding in building a "base of authority", and succeeding in making it firm, is significant for the development of the process of alterations and how to deal with objections.

Keywords: process of alterations, base of authority, process,

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2. Leadership and quality of monastic community life challenged by societal transitions. An ethnographic case-study of the Trappist community of the Abbey of Sint-Sixtus

The religious landscape of present-day Western-European society is characterized on the one hand by a high level of secularization and on the other by an increased religious plurality (Berger, 2000). The values intrinsic to a religiously oriented life in community are often diametrically opposed to the dominant Western-European patterns of mind like individualism, utilitarianism and scientism. It is in this context not self-evident to consciously choose for a monastic life and it is moreover difficult to stay religiously engaged in a life characterized by a quasi linear continuity, exceptional commitments and restrictions (Merkle, 1992).

The aim of the ethnographic case-study (Vandewiele, 2014) was to describe the physical and social environment of a specific contemplative Trappist community, in casu the Abbey of Sint-Sixtus in Westvleteren (Belgium), and to make a contribution to the objectivity of the conceptualization of the environment of contemplative orders. Starting from this ethnographic fieldwork, this paper focuses on the specific challenge of societal transitions in leadership and quality of monastic community life.

[References]

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VANDEWIELE, W. (2014), *Contemplatieve abdijgemeenschappen in de 21ste eeuw. Een etnografische studie naar het hedendaagse contemplatieve gemeenschapsleven*, Leuven, 230 p.

3. Living ministerial vocation meaningfully in times of fragmented employment: a future challenge for church organizations.

This presentation is based on a study on early-career Finnish pastors (2012). In the study, turnover and detachment from ministerial career were notably present. These career disruptions could not be predicted from pre-ordination psychological assessment results, and are thus not related to aptitude for

pastoral career. Instead, changes in work life are suggested as an explanation. The emerging boundaryless work paradigm has major consequences for church organizations. One of the issues that churches need to address is how ministerial vocation is meaningfully lived in a realm of fragmentary work. In the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, short-term contracts and unemployment are becoming common. These can be seen as mini-cycles of work. Careers are becoming series of mini-cycles of different work. The relevant question about professions is not anymore “what”, but “when” - when each vocation of a person will be put to practice. The result is mini-cycles of vocation. Theologically, vocation to be a minister is considered a lifetime quality. Mini-cycles of work and mini-cycles of vocation challenge the permanent quality of ministerial vocation. It is nowadays in contradiction with the way work life is constructed. Living ministerial vocation meaningfully in times of fragmented employment is a future challenge for church organizations.

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