

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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Title of dissertation: THE ROLE OF PASTORAL CARE OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION
OF YOUTH IN THE DIOCESE OF ADIGRAT – ETHIOPIA

The young people of the Adigrat Diocese are in need special attention from all concerned, particularly from the Catholic Church of the Adigrat Diocese and the youth of the Ethiopian Catholic Church in general. Adigrat Diocese is one of the oldest Eparchy in the country, located in the Tigray region, northern Ethiopia. The most excellent resource any society can have is its human resources. Ethiopia is endowed with this human resource in abundance. The youth in Ethiopia constitute the majority of this human endowment and should not be taken for granted if we are to achieve the security of the society and sustainability of the Church. Disciplined young people are the safety and strength of the community and are the life and hope of the Church. The unethical and immorality are spreading highly and becoming a high level of insecurity and threat to lives. The research, however, has clearly shown that the Church has a vital role in the contemporary world to shape its new policies and direction toward youth. The Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, has sufficiently equipped the Church for evangelizing, calling, and forming people to the path of moral, spiritual, and intellectual integrity. Therefore, the Church cannot afford to ignore the problems facing the youths in Ethiopia. Youth pastoral ministry has a minimal lasting impact on youth in Ethiopia. If the Catholic Church wants to see the success of youth and the Church's survival, it is essential to rethink youth pastoral ministry. Suppose the Catholic Church wants to see its children have a lasting faith. In that case, it is crucial to renew its approach toward youth in pastoral ministry in Ethiopia, especially in the Adigrat Diocese. This work is divided into five main Chapters.

Chapter one, *Ethiopia's general socio-economic scene, religion, and the etymological meaning of youth*, addressed significant and essential historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds. The chapter explored the etymological meaning and concept of youth. Ethiopia is a country of diverse cultures, ethnic, and languages. The study shows the beauty of diversity and, at the same time, the challenges that are there. In the Diocese of Adigrat, the people have valuable cultural values. They believe in justice, security, and equality. For these, the study revealed that the first Hijra, or migrants of Islam to Ethiopia's Tigray, are a great testimony. Ethiopians passed and still struggling in political

and economic reform, which highly affected young people's lives. The study revealed that St. Justin de Jacobis (1800-1860), the first canonized missionary of Africa, re-established the Catholic communities in Tigray, where the Adigrat Diocese is, and today's Eritrea, and opened the gate to the other parts of Ethiopia. However, even though no one doubts its leadership role in the country, the Catholic Church does not grow up according to its age. The Ethiopian Catholic Church adopts two Rites: Geez and Latin Rites, which is a beauty and, at the same time, a challenge.

It has discussed the concept and meaning of youth and youth as the stage of self-discovery. The study critically investigated that the period of youth is when a person is open to all kinds of influences and experiences several challenges, which determines a person's future life for good or bad. It also vividly evaluated the cognitive, moral, faith, and vocational developments as primary necessities in youth ministries that need attention for the youth transformation in the Diocese of Adigrat. It outlined that youth is not only a stage of the period but also a state of mind and youth is the precious stage and unique treasure of life. The work also presented the contemporary implications of pastoral ministry with youth that society presents young people with difficulties. It presented helpful perspectives to understand young people.

Chapter two, *Youth formation and its components*, articulated youth formation and its components that help youth's ethics and spiritual growth. According to this study, families must be role models in Christian living, service, and respecting social values. The efficacy of the Word of God, love, prayer, education, and perseverance are the essential values of family. Only then will their children be distinct, distinguished shining lights to their generations. The family institution is a determinant institution of the youth's psychosocial and spiritual formation. Young people that learn social knowledge and cultural values from their parents advance and develop in society. The Catholic Church must be ready to intervene and accompany young people in their journey of daily lives whenever the welfare of an individual or a particular group is adversely affected by social, economic, or political policies and physical occurrences.

Chapter three, *growing in faith in light of the Scripture and Tradition of Christianity*, evaluates the themes that relate to the relationship between persons and God. The progress of faith depends on the knowledge and understanding of the Scripture, the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the practical life lived, and the specific goal of going out as the disciple of Jesus Christ in the service of each other. The research has shown that God places a high value on youth in the Bible. There are many examples of how youth can share in the creator's activity and make a difference in their generations. God uses youth to share His truth. The researcher presented some Biblical themes that

demonstrate how the youth should be formed and the goals of young people's growth in faith. Youth who started well and stayed committed to their God and the godly inheritance never permitted their magnificence position to make them lose sight of their faith. Youth who stand true to the salvation they received to the extent that they are willing to follow Christ even to the point of crucifixion unwaveringly. The Holy Bible and the Tradition of the Catholic Church have everything the youth need for past, present, and future lives to live. As young people grow physically, it is also important that they advance spiritually and intellectually in their faith. Therefore, the study underlines the importance of further instructions needed through pastoral ministries. It also emphasizes the necessity of giving directions for teaching about equality, dignity, freedom, and the Christian identity. In accomplishing these, it is essential to study young people's present situation and their faith life.

Chapter four, *The contemporary challenges of young people*, recalled the challenges that affected the Christians in the Diocese of Adigrat. The challenges mentioned are becoming a spiritual danger for Catholics today, particularly young people. Social media plays a role in spreading various kinds of information and becomes means to the other challenges affecting the lives of Christians. Pieces of information either strengthen the relationship between the communities or disintegrate them. Thus, information should always be correct, accurate, and complete because it helps build up and spread Christian values among communities and enables them to defend the truth. If social media is used correctly, it can be a means of spiritual growth, excellent service to all people, in solving other challenges, and a path for evangelization according to the mission of the Church and the plan of God through making Jesus Christ the center of the young generation's daily life. The young people are living in a world where secularism is spreading, religious pluralism is in progress from time to time, unemployment is increasing, and poverty is blossoming. Politicians are not able to bring peace to their citizens, and as a consequence, displacement and migration are affecting the lives of the youth. There are great opportunities and possibilities where most of the youngest population is. The Church can play a great role in helping young people to see their opportunities and possibilities through discovering their talents.

Chapter five, *perspectives for more effective youth pastoral ministry*, presented the possible perspectives to adopt for the effective result in youth pastoral ministries among young people. The recent finding in this research shows that the lifestyle of young people creates multidimensional problems, including the physical, social, mental, spiritual, intellectual, and psychological dimensions of young people's being. The aim of

presenting possible perspectives was to improve the understanding of this research at a glance.

This chapter tried to show essential ideas or proposals for effective action to be taken locally in the youth pastoral ministry of the diocese. Currently, the young generations live in a world obsessed with various kinds of crises, and yet some chances can give hope, and it is important to build up those opportunities. This cannot become at one point, but it is a development process through guidance and by showing direction. It is essential to focus on the practical actions that can improve the lives of the young generations. The Word of God and the Sacraments are the pillars to provide the richness of the Person of Jesus Christ through various kinds of movements and organize ongoing formations and opportunities where the young generation can discover their talents. Among different models for youth ministry, three models for evangelizing young people today are identified: *The Traditional Deductive Model* (TDM), *Modern Deductive Model* (MDM), and the *Transforming Inductive Model* (TIM).

In conclusion, the results of this work confirm that the Church and the government must not leave the ethical and social issues of youth transformation and its implications in the hands of individuals and parents to handle alone. Many things have been messed up at present due to the government not working with the Church on ethical, social, and human development issues. Therefore, the Church and the state should work together to deal with the challenges that affect both. Church and state leaders should note that what affects one also affects the other.